

Miner PTO General Meeting

February 4, 2020

Did you know that Miner has a girls basketball team? It's new this year, but they are already an incredible team! You can find their schedule (along with the boys basketball and DC Scores soccer schedules) on the Miner calendar. We hope you can make it to a game!

Agenda

6:00 - 6:05 Welcome & Reading of the Minutes

6:05 - 6:10 Principal's Report

6:10 - 6:15 Community School Update

6:15 - 6:30 Special Topic: NLSP (Legal Services)

6:30 - 6:35 LSAT & PreK Parent Committee Reports

6:35 - 6:40 Green Team/FoodCorps Report

6:40 - 6:45 Equity Team Report

6:45 - 6:50 PTO President & VP Report

6:50 - 6:55 Treasurer & Teacher Representative Reports

6:55 - 7:00 Committee Reports

7:00 - 7:05 Upcoming Events, Reminders, Opportunities

Open Comment: Other joys, concerns, or questions?



Welcome!

- Babysitting is provided free of charge (including dinner) by Christ City Church DC in room 103
- Refreshments & Light Dinner
 - Suggested donation of \$2 per pizza slice
 - Please let us know if you'd like to contribute food or funding for future PTO meetings
- Next PTO meeting date: Tuesday, March 3, at 6:00pm
- Reading of the minutes from the December General Meeting



Principal's Report

Principal Jackson



Open House Schedule

- February 13 at 10:00am (ECE)
- February 26 at 9:30am (ECE)
- February 26 at 5:30pm (K-5)
- February 27 at 5:30pm (K-5)

Kids are welcome and no RSVP is needed. Principal Jackson, grade-level teachers, and representatives from the PTO will be able to answer any questions families may have.



Community School Update

Ms. Monica Woodson



Special Topic: Neighborhood Legal Services Program

Mr. Jason Horrell, Senior Attorney





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Family Law Issues in Washington, D.C.

**Jason Horrell, Senior Attorney
Neighborhood Legal Services Program
(NLSP)**



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Neighborhood Legal Services Program is a non-profit law firm that provides **free** legal information, advice, and representation to low-income D.C. residents. We have been working in D.C. since 1964.

We have 3 fully-staffed neighborhood offices in Wards 5, 7, and 8.

We help with problems involving **housing, family, domestic violence, public benefits, and barriers to employment** issues. We also provide assistance on some **consumer** issues, and assist with preparing **wills and advance directives**.

How to Complete an Intake with Neighborhood Legal Services Program

- Online: 24/7 at www.nlsp.org
- By phone: Call (202) 832-6577 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- In person: Visit any of our three offices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
 - 64 New York Avenue NE
 - 4609 Polk Street NE
 - 2412 Minnesota Avenue SE



- The following presentation contains **legal information** about family law issues in **Washington, D.C.**
- I can provide clarifying information about the legal information in this presentation.
- However, I cannot provide you **legal advice** during the presentation. This means I cannot give you advice during the presentation about your particular legal issues.
- NLSP can give you **free legal advice and possibly represent you** if you qualify for our services. To qualify for our services you must:
 - Be a United States Citizen or have documented immigration status in the United States (with very limited exception); and
 - Meet financial eligibility guidelines.
- If you do not qualify for our services, we are able to refer you to other organizations who can.



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Child Custody between Parents

WHAT IS “CUSTODY”?

Physical Custody


- The child’s living arrangement, including where the child lives
- Also, who has visits with the child and when and where those visits happen

Legal Custody

- The right to make decisions about the child’s health, education and general welfare
- The right to get the child’s educational, medical, psychological, dental, or other records
- The right to speak with and get information about the child from people at school, doctors, counselors etc.

D.C. Code §
16-914

YOU CAN ASK THE COURT TO:

- 1. Create a Custody Order** (a document that legally requires something) for a custody arrangement if you don't already have one.
 - 2. Change an existing Custody Order** if there has been a “substantial and material change” in you or your child's life.
- 

The Court favors Joint Custody

- This means that a judge first assumes that it best for a child that *both* parents are involved in the child's life.
- The judge may NOT assume joint custody is best for the child if:
 - There is domestic violence between the parents
 - Abuse or neglect of the child by one of the parents
 - Parental kidnapping

Preference
for
Joint
custody



17 “Best
interests of
the child”
factors



Judge
decides
who has
custody.

SOME OF THE “BEST INTEREST” FACTORS IN D.C. INCLUDE:

- 1. What the child wants (depending on the age of the child)**
- 2. How well the child knows his or her parents, siblings, or caretakers**
- 3. How much the child is adjusted to her home and/ or school**
- 4. The mental and physical health of the children and parents**
- 5. How well the parents get along and are able to make decisions for the child**
- 6. How involved the parents have been in the child’s life**
- 7. If the parents have enough money to support having custody of the child**
- 8. How getting custody of a child might affect public benefits, like TANF or Medicaid**

**D.C. Code §16-914(a)
(3) (A-Q)**

VISITATION

- If parents **don't have joint physical custody**, one parent may still have **visitation**.
- Visitation usually means that a parent spends a shorter amount of time with the child, usually not overnights. The Court may order this, or the parents may agree to it.
- **Supervised visitation**
 - Can be at the Supervised Visitation Center (515 5th St NW)
 - Can be supervised by someone else, like another family member or friend, who the parents agree on or the Court orders.
- **Unsupervised visitation**
 - Parent and child can be alone together without anyone supervising.

WHY A CUSTODY ORDER IS HELPFUL

- Without an Order, you **do** have a right to see your child and get access to records **if you can prove you're the child's parent**. (Remember, the law in DC says it's best for a child to have both of the parents in his or her life.)
- BUT without an Order, you **don't** have a right to a certain custody schedule and it may be hard to get information for your child or make decisions. If you and the other parent stop agreeing, there is little you can do unless you go to Court.
- An Order is helpful to make sure you and the other parent are on the same page, and so you can enforce the agreement if the other parent does not want to follow it.

What if you need a Custody Order but don't want to go to Court?

- **Mediation!** Located at Court Building C - 410 E Street NW.
- **Free service** for DC residents. It's called the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division of DC Superior Court.
- **Neutral person** helps you and the other parent (or third party) have a discussion to come up with an agreement.
- Everything you discuss in mediation is **confidential**, and the other party cannot bring it up later in Court.
- You can have up to 4 or 5 two-hour sessions.
- You can **call (202) 879-3180 to do an intake or for more information.**



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Paternity

How to establish paternity

- **Legal presumption**

- Most common: If the parents are married or in a registered domestic partnership when the child is born, there is an automatic legal relationship between the mother's spouse/domestic partner and the child.

- **Voluntary Acknowledgement by both parents**

- Must be made under oath after receiving written and oral notification of alternatives to, and legal consequences of, signing the acknowledgment.

- **Court Order**

- DNA test indicates 99% probability that the person is the genetic parent of the child, or
- Voluntary acknowledgement

D.C. Code §§ 16-909,
-909.01

Birth certificates

- Father's name **must** be added to the birth certificate if he and the mother are married or in a registered domestic partnership at the time of birth.
- If the mother is not married or in a domestic relationship at the time of birth, then father's name **can** be added to the birth certificate **AFTER** paternity is established
 - Voluntary acknowledgement
 - Court order


Contact D.C. Vital Records office at (202) 442-9303



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Child Support

YOU CAN ASK THE COURT TO:

- 1. Enter an Order for child support** if you don't already have one.
 - 2. Change an existing child support order** if there has been a “substantial and material change.”
 - 3. File a Motion for Contempt** if the other parent is supposed to pay child support and has not been paying.
- 

HOW THE COURT DECIDES CHILD SUPPORT

- Children can get child support until age 21.
- The Court uses the **D.C. Child Support Guideline** to calculate how much child support a parent has to pay. The calculation is based on how much money each parent makes and how much custody each parent has.
- Application of the Guideline is **gender neutral**. It doesn't matter if you're the mom or dad. It all depends on the custody arrangement and how much money you make.

D.C. Code §
16-916.01

CHILD SUPPORT INCLUDES:

- Financial support
- Medical support
- Sometimes also educational, extracurricular, or summer camp expenses

IMPORTANT CHILD SUPPORT INFORMATION:

- Court may order **minimum of \$75/ month** if you can't prove your income.
- Office of the Attorney General (OAG) may file for child support on behalf of a child against a parent who does not have custody, **if the parent who does have custody is receiving TANF and/or Medicaid.**
- **Unpaid child support** can result in getting your driver's **license taken away or even going to jail.**
- If you **lose your license** for unpaid child support, you need to set up a **payment plan with Child Support Services Division AND pay tickets and a reinstatement fee to the DMV.**

The court needs to know who the parents are before they will be ordered to pay child support.

- You can get a DNA test through the Court.
- A birth certificate with both parents' names on it proves who the parents are.
- You sign a document under oath saying you're the parent, so as long as you have been given written and oral notice of the consequences of signing that document.

HOW DOES THE COURT DECIDE HOW MUCH CHILD SUPPORT YOU HAVE TO PAY?

- **What they consider to say how much money you make:**
 - Salary and wages
 - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
 - Veteran's benefits
 - Worker's Comp
 - Unemployment Comp
 - Pension
 - Life Insurance Income
 - But NOT public assistance such as TANF, food stamps, SSI
 - **What they subtract from how much a party pays:**
 - Alimony (support you pay to someone you were married to)
 - Child support for another child
 - How many children you have living at home with you
 - The amount of time the child spends with each parent
 - Shared custody = at least 128 overnights/ year or 35% of the year
- D.C. Code § 16-916.01(c)-(d)

TIMING

- **Initial Order**

- If you file for child support, you should get a hearing within 45 days.

- **Retroactive Support**

- A judge may order a back payment of child support for up to 24 months (2 years) before when you asked the Court for child support.
 - You may be able to get more than 24 months if you can show the parent ordered to pay has acted in badly to avoid paying child support (D.C. Code § 16-916(v)).

- **Modification:**

- If granted, will go back to the day you filed.

Getting assistance without a lawyer

- The Family Court **does NOT guarantee a lawyer** for custody or child support cases.
- You can complete all family court paperwork yourself
 - Forms:
<http://www.dcbar.org/for-the-public/legal-resources/pro-se-pleadings.cfm>
 - Filed at **Family Court Central Intake Center** (JM level of DC Superior Court, 500 Indiana Ave. NW)
- **Family Law Self-Help Center**
 - Free walk-in service that provides legal information
 - Mondays-Fridays: 8:00a.m.-5:30p.m. (no new appointments after 5:00 p.m.)
 - JM-570 in DC Superior Court

LSAT Report

Co-Chairs: Sara Saxton and Mr. Jason Yoho
Next Meeting: February 6 at 5:00pm



PreK Parent Committee Report

Co-Chairs: Hunter Milhous and John Muir
Next Meeting: February 6 at 3:45pm



Green Team/FoodCorps Report



Green Team/FoodCorps Report

- We're now the Miner **Green Team**! Come to the March PTO meeting when we'll present an overview of the team's activities and our upcoming plans for the Peace Garden.
- Currently the team is planning the layout for the Peace Garden, which besides 6 raised beds, will include features such as a classroom area, picnic tables and benches, irrigation tanks and watering system, a utility sink, and more.
- The team is also developing funding options so we can bring FoodCorps back next year. Our Service Member Salsa Chebli has had great success this year and we'd love to have her back!



Equity Team Report

Co-Chairs: LaShawn Oliver and David Treat
Next Meeting: February 6 at 4:30pm



Equity Team

- Our next meeting is this Thursday, 2/6 at 4:30 PM, which is just prior to the LSAT's budget meeting. We'll only have 30 minutes, and the topic of discussion will be limited to equity issues that may be relevant to the school's budget. Come for the discussion, then stay to observe the LSAT's budget deliberations.
- The Equity Team has generated a list of high-priority actions to be undertaken directly by our community. If you're interested in viewing the topics and then signing up to participate with your fellow parents, teachers, and staff on those that interest you, the sign up form is here: <https://forms.gle/gsDCriWgCoiv2Sjp8>
- Kindred will be offering dialogue groups again this spring. If you are interested in participating, please contact Azeb Kinder at azeb@kindredcommunities.org



Regular PTO Business



President & VP Reports

- We have partnered with The Capital Candy Jar for a fundraiser on February 9.
- Our Community Yard Sale is scheduled for March 21. If you have small donations, feel free to bring them in (you can leave them in the Main Office). We will make an announcement when we are able to accept donations of larger items.
- Mr. Tony's Adventure Camp will be back at Miner this summer. Families can sign up here: <https://dcadventurecamp.com/>
- My School DC Lottery opened December 16. If you know anyone interested in attending Miner, please encourage them to fill out the application and attend one of our open houses.
<https://www.myschooldc.org/>
- We are kicking off our Corporate Bear Paw Campaign. If you have any local business contacts who may be interested in sponsoring PTO events or generally supporting the PTO, please contact us at minerpto@gmail.com





**ROSES ARE RED.
VIOLETS ARE BLUE.
WE LOVE MINER ELEMENTARY...
AND CANDY TOO!**

Support Miner Elementary School and
make this Valentine's Day even sweeter!

What: Candy sale to support the Miner PTO
When: Sunday, February 9th | Noon to 8 p.m.
Where: The Capitol Candy Jar, 201 15th St NE

On February 9th, mention Miner Elementary School to
the Capitol Candy Jar and receive 5% off your entire
purchase. The Capitol Candy Jar will generously donate
25% of the profits from those sales to the Miner PTO.

BE
MINE

Treasurer Report (This Period)

Cash Summary 6/30/19-2/4/20

| | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| Balance as of June 30, 2019: | \$ | 18,097 |
| Plus: Income (Jul 1 - Feb 4, 2020): | \$ | 38,150 |
| Less: Expenses (Jul 1 - Dec 02, 2019): | \$ | (34,407) |
| Balance as of December 02, 2019: | \$ | 21,841 |



Treasurer Report (Fiscal Year)

Budget to Actuals

| SY 19 - 20 | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 7/1/19-6/30/20 | | | | |
| As of 2/4/20 | | | | |
| | | <u>BUDGET</u> | <u>ACTUAL</u> | <u>DELTA</u> |
| Beginning Balance as of 6/30/19: | | | 18,097 | |
| <u>SY 19- 20 Income by Category</u> | | | | |
| | <u>Income Code</u> | | | |
| DONATIONS | DON | | 13,811 | |
| FUNDRAISING SALES | SALES | | 16,164 | |
| OSSE GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS | OSSE | | 7,176 | |
| OTHER GRANTS | Other Grants | | 1,000 | |
| Total Income | | | 38,150 | |
| <u>SY 19-20 Expenses by Category</u> | | | | |
| | <u>Expense Code</u> | | | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE | A&O | 2,500 | 845 | 1,655 |
| CLASSROOM SUPPORT | CS | 8,600 | 200 | 8,400 |
| SCHOOLWIDE SUPPORT | SWS | 15,750 | 4,740 | 11,010 |
| FIELD TRIP SUPPORT | FTS | 7,400 | 614 | 6,786 |
| APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION | A&R | 3,000 | 618 | 2,382 |
| COMMUNICATIONS | COM | 5,500 | 4,333 | 1,167 |
| COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | CE | 400 | 72 | 328 |
| EQUITY | EQ | 1,850 | 420 | 1,430 |
| FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS | FE&E | 4,000 | 1,664 | 2,336 |
| FUNDRAISING & GRANTS | F&G | 10,450 | 8,946 | 1,504 |
| GARDEN | GAR | 30,350 | 11,955 | 18,395 |
| Total Expenses | | 89,800 | 34,407 | 55,393 |
| <i>change in Cash Balance</i> | | | (3,744) | |
| Ending Balance as of 2/4/20 | | | 21,841 | |



Teacher Representative Report

Ms. Tarren Cummings



Committee Reports

- Appreciation & Recognition: Jessica Burniske & Justin Burniske
- Communications: Jen Barrie
- Community Engagement (acting): David Treat
- Family Engagement & Events: Ms. Theresa Dorsey & Mariana Jones
- Fundraising & Grants: Abby McGill



Appreciation and Recognition

- Please contact Hannah Williams at williams.hannah@gmail.com if you are interested in helping provide or set up our monthly snacks for staff.
- Please contact jessica.burniske@gmail.com if you and/or your students are interested in helping pass out roses to teachers on Valentine's Day.



Community Engagement

- CM Allen has proposed a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the playground, field, and garden. Is this something the community is interested in? If so, when? Perhaps on March 21, the same day as the PTO yard sale and playdate for prospective families?
- In coordination with the Fundraising & Grants Committee, we're seeking volunteers to approach local businesses about donating money to Miner (i.e. sponsorships) as part of our annual Bear Paw Fundraiser.



Family Engagement and Events

- Movie Night
 - Moving to spring to coincide with Open House and enrollment activities
 - Date TBD
 - Volunteers needed to assist with set up, food service, and cleanup
- Spring Dance
 - Scheduled for Friday, April 3
 - First Committee planning meeting is Thursday, February 13 at 6pm
 - Volunteers are needed to assist with planning
 - Scope of dance is under review, dependent on available budget



Upcoming Events, Reminders, & Opportunities



Upcoming Events (1 of 5)

Thursday, February 6

- **3:45 PM - 4:30 PM in the Library // PreK Parent Committee Meeting:** The PreK Parent Committee will hold their monthly meeting to discuss upcoming events and the Head Start Policy Council. All ECE parents are welcome to attend.
- **4:30 PM - 5:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room // Miner Equity Team meeting:** All members of the Miner community are welcome to join the Equity Team as we build relationships and develop ideas and actions to improve racial equity and inclusion at Miner. Visit the [Equity Team webpage](#) for all the details.
- **5:00 PM - 8:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room // LSAT Meeting:** This will be an extended version of the regular February LSAT meeting dedicated to SY19-20 budget discussions. The first part will be open to all, with the remainder a closed session.. More information about the LSAT [here](#).

Friday, February 7

- **9:30 AM - 12:00 PM in Room 101 // Prevention of Blindness Vision Screening:** Contact Miner's Community School Coordinator, Ms. Woodson, at mwoodson@ebfsc.org to sign up.

Sunday, February 9

- **Noon to 8:00 PM at The Capitol Candy Jar (201 15th St NE) // Candy Sale Fundraiser:** Support Miner and make this Valentine's Day even sweeter! Just mention Miner and receive 5% off your entire purchase. The Capitol Candy Jar will generously donate 25% of the profits from those sales to the Miner PTO.



Upcoming Events (2 of 5)

Monday, February 10

- **4:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Oyster Adams // Girls Basketball vs. Oyster Adams:** Come cheer on the Mighty Bears Girls' Team as they take on Oyster Adams!

Tuesday, February 11

- **4:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Miner // Boys Basketball vs. Maury:** Come cheer on the Mighty Bears Boys' Team as they take on Maury!

Thursday, February 13

- **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM in the ECE Wing // ECE Open House:** This is one of several opportunities for prospective parents and families interested in Miner for PreK3 or PreK4 to come hear about our Early Childhood program and what we have to offer. This morning's session will include classroom visits. Children are welcome to attend!
- **4:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Miner // Boys Basketball vs. J.O. Wilson:** Come cheer on the Mighty Bears Boys' Team as they take on J.O. Wilson!
- **7:00 PM in the cafeteria // Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A Monthly Meeting:** Further information and a meeting agenda are available on the ANC6A website: <http://anc6a.org>



Upcoming Events (3 of 5)

Friday, February 14

- **4:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Miner // Girls Basketball vs. Payne:** Come cheer on the Mighty Bears Girls' Team as they take on Payne!

Monday, February 17

- **School Closed:** President's Day Holiday

Tuesday, February 18 - Friday, February 21

- **No School for students:** February Recess

Monday, February 24

- **4:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Takoma // Girls Basketball vs. Takoma:** Come cheer on the Mighty Bears Girls' Team as they take on Takoma!



Upcoming Events (4 of 5)

Tuesday, February 25

- **5:00 PM - 6:30 PM in Room 143 // PTO Leadership Team Meeting:** the monthly meeting of the PTO Executive Board and Committee Chairs is open to anyone interested in attending and/or providing feedback to PTO leadership.

Wednesday, February 26

- **9:30 AM - 10:30 AM in the ECE Wing // ECE Open House:** This is one of several opportunities for prospective parents and families interested in Miner for PreK3 or PreK4 to come hear about our Early Childhood program and what we have to offer. This morning's session will include classroom visits. Children are welcome to attend!
- **5:30 PM - 6:30 PM in TBD location // Upper Grade Open House:** Parents of students K-5 are invited to hear all about Miner and have their questions answered. No RSVP is necessary and kids are welcome to attend too!

Thursday, February 27

- **2:00 PM in the Gym // Black History Month Program:** Parents and guardians are invited to come see Miner scholars celebrate Black History Month!
- **5:30 PM - 6:30 PM in TBD location // Upper Grade Open House:** Parents of students K-5 are invited to hear all about Miner and have their questions answered. No RSVP is necessary and kids are welcome to attend too!
- **5:30 PM - 6:30 PM in TBD location // Parent Workshop: "Power Tools for Power Struggles":** Please contact the Community School Coordinator Ms. Woodson (mwoodson@ebfsc.org) for further details.



Upcoming Events (5 of 5)

Sunday, March 1

- **My School DC Lottery Closes:** Make sure to apply [here](#) before the deadline.

Monday, March 2

- **5:00 PM - 6:30 PM // Family Literacy Night:** All families and students are encouraged to come out for a fun evening of literacy-theme crafts, activities, and book readings!

Tuesday, March 3

- **6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the cafeteria // PTO General Meeting:** Join us for the PTO's regular monthly meeting for membership to hear the latest news, developments, and plans from the PTO leadership, Principal Jackson, and special guests. Light refreshments and free babysitting provided. More information about the PTO [here](#).



Reminders & Opportunities

- Volunteers are needed for the Community Yard Sale. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at minerpto@gmail.com
- Contact Hannah Williams at williams.hannah@gmail.com if you are interested in contributing to or helping set up our monthly Teacher Appreciation Snacks.
- Contact Jessica Burniske at jessica.burniske@gmail.com if you are interested in helping hand out roses on Valentine's Day.
- Classroom Volunteers Needed!
 - Requirements:
 - TB test
 - Background Check (application & fingerprinting). To find the fingerprint application, click [here](#)
 - For more information, visit the DCPS classroom volunteer page [here](#)



Thank You!

Any joys, questions, or concerns that you'd like to share?