

# Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: October 1, 2019 - 6:00 pm

## Meeting Minutes

*The meeting came to order at 6:05pm. All members of the Executive Board were present.*

### **Opening Remarks:**

- Thank you to Christ City Church for providing babysitting and food in room 103.
- The next meeting will be on November 12 at 6:00pm (note this is the 2nd Tuesday of the month).
- The minutes from the September 2019 meeting were posted to the website approximately 2 weeks ago. A motion to approve the minutes without reading them aloud was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the September 2019 minutes were approved.

### **LSAT Report:**

- LSAT Co-Chairs are Mr. Jason Yoho (K educator) and Sara Saxton (1st and pk3 parent).
- Ms. Shamayne Coles was elected by the teachers to the open Teacher Rep position.
- LSAT meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00pm. The next meeting is October 15 in the Large Group Instruction Room. All are welcome to attend.

### **PreK Parent Committee Report:**

The first meeting will be tomorrow morning at 8:45am in the PTO Room (room 143).

### **Principal's Report - Mr. Jackson:**

- Custodial Appreciation Day is tomorrow (October 2). Thank you to our amazing team.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are October 11 (no school for students). ECE families will pick a specific time; K-5 parents will show up during the allotted time and be met on a first come, first served basis. More information will go home in your student's backpack in the coming days. Students are welcome to accompany their families to parent-teacher conferences.
- October is Bullying Prevention Month. On October 23, students are asked to wear orange for a bullying prevention parade and healthy relationship discussion.
- Be on the lookout for field trip permission forms in your student's folders. There are several field trips scheduled in the coming weeks and we don't want any students to miss out because their forms weren't signed.
- You may have received a letter in the mail from DCPS indicating that lunch is no longer free. This is not the case. Miner is one of 87 schools that provides free breakfast, lunch, and snacks. An email and a note will go home making this clear to anyone who may have been confused by the letter.
- For the first time in 7 years we have exceeded our growth goal for enrollment in advance of the deadline. Our goal was 376 students by this weekend. We currently have 379 students enrolled.
- Both 5th grade homerooms have been accepted into the Embassy Adoption Program. Information will go home in backpacks with more details, including which embassy the students will be assigned.
- School picture day is November 7. These can be traditional school photos or "personality" photos with a seasonal background. Additionally we have scheduled holiday "personality" photos for December 12. Flyers will go home closer to the picture days, with photo package information. Please note that the photographer only accepts cash payments.

### **Special Topic--Miner Equity Team:**

- This is a team, not a committee, that formed from Miner's partnership with Kindred.
- Kindred
  - Last year Kindred organized dialogue groups of mixed races.
  - This year they will start with race specific groups and then have mixed-race dialogue groups in the spring.
  - People can still sign up for the groups; sign up opportunities for the spring mixed-race

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dialogue groups will be later in the year.

- Fall and spring Kindred groups are currently only open to families of Miner students.
- There will be two race-specific groups, both will meet in the evening.
  - The group for white families will be chaired by Amy Treat and Chris Deutsch and has approximately 4 spots remaining.
  - The group for black families will be chaired by Azeb Kinder and Nikki Wiggins and has approximately 6 spots remaining.
- Miner Equity Team
  - The Miner Equity Team will be chaired by LaShawn Oliver and David Treat.
  - Membership is open to all: families, staff, community members are welcome.
  - The Team's kickoff meeting is Thursday, October 3. There will be two identical meetings - one at 9am; one at 3:45pm.

### **President/Vice President Report:**

- Walk to School Day is tomorrow, October 2 at Lincoln Park. We will meet at 7:30am at Lincoln Park and then walk together to school at 8:20am when the program is complete. This will not conflict with the ECE Parent Committee meeting. Also, students who join us will not be marked late and will still be able to eat breakfast at school.
- Oktoberfest is October 31. If you are interested in helping plan the event, contact us at [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com). Please sign up for a 1 hour shift or donate water, juice boxes, etc. Weather permitting the event will be held outside on the blacktop, but our back up plan is to use the gym. We're also hoping for 22 cars for "trunk or treat" - let us know if you're interested in participating.
- We need a Fundraising & Grants Committee Chair! This position can be divided into two separate chairs - one for fundraising and one for grants. A lot of the fundraising events have already been planned, plus a former parent is running our Holiday Greenery Sale this year so a lot of the work is already done. Please contact [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com) if you're interested
- The Bear Paw Fund has raised \$5,751 from 16 families. Our goal is \$10,000 from 50% of families.

### **Treasurer Report:**

- Balance as of June 30, 2019: \$19,347
- Plus: Income (Jul 1 - Sep 30, 2019): \$3,961
- Less: Expenses (Jul 1 - Sep 30, 2019): \$(7,959)
- Balance as of September 30, 2019: \$15,349

### **Teacher Representative Report:**

- ECE is going to Sharpe's Farm (pumpkin patch) on October 22. Parent volunteers are needed to chaperone, but DCPS clearance is required. Additionally small bags are needed to help students carry anything such as small pumpkins and corn.
- ECE Book-o-ween is October 31. Kids are welcome to dress in costumes - we encourage them to come dressed as their favorite book character. Costume donations are appreciated.
- Be on the lookout for field trip forms for individual class trips. Some planned trips include the Arboretum and Natural History Museum.
- DCPS clearance is needed for all field trip chaperones. Once you are cleared, please send your clearance confirmation to Mr. Jackson at [bruce.jackson@k12.dc.gov](mailto:bruce.jackson@k12.dc.gov) so he has it on file.

### **Garden Team Report:**

- Our OSSE garden grant ended on September 30, as did our official partnership with Cultivate the City. We are thank CTC for a great 3 year partnership that culminated with a Garden Party they hosted for us on September 27. Thanks to everyone who joined us at H Street Farms.
- DCPS is assessing our request to rebuild the Peace Garden. In the meantime we have bought materials to help build it up.

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- This year we will add a composting program to our garden education.
- FoodCorps program is off to a great start - our servicemember Salsa is working with students in grades K-5 and will soon be able to move to the garden (once it re-opens).
- We are hoping to receive a mini grant from Capitol Hill Community Foundation for ADA compliant gravel path in garden
- We are looking for parents to join the garden team! Email [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com) if interested.

### **Committee Reports:**

*Appreciation & Recognition* - We had a great turnout for our playdate/meeting. The following ideas came from it: parent volunteers in classrooms during teacher workdays (no DCPS clearance would be required), classroom parents (something to bring up with the Equity Team to help improve parent representation in all grade levels), monthly snack donations (Hannah Williams will be sending monthly emails asking for donations or help with distribution - the October snacks were distributed today and were very well received).

*Communications* - Spirit Store is open and more t-shirts have been ordered; Hill Rag has been submitted; currently working on marketing materials and flyers for Oktoberfest; the Committee has several new members this year who are working together to promote Miner.

*Community Engagement* - We are still looking for a permanent Committee Chair, and we are seeking volunteers to provide testimony on Miner's behalf at hearings and begin outreach to local businesses to help with fundraising and partnership efforts. Walk to School Day is tomorrow. Please join us in Lincoln Park. Hilloween is October 25 and we need volunteers to run the Miner table.

*Equity* - Kickoff meetings are at 9am and 3:45pm on Thursday, October 3.

*Family Engagement & Events* - Please volunteer to help with Oktoberfest.

*Fundraising & Grants* - Committee Chair needed! Events this year are Bear Paw Fund (fall fundraiser), Holiday Greenery and Baked Goods Sale (Dec. 6-7), and Community Yard Sale (March 21).

### **Upcoming Events:**

We reviewed the upcoming events for the next few weeks. They are available on the Miner Elementary Website and in the slide presentation.

### **Reminders & Opportunities:**

- Contact Hannah Williams at [williams.hannah@gmail.com](mailto:williams.hannah@gmail.com) if you are able to contribute snacks or time for our monthly Teacher Appreciation Snacks.
- Contact David Treat at [dtreat2mars@gmail.com](mailto:dtreat2mars@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering at Hilloween
- All Committees are open but we are specifically looking for a Fundraising & Grants Chair and a permanent Community Engagement Chair. Email [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com) to sign up.
- 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 7:05pm.*