

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: February 5, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 6:10 PM.

Opening remarks

Thank you to Christ City Church DC for babysitting. The next PTO meeting date is Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00pm.

Minutes from the November and December meetings have not yet been generated by the Secretary.

Special Topic: Jessica Sutter, Ward 6 SBOE Representative

In November 2018, Jessica Sutter was elected to be the Ward 6 representative to the State Board of Education. Ms. Sutter joined the Miner community tonight to introduce herself and share her vision and which issues she hopes to focus on while on the SBOE. She also answered questions from parents and staff in attendance.

Principal's Report - Mr. Jackson

Jackson thanked the PTO for hosting movie night in January. There was great turnout and everyone felt that it was a great event.

Miner is about to start testing season. The first round will be the 4th graders when school resumes after the February break. After that classes will begin preparations for PARCC testing, followed by end-of-year assessments.

Long-time Miner teacher Ms. Esdaile retired at end of January. Miner has begun the interview process for a replacement 1st grade teacher.

K-5 report cards go out this week.

Miner is looking to increase sport offerings next year, and a vote of the students is being planned. At a minimum, the school will be adding girls basketball. Possible other offerings include cross country, track, and flag football.

DCPS has yet to hire a design contractor for the "Master Site Plan" project and new playground. One of the possible playground equipment vendors came to the school to make measurements.

Initial budget allocations should have been released by DCPS to LSATs but haven't been yet. There is an LSAT meeting scheduled for next Tuesday - the plan is to discuss the budget if it has been released by then. Otherwise the meeting will have to be rescheduled. Part of the reason for the delay is that the federal government shutdown affected the city budget - fewer workers spending money in the city during the day reduced the city's tax income.

Principal Jackson offered to resume the "Bears Bulletin" newsletter if there's demand - however email tracking metrics show that very few actually read the editions that were sent out.

Traffic calming options for the alley to the south of the school are still under consideration by DDOT and the city is seeking feedback. Speed bumps aren't an option because it's an alley. One-way is a possibility. There is still a work ticket open with DGS to clean up the fenced area across the alley from the southwest corner of the school.

Afterschool clubs will restart March 1.

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Miner has received 172 lottery applications so far. Of that total, 57 families ranked Miner 1, 2, or 3 for 52 seats in PreK3. If you're already enrolled, you do not have to re-enter the lottery regardless of whether you are in or out of boundary.

Miner's tech inventory is still to be scheduled.

Upcoming Miner Open Houses & Events

- February 7 from 4-5 pm middle schools will be coming to visit Miner so 5th graders can learn about those schools. It is open to younger students too.
- Next week is Parent Appreciation Week, sponsored by Miner Community School Coordinator
- February 13 at 5:00pm is a K-5 Open House
- February 27 at 5:30pm is a PreK Open House
- March 1 DCPS Common Lottery applications are due. Miner is a DCPS "Early Action" school, so if you're in bounds for Miner, you're guaranteed a PreK3/PreK4 seat if you include Miner on your lottery application.
- March 9 at 12PM is a spring playdate for all prospective families

LSAT Report

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for February 12 at 5:00 in the Large Group Instruction Room. The first part will be open, then closed for budget discussion if the budget has been released. Miner will be adding one PK3 class and one self-contained SpEd class. Because of this, Miner will need one more Specials ("related arts") Teacher. PTO will send out a survey to gauge interest in various possibilities (i.e. STEM, dance, drama, etc).

PreK Parent Committee Report

The next Parent Committee meeting will be February 7 at 5:15.

For those that subscribe to Rallyhood, note that it defaults to Central time, so you'll need to manually change the app settings to Eastern so that event times display properly.

President & VP Report

The PTO's 4th Annual Community Yard Sale is scheduled for March 9 from 9am to 1pm. Donations will be accepted starting February 4, through March 8. E-waste and hazardous waste can be dropped off the morning of the sale until noon. Volunteers are needed before and during the sale. Webpage is:

<https://www.minerelementary.org/yardsale.html>

The PTO's first spring playdate will be that same afternoon, and is open to incoming and current families.

Miner will again host Mr. Tony's Adventure Camp this summer. Online registration is now open at <https://dcadventurecamp.com/>. Miner students receive free aftercare (\$50 per week value).

The PTO wishes to thank Ms. Esdaile for her lengthy dedication to Miner's students.

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For outdoor recess when the weather is warm but the fields are still wet and muddy, the students are using the blacktop. The school does not need additional traffic cones to section off the part of the blacktop in use by students.

Miner's online spirit store is officially up and running via CafePress (<https://www.minerelementary.org/spirit-store.html>). All Miner branded gear purchased from the online store is acceptable as part of students' school uniform.

The PTO needs "action" photos of the technology purchased last fall with grant money from ANC6A and Capitol Hill Community Foundation (CHCF). PTO is also seeking feedback for priorities for new grant applications this spring.

Classroom grants from the PTO are now available. These must be used for direct classroom or instructional use. Teachers, staff, or grade levels can pool their grants into a single request for funding. Teachers/staff may claim their grant either by having the PTO directly purchase the requested items or through reimbursement if the teacher/staff wishes to make the up-front purchase the items themselves. The PTO will process only one purchase or reimbursement per teacher/staff per school year. If a teacher wishes to be reimbursed, they may submit as many online reimbursement requests with receipts as they like, but the PTO will write a reimbursement check for them only when the total value of reimbursement requests reaches the funding maximum (or the cutoff date passes). All requests must be submitted by May 1, 2019.

Field trip grants from the PTO will be available later this spring. The PTO Executive Board needs to reassess the SY19-20 budget to determine how much total funding is available for field trips. For grades 1-5, each grade has a single allocation (not per teacher) to encourage homerooms to go on field trips together. Kindergarten and ECE classes can each use their grant as a grade level or individually (as a whole grade level is preferred but not required due to the number of classrooms).

PTO grants for clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities are available now. \$500 total was allocated for first semester activities, of which \$300 remains. Teachers or activity sponsors may retroactively request these funds. There is \$1,000 allocated for second semester activities. All requests must go through Principal Jackson first, and all requests must be submitted by May 1, 2019.

Treasurer Report

Cash Summary from December 3, 2018 through January 29, 2019:

Balance as of December 3, 2018:	\$27,977
Plus: Income (December 3 - January 30):	\$6,243
Less: Expenses (December 3 - January 30):	\$(6,927)
Balance as of January 30, 2019:	\$27,293

The Treasurer presented Budget to Actuals. Every budget account has considerable allocation remaining. At the top line, the PTO's total expenses were projected to be \$90,850. Actual expenses as of January 29 are \$47,847. However, the PTO is anticipated to miss fundraising goals, and therefore, 2019 revised budget will reflect this shortfall.

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An update for the Bear Paw and MovePlayGrow fundraisers was presented. Bear Paw goal is \$15,000. \$12,470 has been pledged, with \$11,869 received so far. MovePlayGrow goal is \$15,000. \$6,553 has been pledged and received. Because of these missed fundraising goals, the PTO will revise the 2019 budget to reflect this shortfall.

Teacher Representative Reports

Ms. Unger reported that the upper grades are wrapping up middle-of-year (MOY) testing. Students are making substantial growth!

Ms. Cummings reported that there was great turnout for the “Chocolate with Chubb” musical event. Special thanks to the Kindergarteners for singing!

Garden Team Report

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14, at 3:30PM. All are welcome to attend!

Committee Reports

The PTO’s “The PTO This Month” newsletter communicates the work of the PTO’s committees in lieu of formal committee reports at the General Meetings. Paper copies will be available at each General Meeting, and then it will be posted on the school website and emailed out to the PTO list the day after the PTO General Meeting. Copies of the newsletter will go home in student backpacks the Tuesday following the General Meeting.

The committees reported the following at the meeting:

- Appreciation & Recognition: no additional report
- Communications: no additional report
- Community Engagement: no additional report
- Facilities & Grounds: no additional report
- Family Engagement & Events: there will be a Spring Dance planning meeting next Monday at 5:45. The planning team is seeking volunteers.
- Family Support: no additional report
- Fundraising & Grants: no additional report

Reminder that interested parents may join any of PTO committee by reaching out to the Committee chair(s).

Upcoming Events, Reminders & Opportunities

Reviewed the list of upcoming events for the next month, as displayed on the “Upcoming Events” page of the school’s website.

Reminders & Opportunities

The Community Engagement Committee is seeking for a permanent chairperson and someone to serve as Miner’s representative to the Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO).

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Volunteers and donations are needed for the Community Yard Sale. Please see the webpage (<https://www.minerelementary.org/yardsale.html>) and email minerpto@gmail.com if you are able to help out!

Appreciation and Recognition Committee is seeking volunteers to help out at the school the morning of February 14 for our February appreciation activity. Please email emily.novinskie@gmail.com if you're interested.

Open Comments/Discussion

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.