

Miner Elementary School PTO

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

Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 6:00 PM.

Opening remarks

Thank you to Christ City Church DC for babysitting. The next PTO meeting date is Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00pm.

Minutes from the February 2, 2019 General Meeting were emailed to the PTO distribution list and posted to the PTO page on Miner's website. Membership approved motion to dispense with reading of the minutes, and minutes were approved. Minutes from the November 2018 and December 2018 meetings have not yet been generated by the Secretary.

Principal's Report - Ms. Townsend

In the MySchoolDC Lottery, there are 237 PK3 applications for 50 open seats. 114 applications ranked Miner 1, 2, or 3, which is up 23 over last year. Miner was listed somewhere on 57 in-bounds PK3 applications. Likewise, there were 70 PK4 applications for only 11 open seats. This is up 29 over last year. The school is not projecting to open any seats above K although there were applications for each of those grade levels: 28 K; 14 1st; 13 2nd; 9 3rd; 10 4th; and 7 5th. Overall there were 61 more applications to Miner this year over last year (388 vs 327).

Miner's current enrollment of 371 has already exceeded its "stretch" goal of 362. Four or five students were enrolled just today. Administration is anticipating enrollment reaching the 400 mark by School Year 2020-21 (the year after next). Administration is encouraging early enrollment at all grade levels. If Miner can be close to fully enrolled as early as possible, the administration can petition DCPS Central Office for additional resources. There is a limited amount of funding available, so school that meet their enrollment targets early have a better chance of receiving additional funding.

Special Topic: Master Site Plan Update

Reviewed the results of the March 4, 2019 meeting between parents and DCPS/DGS representatives (Sally Parker and Noah Pierce) and displayed a number of renderings and images of the proposed K-5 playground structures (images and a video provided by DCPS can be seen on Miner's Master Site Plan webpage: <https://www.minerelementary.org/master-site-plan.html>). The purpose of the March 4 meeting was for DCPS to meet with parents and share a number of options for the new K-5 playground using equipment from playground vendor Kompan. The proposed equipment was viewed favorably, and some proposed structures were discarded in favor of others. The images on the MSP webpage show some, but not all of the structures agreed upon by DCPS and the parents in attendance.

The next steps are for Sally Parker to give feedback to Kompan and they'll prepare a revised concept. That document will serve as the basis of design that the winning contractor will use to solicit competitive bids from Kompan and at least two other vendors. General contractor bids were due March 4th and are currently being reviewed. Once awarded, the construction planning and estimating will move quickly. DCPS will hold a formal kickoff meeting with the community, at which they will present all site info that has been collected to date, including all site challenges, programming requirements, etc.

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LSAT Report

In February the LSAT discussed the SY19-20 school budget. Final numbers can't be released because it hasn't been approved yet by DCPS. There was great turnout at the meeting and there was over 2 hrs of discussion, all in open session. LSAT also received great feedback from non-LSAT parents and staff who attended. Although the top-line budget available increased over last year, due to a number of factors, reductions were necessary and there were a number of tough decisions that had to be made.

Reminder that early enrollment is incredibly important. Be on lookout for enrollment drives and volunteer to help out.

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 5:00 in the Large Group Instruction Room.

PreK Parent Committee Report

The Committee hosted a Mardi Gras-themed drop off event this morning. Planning for a possible Earth Day event in April (Earth Day is Monday, April 22), as well as a large end-of-year event in May or June. The Committee will co-host this spring's Prospective Parent Playdates with the PTO, and is looking for volunteers.

President & VP Report

The PTO's 4th Annual Community Yard Sale (and Spring playdate) is coming up this Saturday, March 9 from 9 am to 1 pm. The PTO is now accepting donations of large items. E-waste and hazardous waste can be dropped off the morning of the sale from 9am until noon. Volunteers are needed the day before to help set up and organize. Also before and during the sale, especially from 11 am until 1 pm, and donations of baked goods are needed. The event webpage is <https://www.minerelementary.org/yardsale.html>. Also inquired about volunteers to stand along the marathon route to hand out flyers to advertise to spectators.

Stay tuned for information about the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. Bike to School Day is May 8 (<http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>). Miner will be hosting Mr. Tony's Adventure Camp this summer and online registration is now open (<https://dcadventurecamp.com/>). Miner families will receive free aftercare from 3-6pm (a \$50 per week value).

Miner is participating in WTOP's annual Click for Kids contest for a chance to win up to \$10,000. The schools with the most votes win, so click the link to vote daily: <https://wtop.com/2019-click-kids-voting/>

Treasurer Report

Cash Summary from January 29, 2019 through February 28, 2019:

Balance as of January 29, 2019:	\$27,977
Plus: Income (Jan 28 - Feb 28):	\$128
Less: Expenses (Jan 28 - Feb 28):	\$(2,505)
Balance as of February 28, 2019:	\$24,916

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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 February 28 are \$47,847. However, the PTO is anticipated to miss fundraising goals, and therefore, 2019 revised budget will reflect this shortfall.

Teacher Representative Reports

AP Townsend reported that the 2nd Advisory Student Achievement Assemblies (K-2 and 3-5) were held today.

The school has finished ANET assessments. PARCC testing opens before spring break (science is first up), followed by math and reading after the break.

DCPS has released its "Panorama" parent survey. The online link is currently available, and the paper version is coming out soon. Responses are due March 29. DCPS prefer just one response per family, using the experience of your oldest child. But can do one for each of your students if you like. Staff and student surveys will be conducted this week. This feedback is very important and helps the school to set its goals and for other uses during summer planning.

Garden Team Report

As part of the Master Site Plan process which will reconfigure the north fields, garden, blacktop, and playgrounds, Miner will most likely relocate its vegetable garden (i.e. "Peace Garden"). If you have any ideas about what features or design elements you'd like to see included, please let David Treat know at dtreat2mars@gmail.com.

Miner applied for a FoodCorps program for next year. We should know later this month whether we were chosen.

Apogee Farms was selected by the city to build a greenhouse on the Kramer Street site, just a half block from Miner. Apogee has teamed with Cultivate the City and together they plan to engage with Miner students and community to expand opportunities to learn about urban agriculture. Here is a recent news article: <https://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/food/article/21049419/city-determines-who-will-farm-urban-agriculture-plots-in-wards-4-and-6?fbclid=IwAR19ln32Gw-h-tT4A2G9op--aacGPUKIN6p-FqKRwSvd5Q99kOWlBAP6c-I>

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

Committee Reports

The committees reported the following at the meeting:

- **Appreciation & Recognition:** Last month, the Committee gave roses to the teachers and staff on Valentine's Day. This month, the Committee is attempting a new project to help increase awareness of, and recognition of, teachers and staff at Miner: a newsletter to be sent home in students' folders and posted online, featuring interviews with teachers and staff by students. Those with ideas or interested in helping should reach out to the co-chairs.
- **Communications:** no additional report

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- **Community Engagement:** On Thursday, March 7, at 7 pm at the Hal J. Gordon Building (124 15th St SE), the DC Democratic State Committee and the Ward 6 Democrats are holding a program on Addressing Educational Inequality in DC. CHPSPO will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 19, location TBD. CHPSPO “Lobby Day” at the Wilson Building will be Friday, March 22. If you are interested in participating in the Wilson building visits, please e-mail Danica Petroschius at dpetrishius@yahoo.com. “Ferebee Friday” in Ward 6 is March 29, from 8 - 9:30 am at the Pretzel Bakery across the street from Payne (257 15th St SE). On Friday, March 29, at 10 am, the Committee on Education and the Committee of the hold will hold the DCPS budget oversight hearing. If you wish to testify you must sign up online at: <http://bit.do/educationhearings> or call 202-724-8061.
- **Facilities & Grounds:** no additional report
- **Family Engagement & Events:** The Spring Dance will be held April 12 from 6-8pm. It is considered an official “enrollment event.” The next committee meeting is Monday, March 11 at 5:45pm.
- **Family Support:** The Committee will co-host with the Family Engagement & Events Committee a boutique for students who may not own appropriate attire to pick out a dress or nice outfit to wear to the Spring Dance. Those who have new or gently used outfit or any accessories they’d like to donate, please contact Mariana Jones or Ms. Dorsey.
- **Fundraising & Grants:** no additional report

Reminder that interested parents and staff may join any 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).

If you are interested in being a classroom volunteer or field trip chaperone, there are requirements to have a TB test and a background check. The background check consists of an application & fingerprinting:

<https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bg37a864v?a=dbpage&pageID=26>. For more information, visit the DCPS classroom volunteer page: <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/volunteer-our-schools>

Open Comments/Discussion

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.