

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: December 3, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 6:07pm. The following members of the Executive Board were present: Julie Muir, Jamie Milhous, Ms. Tarren Cummings, Principal Bruce Jackson.

Opening Remarks:

- Thank you to Christ City Church for providing babysitting and food in room 103.
- The next meeting will be on January 7 at 6:00pm.
- The minutes from the November 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 November 2019 minutes were approved.

Principal's Report - Mr. Jackson:

- K-5 Attendance Wars is underway! Students must arrive on time and be present for roll call. The class with the best attendance will win a pizza party. ECE will have their own treat but without the competition since Head Start regulations regarding attendance are different than DCPS K-5 requirements).
- Picture day is 12/12. Please send the form back by 12/11 so admin can be sure to get the pictures you request (with or without Santa).
- Spirit Week is 12/16-20. Students will have fun themed dress days including pajama day. An announcement will be made soon so your student knows how to dress.
- OSSE Report Cards released
 - Miner star rating dropped from 3 to 2
 - Disappointing but not unexpected
 - Increase/neutral in social/emotional scores
 - Net gain of less than 1 in proficiency on PARCC
 - Loss in academic growth category, especially compared to previous year
 - Changes this year to improve
 - Changes in 3rd - 5th grades, starting with overall master schedule
 - Re-vamped student support system for struggling students
 - Informal observations in classrooms makes admin very optimistic going forward
 - More than 1/2 of 3rd - 5th grade team is new this year
 - Emphasis on academic vocabulary, helped by the addition of science and social studies teachers
 - Most points on the star rating come from growth and proficiency
 - What messaging can we as parents do? Promote our successes: student retention is good, family ratings of Miner are stronger than in the past
 - Star rating is a fair assessment in that we didn't improve test scores like we should have, but at the same time it doesn't factor in important things like our community school initiative, our Kindred partnership, the start of an Equity Team, etc.

LSAT Report:

- Next meeting 12/17 at 5pm
- New parent member LaToya McCarthy-Scott elected to increase racial diversity and to add an upper-grade parent
- LSAT plans to add 1-2 community members, including someone from the Eliot-Hine community
- Enrollment projection for next year: 390. For Sy19-20 projection was 372 and our current enrollment is 386.

PreK Parent Committee Report:

- Next meeting TBD but it will be before winter break (email will go out shortly)

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Garden Team/FoodCorps Report:

- Discovery Garden in ECE playground includes native pollinator plants, paw paw trees, outdoor classroom space, storage bins, a sink, and instructional signage. Thanks go to AWS and DOEE!
- Peace Garden will be rebuilt by PTO and DCPS so it's ready for the spring.
- DDOT planted some trees around the property
- Possibility for a ribbon cutting ceremony when entire north campus space opens?

Equity Team Report:

- November meeting well attended; discussions began re: improving equity and inclusion at Miner (thanks to all who completed the survey - we have 60+ ideas to get us started)
- Next meeting December 9 at 5pm - will continue discussions and begin prioritizing
- Equity and Inclusion bulletin board is underway in main hallway
- Spring Kindred dialogue groups TBD

President/Vice President Report:

- Annual Holiday Greenery and Baked Goods Sale is this weekend. Visit www.minerelementary.org to pre-order, volunteer, or sign up to bring baked goods. Biggest need is for bakers and help on Thursday morning when trees are delivered.
- My School DC Lottery opens December 16. Please encourage any families who may be considering Miner to include us on their lottery list and attend an Open House.
 - First pk open house is Dec. 7 at 10am
 - EdFest at the Armory is Dec. 14

Treasurer Report:

- Balance as of June 30, 2019: \$18,097
- Plus: Income (Jul 1 - Dec 2, 2019): \$13,989
- Less: Expenses (Jul 1 - Dec 2, 2019): \$(23,510)
- Balance as of December 2, 2019: \$8,576
- OSSE reimbursement check of over \$7,000 was deposited today so balance will be much higher tomorrow
- We have surpassed last year's greenery sale pre-orders
- We have \$300 in donations for Christmas trees for families who may not otherwise be able to have one. Social workers will identify 10 families.

Teacher Representative Report:

- ECE end of study session event coming (check backpacks for flyers)
- ECE teachers will be volunteering at DC Central Kitchen

Committee Reports:

Appreciation & Recognition - Holiday Treats for Teachers and Staff is Thursday, December 19 (email will go out next week). Donations of store-bought or home baked goods (nut free) will be greatly appreciated! Any non-food items for teachers who don't want treats are also appreciated (tea candles, pens, etc). Please email jessica.burniske@gmail.com to sign up to donate or with any questions. Additionally, if you are able to help with our monthly snacks for teachers, please contact Hannah Williams at williams.hannah@gmail.com.

Communications - Comms re: greenery sale have gone out over the neighborhood blogs, twitter, and flyers have been distributed. They will continue this week to encourage sales. T-shirts are still available for sale, and other Miner-branded items are available on Cafe Press. Miner gear makes great Christmas presents!

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Community Engagement - W6PSPO met at Miner in November. Discussion was about purpose of PTO meetings. Suggestion to turn PTO General Meeting into a school-wide community meeting hosted by PTO to make it more interesting/inclusive has been proposed and will be suggested at Leadership Team and Equity Team meetings.

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:

- Sign up at minerelementary.org/greenery2019.html if you are interested in volunteering at the Holiday Greenery and Baked Goods Sale or if you are interested in donating baked goods.
- Contact Hannah Williams at williams.hannah@gmail.com if you are able to contribute snacks or time for our monthly Teacher Appreciation Snacks.
- 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 6:45pm.