

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: October 6, 2020 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 6:02pm. The minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting were approved without being read aloud.

Welcome and Introductions:

- Introduction by President; and a review of the meeting norms: stay on mute, use chat feature, feel free to ask questions!
- Please follow up with likes and dislikes after the meeting.
- Next PTO General Meeting: 11/10/20 at 6pm via Zoom.
- There was a meeting with Chancellor regarding school reopening going on at the same time as this meeting.

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.
- The Term 1 mid-point was Friday (10/2/20) for grades K-5. Progress reports will be mailed on 10/9/20. It might take a week to receive them so please be patient. ECE does 3 marking periods not 4, so ECE parents will not get a progress report.
- Please note Friday (10/9/20) is Parent/Teacher Conference Day so there is no live instruction. Please sign up directly with your teacher for these meetings. Also note there is no live instruction on Monday (10/11/20) as it is Indigenous People's Day.
- Enrollment on Audit day was 400 students; our goal was 385 so we exceeded our goal. Kudos to Ms. Offer and her team who did a lot of work in meeting this goal. An enrollment of 400+ means additional funding in the school budget.
- Monday (10/5/20), DCPS released Plans for re-opening for Term 2 so Principal Jackson didn't have a lot of information. There will be a number of meetings tomorrow and the Administration will communicate that information ASAP.
- There are 3 components to the Reopen Plan. Component 1 will be some in person learning for each grade level - between 8 and 11 students with one teacher who they will be with all day. Component 2 will be a DCPS staff member helping with virtual learning in the building. Component 3 is the same virtual learning that we have been doing. The priority is for the in person seats to be offered to those who are homeless, English Language learners and those with IEPs who need in-person instruction.
- At this time, the school does not know which teachers are coming back, who will be offered a seat, or what the plan would be for students whose teacher is in person, but the student will still be virtual.
- The administration will present the Operations Plan to the families coming back. Miner is slated to have HVAC looked at this week for repairs or improvements. The administration is still figuring out which classrooms to be used and have no idea on how specials will be handled.

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- There are still many things unknown at this time. They do know the school will be at 20-25% capacity. Students will find out at the end of October if they have been matched with one of the two in building options. Everyone is learning the new information at the same time. Maximum classroom sizes for in person learning are as follows:
 - PK3 - 8 seats
 - PK4 & K - 10 seats (per grade)
 - 1-5 is 11 seats (per grade)
- One ramification is the Miner Playground would be closed to the public with in person learning starting again. The Administration and PTO will work together to develop a plan for possible use on nights and on weekends. When a schedule is figured out, it will be shared to everyone.
- It is still unknown when the school would know the teachers selected to teach in person. Teachers were asked to complete a survey so that will have to happen before the school knows what teachers will be back.
- The school's draft plan is due to DCPS Central Office on Monday, Oct. 12 so the administration is trying to finalize the Miner plan by Friday. However, as of this meeting they don't have a draft of what the plan is supposed to look like.
- The 2 LSAT chairs are attending the Chancellor's meeting so we hope they will be able to share information before the end of this meeting.

Community School Update:

- Extended learning services for Miner students are being offered at no cost through the Fishing School. Contact TFS Sr. Site Manager Ashley Johnson: ajohnson@fishingschool.com or register at <https://www.fishingschool.org/enrollment/>
- Upcoming events: Let's Make a Movie Interest Meeting for students in grade 3-5! In partnership with Arena Stage, students will create a short film about who they are, the things they care about and the Miner Community. Contact Ms. Woodson for more information.
- Contact Ms. Woodson: 202-520-0788 or mwoodson@ebfsc.org

Equity Team Report:

- Next Meeting: October 13, 2020 at 5 pm via Zoom.
- The team is comprised of parents, teachers, and staff with no hierarchy, who purpose is to advise and act to ensure and advance racial equity and inclusion at Miner
- Team came up with an extensive list of priorities that led to the creation of several Direct Action Teams (DATs).
- The following DATs have updates:
 - Miner Mutual Aid Network - The 4th Community Table event at Miner to distribute resources is being planned for either October 24 or October 31.
 - Solidarity Team - Continuing to work on various ways to promote Miner's commitment to social justice and racial equality, including a workshop on how to talk to kids about race.

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- Return to Learning Team - working to ensure equity in virtual learning, and will identify and track areas to ensure safety during a return to in-person 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)

Green Team/FoodCorps Report:

- The Green Team started an Instagram account for the Miner Garden ([instagram.com/minerprimarygarden](https://www.instagram.com/minerprimarygarden)). The first video of the year went out today.
- The team is in the process of changing over from Summer to Fall crops.
- They are also putting in a hands on planting center for ECE that will not disrupt the current crops.
- 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.

LSAT Report:

- Next meeting 10/20 at 5pm via Zoom. These meetings will be the 3rd Tuesday of the month, except for January and February due to planning for the Budget.
- Elections were completed before the first meeting. The following are the new LSAT members:
 - Teacher Representatives:
 - Ms. Coles (Instructional Coach)
 - Ms. Halley (Special Education)
 - Ms. Hillenbrand (5th Grade Math)
 - Mr. Yoho (Kindergarten) - Co-Chair
 - Staff Representative
 - Ms. Loving (PreK Paraprofessional)
 - Washington Teacher's Union Representative
 - Mr. Martin (2nd Grade Math)
 - Parent Representatives
 - Marissa Gunn (K Parent)
 - Latoya McCarthy-Scott (K Parent)
 - David Treat (3rd and K Parent)
 - Bernadette Wittschen (2nd and PreK4 Parent) - Co-Chair
 - Parent Organization Representative
 - Julie Muir (1st and PreK4 Parent)
 - 1 Community Representative (TBD)

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- The LSAT asked the Equity Team to field a survey about Virtual Learning. They received about 50 responses to give them some good data. Principal Jackson used the survey information to work with each grade level band to make some adjustments to their schedule. One of the major changes was more Small Group time for the upper levels. These changes will be rolled out by teachers over the next few days with schedules to take effect Tuesday, October 13.

PreK Parent Committee Report:

- Now that the Head Start grant isn't funding the ECE program, the PreK Parent Committee will be a part of the Family Engagement Committee. It will still do PreK focused events, but as part of the official PTO Committee.

President/Vice President Report:

- Election was concluded on 9/18/20. The SY20/21 PTO officers are:
 - Julie Muir - President
 - Brandon Scott - Vice-President
 - Amy Treat - Secretary
 - OPEN - Treasurer - please let us know if you would like serve
 - Ms. Halley - Teacher Representative
- New Committee Chairs for SY20/21 are:
 - John Muir - Communications
 - Abby McGill - Grants & Fundraising
 - Lotoya McCarthy-Scott - Family Engagement & Events
 - Brandon Scott - Community Engagement
- If you are interested in chairing or joining a PTO Committee, please email us!
- Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 7. Please wear Miner gear and your mask and join us at Lincoln Park at 7:30 am for a tribute to Representative John Lewis and the Good Trouble Pledge. We will then walk to Miner where the Administration will provide coffee and donuts.
- Bear Paw Fund has already raised \$1,500 toward our \$10,000 goal (other goal is 50% family participation). This is like a small grassroots campaign looking for small donations from as many families as we can.
- The annual Holiday Greenery Sale will go forward in person on Friday, December 4 & Saturday, December 5, but there will be more emphasis on online sales. There will not be a bake sale this year, but we will partner with other schools to sell things. Eliot-Hine will sell poinsettias and we are asking other Ward 6 schools to participate as well.
- *Playground evening and weekend hours discussion:* We would like to see the playground open, but right now it is only open when staff are present in the building. The only time kids can go now is Wednesday, but even that won't happen if the kids are going back in person. We would like to open it on weekends for people to enjoy it, however there are concerns about vandalism, trash, and possible noise complaints. Kids need the outlet and some families go to the school to get lunch and then use the playground. When school goes back in November, it will be locked and only accessible to the students doing in school learning. The administration has to figure out when the deep clean will be on the playground before they can commit to possibly opening it to the

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public on Wednesday afternoons. No one had any comments about opening the playground.

- Miner will still be a food site for breakfast and lunch even if/when in person learning begins.

Treasurer Report:

- Balance as of Sept 10, 2020: \$18,845
- Plus: Income (Sept 10 - Oct 5, 2020): \$127 *
- Less: Expenses (Sept 10 - Oct 5, 2020): \$(2,597)
- Balance as of October 5, 2020: \$16,375*
 - * does not include just over \$1,100 in donations to be deposited this week

Teacher Representative Report:

- Ms. Halley said the teachers are still trying to get feet on the ground, in addition to figuring out what back to in school learning might look like. As soon as they have more information they will share it out.
- Please be sure to get in touch with your teacher for a conference time. Regarding conferences with the Specials teachers, Ms. Rossetti put a sign up genius on her Canvas homeroom page, but not sure about the other specials teachers.
- The 5th grade had a couple of virtual field trips. Other grades are also doing some lessons with the Garden team.

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!

Community Engagement: Walk to School day - 10/7/2020

Family Engagement & Events: Possible Halloween/Community Event - details to follow

Fundraising & Grants: Bear Paw Fund & Holiday Greenery Sale - December 4 & 5

Appreciation & Recognition - we do not have a chair if anyone would like to volunteer

Additional Report--School Reopening Plan:

- Mr. Yoho suggested parents and teachers go to the Open Strong website where they will be uploading the video from the Chancellor's meeting this evening. The meeting was very detailed on how the process will go and they will be holding another session next week. Parents should reach out to ask more questions of DCPS Central Office. Operations meeting for school leaders will be tomorrow. There will be a building walk through for a small group before the school reopens.

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.

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Reminders & Opportunities:

- 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
- 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 7:09 pm.