

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: September 15, 2020 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 6:02pm. This was the final meeting for the SY19-20 Executive Board. The following members were present: Julie Muir, Keana Bedney-Wallace, Bruce Jackson.

Welcome and Introductions:

- Introduction of President; candidates for Executive Board will be introduced later.
- Meeting norms: stay on mute, use chat feature, feel free to ask questions!
- Please follow up with likes and dislikes after the meeting.
- PTO and LSAT ballot is live on the website - please cast your vote by 6pm on Friday, 9/18.
- Next PTO General Meeting: 10/6/20 at 6pm via Zoom.

Principal's Report - Mr. Jackson:

- Building is closed, but we are still open for learning!
- Meeting norms - mute, raise hand, use chat feature, be respectful.
- Thank you to students, parents, and teachers for their amazing support and hard work.
- Vision: to create a connected community that fosters academically prepared and socially conscious citizens who persevere through challenges to become leaders in a 21st century society.
- Introduction of new staff and those who have changed positions within the school.
- Current enrollment: 390. We are already at our projection and it will go up and hopefully we'll get there in time for additional funding to our budget.
- Medical and dental forms are PAST DUE; however, they will not be truly required until we return to in-person learning on Nov. 6. Submit them to minerESenroll@k12.dc.gov.
- Attendance will be taken daily when students log into Canvas. If your student will be absent, please email Ms. Joseph at chelsea.joseph@k12.dc.gov or Mr. Jackson at bruce.jackson@k12.dc.gov. Attendance notes will be accepted just as in past years. Note that while logging into Canvas is all that's needed for attendance, student participation will be a component of grading.
- Leadership Team has worked with Communications Direct Action Team (of Equity Team) to come up with a communications plan:
 - Newsletter:
 - Week 1 – Teachers/Grade Level
 - Week 2 – Leadership Team
 - Week 3 – Special Subjects
 - Week 4 – Leadership Team
 - Communicate With Teachers:
 - DCPS Email
 - Microsoft Teams
 - Remind App
 - Live Engagement Sessions:
 - Monthly Town Hall Meetings with leadership
 - Community Events/Celebrations throughout the year
- Upcoming events:
 - Back to School Night, 9/17, 5:30-7pm via Teams
 - Admin and Family Townhall, 9/24, time TBD via Zoom
 - Wednesday Recess, weekly beginning 9/23 for K-5

Community School Update:

- Services include childcare services, programs to facilitate parental involvement in child's education, medical/dental care, attendance programs, job-training and career counseling.

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- Upcoming events: Kis & Meg Virtual Bootcamp! Join Wednesdays at 6pm via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86187635134>; Meeting ID: 861 8763 5134
- Contact Ms. Woodson: 202-520-0788 or mwoodson@ebfsc.org

Kindred Report:

- Kindred is a dialogue to action program
- It is currently starting its 3rd year of partnership with Miner
- This partnership led to the creation of the Equity Team
- Year 2 of dialogue groups included affinity groups--on Black group and one white group that met separately but came together for some joint action items
- This year Kindred's role is to help ensure the continued work of the Equity Team

Equity Team Report:

- Formed from partnership with Kindred
- Began in fall 2019
- Comprised of parents, teachers, and staff with no hierarchy, just working to advance inclusiveness at Miner
- Purpose is to advise and act to ensure and advance racial equity at Miner
- Team came up with an extensive list of priorities that led to the creation of several Direct Action Teams (DATs).
- The work continued over the summer after a spring Covid-related hiatus. The following DATs were formed and have done some very important work:
 - Communications - worked with the administration to create a school-wide communications plan
 - Miner Mutual Aid Network - formed community relationships and collected resources to help members of the Miner community deeply affected by the pandemic
 - Solidarity Team - hosted Miner's March for Black Lives and working on various ways to promote Miner's commitment to social justice and racial equality
 - Return to Learning Team - working to ensure equity in virtual learning
 - Mighty Bear Learning Network - working on equitable ways to ensure access to "pods" for all Miner families who may be interested
- If you're interested in joining the equity team, contact minerequityteam@gmail.com of one of the co-facilitators (LaShawn Oliver: lashawnoliver81@yahoo.com or David Treat: dtreat2mars@gmail.com)

Miner Mutual Aid Network Report:

- Created as an equity committee action team in May to support the Miner Community during and after the pandemic
- Partnered with the Ward 6 Mutual Aid Network to provide PPE, food, household items and other supports to the Miner community via monthly Community Table events for the Miner community (next event is September 26 from 3-5pm at Miner)
- Intake form on Miner website for those who need help or can give help

Green Team/FoodCorps Report:

- Role of FoodCorps in instruction: self guided lessons in the garden for students to practice what they learn in the classroom (Ms. Lawson, FoodCorps Service Member, will provide some classroom instruction to each grade level). Garden lessons will not be required but encouraged.
- Garden is open on weekdays from 8am-3:30pm. There is no limit on the number of people in the garden at a time, but please keep a safe distance and always wear a mask.
- Goal of FoodCorps and Green Team is to create a culture of wellness and safety in an equitable space.

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LSAT Report:

- First meeting 9/22 at 5pm via Zoom
- Election for 4 LSAT Parent Representatives is happening now (ballot closes at 6pm Friday 9/18)
- Teacher/Staff Reps will be elected Friday 9/18
- All new members should be elected by the first meeting on 9/22

PreK Parent Committee Report:

- Now that the Head Start grant isn't funding the ECE program and there is no longer a Policy Council, the PreK Parent Committee is under construction.
- If interested in joining, please contact Minerpto@gmail.com
- Once we have a better idea of how to move forward, we will share it

President/Vice President Report:

- The ballot for LSAT and PTO election is live - vote before 6pm on 9/18 at minerelementary.org/ballot. Candidates at the meeting introduced themselves.
- If you are interested in chairing or joining a PTO Committee, please email us!
- Bear Paw Fund has officially begun - we have already raised \$1,000 toward our \$10,000 goal (other goal is 50% family participation)
- Community Day on September 26
- Playground weekend/evening hours - we would like to explore this possibility (note: other schools are able to open their grounds so we would like to be able to do the same).

Treasurer Report:

- Balance as of Aug 1, 2020: \$19,291
- Plus: Income (Aug 1 - Sept 10, 2020): \$209
- Less: Expenses (Aug 1 - Sept 10, 2020): \$(655)
- Balance as of Sept 10, 2020: \$18,845

Teacher Representative Report:

- K-5 Report: Teachers are working very hard at virtual learning, everyone is very invested, thank you for your support
- ECE: virtual learning is "a little challenging," and we are still waiting to find out when DCPS will provide iPads (we were told mid September, so admin has reached out to get a firm delivery date).

Committee Reports:

Communications - Support the Miner Spirit Store! Purchases can either be made through the PTO (standard t-shirts, car magnets, yard signs) or via our CafePress store for more options!

Additional Report--The Fishing School:

If you're interested in more information or would like to enroll, contact Senior Site Manager Ashley Johnson at ajohnson@fishingschool.org or visit their website at www.fishingschool.org/enrollment

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:

- Don't forget to vote in the PTO and LSAT election at minerelementary.org/ballot
- If you would like to volunteer at the Miner Mutual Aid Network's next Community Table (or support them in another way), visit <https://www.minerelementary.org/mutual-aid-network.html> and email minermutualaid@gmail.com

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- If you are interested in becoming more involved in the garden/with the Green Team, contact Ms. Sydney Lawson at sydney.lawson@foodcorps.org
- If you are interested in joining the Equity Team, visit <https://www.minerelementary.org/equity-team.html> and email minerequityteam@gmail.com
- If you are interested in joining the PreK Parent Committee, visit <https://www.minerelementary.org/prek-parent-committee.html> and email minerpto@gmail.com
- If you are interested in joining a PTO Committee, visit <https://www.minerelementary.org/parent-teacher-organization.html> and email minerpto@gmail.com

Open Comments/Discussion: *None*

The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.