

Miner Elementary School PTO
General Meeting: May 7, 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, June 4 at 6:00pm.

Minutes from the April 2019 meeting were not prepared by the Secretary and thus could not be presented for approval.

Principal's Report - Mr. Jackson

Miner is in the middle of the PARCC testing window. Also in the middle of hiring season for new staff. If parents are interested in being a part of the “parent pool” to potentially participate in interviews as part of the Personnel Committee, please contact PTO President Julie Muir.

As of May 1, Miner is at 55% re-enrollment, just missing it’s goal of 60%. As of the General Meeting on May 7, re-enrollment is at over 59%. The goal as of June 1 is 85%, and 90% by June 14 (last day of school).

PreK4, Kindergarten, and 5th grade families will receive save-the-date notifications for promotional ceremonies. PreK4 is June 7 at 9:30 am, with 5th grade the same day at 2:00 pm. Kindergarten will be June 10 at 9:30 am.

Current anticipated completion of the new north-side playground and other campus improvements is mid-to-late October. DCPS has a proposed general layout that they shared with administration, staff, and PTO leadership. DCPS and their contractor will update the layout based on feedback received, and present it to the community as soon as possible.

This summer Miner will host multiple summer camps: Mr. Tony’s Adventure Camp, Capital Cycle Camp, two Department of Parks and Recreation camps, and an “attendance camp.” The entire first floor will be in use. Camps will vacate the building August 2, allowing the custodians two full weeks to clean first floor before teachers return for their in-service week.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and the Miner administration plans to celebrate them daily!

Special Topic: DC Solar - Ivan Bailey

Ivan Bailey, a co-founder of DC Solar (dcsolar.io), presented the benefits of rooftop solar photovoltaic systems on DC homes, as well as their unique business model that provides any DC homeowner a rooftop solar system for free. DC has best laws for small solar producers in the country and DC requires utilities to generate a certain amount of green energy, or buy it from other sources (such as homes with solar). Last year they did 74 roofs in Capitol Hill (PTO Secretary David Treat is a recent customer and invited Mr. Bailey to attend the meeting). Also, this is the final year for a 30% Federal tax credit applicable to the purchase of a solar system. Next year it drops to 26%, then 22% the year after, and so on. A typical system can add around \$20k value to your house

Mr. Bailey presented a couple of handouts with metrics showing the benefits of solar ownership, including savings on utility bills and equivalent amounts of CO2 and coal avoided.

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Special Topic: PTO and LSAT Elections - Julie Muir

President Muir provided an overview of the election process for PTO Executive Board and LSAT Parent Representatives. The PTO is responsible for conducting elections for both of these two leadership bodies (<https://www.minerelementary.org/election.html>). The school itself conducts elections for the LSAT teacher and staff representatives, and the LSAT conducts its own election for a community representative.

The nomination period is now open until Monday, May 20. To run for an office or to join a PTO Committee, fill out a nomination form (either paper or online). Return paper forms to your teacher or the Main Office.

The election timeline:

- Monday, April 29: Election email goes out; website is updated; election packets available online and in main office
- Tuesday, April 30: Election letter and nomination form goes home in backpacks
- Tuesday, May 7: Q&A session at PTO meeting; current PTO officers/chairs and LSAT co-chairs can answer
- Wednesday, May 8: Info sessions at 3:30, 4:30, and 5:30
- Tuesday, May 14: Reminder postcard goes home in backpacks
- Monday, May 20: Nominations must be received by 9:00am
- Wednesday, May 29: Ballots go home in backpacks (this is on a Wednesday because there is no school Tuesday)
- Monday, June 3: Elections close at 9:00am; ballots counted and winners notified
- Tuesday, June 4: Announce PTO and LSAT winners at PTO meeting; ask people to sign up for Committees if they haven't already done so

For LSAT, four parents/guardians will be elected to serve as Parent Representatives. Only parents/guardians can run for and vote in the LSAT Parent Rep Election. LSAT Rep terms run from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. Candidates may also run for PTO Executive Board.

For PTO, parents/guardians AND teachers/staff may both run for and vote in PTO Elections. Results will be announced at the end of the June PTO General Meeting and the new terms will begin as soon as the meeting concludes. Terms for each office are one year - however if the bylaw change proposed in April passes, the term for Treasurer will be two years. Candidates may run for only one PTO Executive Board position, but candidates may also run for LSAT.

Full details, including position descriptions, are on the Election page of Miner's website:
<https://www.minerelementary.org/election.html>

LSAT Report - Tammy Alexander

Elections for next year's LSAT are upcoming, and were covered in the prior topic. Ms. Alexander added that the LSAT does a lot of digging into data. Tomorrow there are three leadership information sessions at 3:30, 4:30, 5:30 in the Large Group Instruction Room. Teachers were reminded to encourage upper grade parents to run for LSAT too.

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The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 5:00 in the Large Group Instruction Room. The meeting is open to all.

PreK Parent Committee Report

There was no PreK Parent Committee meeting this month.

President & VP Report

Reminders:

- Re-enroll your students. Forms are available at <https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/71>.
- Bike to School Day is tomorrow (<http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>).
- Please complete the PTO Year in Review Survey (<https://www.minerelementary.org/surveys--feedback.html>).

Master Site Plan update: Not much to add beyond what Principal Jackson stated. PTO Leadership explicitly requested that DCPS present the next iteration of their layout (along with budget and schedule) to the full community as soon as possible, and certainly before any final decisions are made.

Technology update: The PTO has purchased a number of classroom technology devices and provided them to the school and directly to teachers.

- 13 Chromebooks (used to run Lexia and ST Math)
 - 7 to 2nd grade
 - 6 to Kindergarten
 - 7 provided to 1st grade last fall
- 2 projectors (1 is still available)
- 100 headphones
 - 50 to PARCC
 - 50 to various classrooms

If teachers would like additional items, please let the PTO know

Membership approved a change in the bylaws proposed at the April General Meeting. The term for the Treasurer changes from one year to two years. Rationale for the change: “The PTO is a formal 501c3 organization and as such, has a high requirement for rigorous and accurate financial management and accounting, as well as regulatory compliance (e.g., taxes and insurance). The role of Treasurer has a steep learning curve and having the same Treasurer for at least two years would be of great benefit to the smooth running of the organization.”

Treasurer Report

Cash Summary from March 25, 2019 through May 5, 2019:

Balance as of March 25, 2019:	\$28,384
Plus: Income (Mar 25 - May 5):	\$2,164
Less: Expenses (Mar 25 - May 5):	\$(8,134)
Balance as of May 5, 2019:	\$22,425

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Cash Summary from July 1, 2018 through May 5, 2019:

Balance as of March 25, 2019:	\$22,037
Plus: Income (Mar 25 - May 5):	\$59,573
Less: Expenses (Mar 25 - May 5):	\$(59,185)
Balance as of May 5, 2019:	\$22,425

Budget to Actuals:

Budget:	\$90,850
Actual:	\$59,185
Delta:	\$(28,412)

Most budget accounts have considerable allocation remaining. Exceptions are Community Engagement (\$353 remaining), Family Engagement & Events (over budget by \$402), and Fundraising & Grants (over budget by \$474).

Membership approved reprogramming \$1300 for scholarships for students to attend Mr. Tony's Adventure Camp, which will be hosted at Miner this summer. This will supplement grant funding secured by Ms. Woodson, Miner's Community School Coordinator, for 23 Miner students to attend Adventure Camp for four weeks each.

Membership approved reprogramming \$1000 into the Schoolwide Support budget account to fund teacher requests for extracurricular, club, and sports purposes.

Membership discussed the role of Miner's incoming FoodCorps servicemember for SY19-20. Although the PTO has submitted various grant requests to pay the \$7500 fee, results aren't yet known and it was proposed to set aside \$7500 out of the general fund to pay for it in case grant funding doesn't materialize. Membership approved this proposal as a recommendation for next year's Executive Board.

Additionally, membership discussed setting aside the unused ECE field trip funding until next fall since this year's trips were at no cost. Membership approved this proposal as a recommendation for next year's Executive Board. However, a trip may not happen in the fall even with PTO funding because it is not know for certain when OSSE/Head Start funding is released to cover transportation costs.

Teacher Representative Reports

Ms. Unger reported that 5th grade completed all PARCC testing. 4th grade math is complete and they're currently doing ELA (English Language Arts). Next week 3rd grade will do math and ELA. End of year assessments follow afterwards through May 31.

The week of June 3 will be 5th grade "Senior Week," with a service day on Monday, a dinner & dance on Tuesday, a trip to Six Flags on Wednesday, and promotion ceremony on Friday. The following week the 4th graders will visit and preview 5th grade.

Beginning/middle/end-of-year (BOY/MOY/EOY) data for students should be included on reports cards. If not, just ask at your parent-teachers conference.

Ms. Cummings reported that June 7 is PK4 promotion at 9:30. ECE had a great time at the Museum of Natural History. Next week ECE will be taking a field trip to Clemyjontri park. Students and teachers had a blast at the Earth Day events. ECE held a PARCC prep parade for the upper grades and marched through the building.

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Garden Team Report

In place of the regular monthly meeting, on May 16 the Anacostia Watershed Society will be installing the new ECE garden!

Committee Reports

The committees reported the following at the meeting:

- Appreciation & Recognition: Please check your email for ways to help with Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Communications: no additional report
- Community Engagement: Bike to School Day is tomorrow morning at 7:30am in Lincoln Park.
- Facilities & Grounds: no additional report
- Family Engagement & Events: no additional report
- Family Support: no additional report
- Fundraising & Grants: PTO was awarded a grant from CHCF for caps and gowns for the Kindergarten graduation ceremony. These items will be saved to be re-used annually. Membership discussed and approved reallocating \$800 from the General Fund to be used to purchase additional caps and gowns.

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

Enrollment is open!

PTO Executive Board and LSAT Parent Rep nomination forms are due May 20.

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 7:15 PM.