

Miner Elementary School PTO

PTO General Meeting: September 12, 2023 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 6:05m. The meeting was conducted in-person in the Miner Cafeteria.

Welcome and Introductions:

- Welcome to all who are joining us for the first time!
- Thanks to Christ City Church for providing babysitting and dinner for our kids in the library.
- Be sure to visit our website after the meeting for slides, agenda, and minutes (and to answer all your Miner-related questions).
- SY22-23 PTO Executive Board:
 - President, Brandon Scott
 - VP, Abby McGill
 - Treasurer, Nicholas Heitger
 - Secretary, Julie Muir
 - Teacher Reps, Ms. Kyra Hayes, Ms. Trilby Hillenbrand, Mr. Jason Yoho
 - Principal, Mr. Lawrence Dance
- Motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting passed.

Principal's Report:

- *Principal Lawrence Dance*, Lawrence.dance2@k12.dc.gov
- Introduction of who he is.
- Congratulations to our students and staff on a successful first 2 weeks of school!
- Enrollment is currently at 407 students, or 110%!
- Over enrolled in 2nd grade so hope is to hire an additional teacher to take on social studies and science curriculum (a 3rd homeroom to keep the classes departmentalized)
- K-5 students are currently taking BOY (Beginning of Year) testing. This includes DIBBLES, ANET, Heggerty, iReady, and more.
- This year the entire Miner community of stakeholders will be involved in the mission and vision process.
- Drop-off firmly ends at 8:45am. At this point students must enter the front doors to be escorted to class. Caregivers may not take them to their classrooms. This year we are emphasizing the importance of arriving on time and staying for the full day (early dismissal ends at 2:45pm but we hope this is not a common occurrence). All students will receive breakfast if they want it regardless of arrival time.
- Miner is working to find a new equity and inclusion partner to continue the work we did with Kindred
- We have a fulltime nurse on staff (new to Miner this year)
- If anyone wants a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Dance, please email him to set it up. His door is always open.
- Students can only be picked up by people on their approved list. If you wish to add or remove anyone from your list, contact the school.
- Birthdays are celebrated in the afternoon at 2:45pm (with some exceptions). Please get approval from your child's teacher before planning a celebration.
- Miner leadership = Principal Dance, AP Combs, and MSL Copeland
- PARCC test scores from last year will be mailed to families soon (applies to students who were in grades 3-5 last year)

Community School Update:

- *Ms. ShaLisa Richardson*, Community School Coordinator, sricharson@ebfsc.org
- Because we have 3 Ms. Richardsons, please call her Ms. ShaLisa ☺
- She works for Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative (EBFSC) that partners with Miner

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- EBFSC has programs to help with unemployment and underemployment, as well as an entrepreneur tract.
- Ms. ShaLisa serves as the liaison between Miner and EBFSC
- As a community school we connect the school to the community. Goal is to provide resources to help your child learn but also feel connected
- The Community School Coordinator (CSC) finds the resources to help bridge the gaps

School Safety and Old Miner Update

- *Mr. Tildon Copeland, MSL, tildon.copeland@k12.dc.gov*
- School safety protocols are necessary this day and age and we follow the federal government standards
- Communications in an emergency do not come from Miner, they come from “DCPS Comms”
- Drills occur regularly; ECE parents are given the opportunity to opt out of some (such as active shooter drills) but we highly recommend against it
- Old Miner construction is on schedule; internal construction permit should be in hand on Oct. 9
- ECE should move in for SY24-25. 9 ECE classes on 3 floors. There will be a walkway to the existing building.
- Existing ECE space will be converted to a birth-3 center. No construction of the existing building will occur during the school year or while students are in the building.

Regular PTO Business

President and Vice President’s Report:

- *Brandon Scott, President, minerpto@gmail.com*
- We need your help! The PTO’s role is to serve the school, its students, and its staff, but we cannot do that without time and money.
- Volunteers are needed! Please sign up to help in any capacity, no matter how small. The volunteer sign-up form can be found [here](#).
- Bear Paw Fund—donate today! Visit minerelementary.org/donate to give today.
- How to Connect? Always know what’s going on at Miner!
 - Sign up for PTO emails on our homepage, <https://www.minerelementary.org/>
 - Follow us on social media, <https://www.minerelementary.org/social-media.html>
 - Volunteer! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2bZ5P_TYTGLj5-1huUIBdc2Ze2zJMVzuT2-MlBqvqU_oOUA/viewform
 - Email minerpto@gmail.com when you can’t find your answers on our website
- School Committees
 - Mutual Aid Network: looking for 4-5 volunteers to attempt to continue the Community Tables this year. minermutualaid@gmail.com
 - LSAT: group of elected parents, staff, teachers, and community members who advise Principal Dance. Mr. Yoho and Julie Muir are the Chairs; Nick Kushner is the Secretary. Next meeting is October 17 at 5pm. minereslsat@gmail.com
 - Green Team: Ms. Emma is our FoodPrints representative. She will work with all students to maintain our school garden. Be sure to follow the garden on Instagram at [@minerelementarygarden](https://www.instagram.com/minerelementarygarden). emma@ffm.org
- Upcoming Events
 - First monthly happy hour at Atlas Brew Works Ivy City: 5-7pm September 22
 - Walk and Roll to School Day: October 4, 7:30am, Lincoln Park
- Support the [Miner Spirit Store!](#)

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Treasurer's Report:

- *Nicholas Heitger, Treasurer, minerptotreasurer@gmail.com*
- After making greenery deposit, we have approximately \$1,000. We really need to start fundraising so we can give classroom grants, sponsor field trips, etc.
- Send all money-related requests to minerptotreasurer@gmail.com

Teacher Representative's Report:

- *Ms. Jason Yoho, K Educator/Teacher Representative, Jason.yoho@k12.dc.gov*
- BOY Assessments taking place right now for K-5 students.
- PreK
 - Cox Farm sometime in October TBD
 - PreK received a grant from Capital Community foundation to have monarch butterflies in 5 classrooms.
 - They have been working on establishing their community in the classroom.
- Kindergarten and 1st Grade
 - We are planning some sort of field trip in the fall. Please make sure you go through the process for chaperones to get cleared through DCPS before we go on the trip.
 - Foundations Funhub is \$95; hoping for support from PTO
- Specials Team
 - Be on the lookout for our monthly newsletter with updates and students of the month. Our first issue will be shared on Remind the last week of September.
 - PE:
 - 2nd graders will be participating in a bike unit this fall.
 - Mr. Senior and Mr. Robinson will need parent chaperones to participate in the biking field trips the first week of November.
 - Please get background clearance done with DCPS now, so you can support this fun trip!
 - More info about the field trip will be sent home soon.
- Teacher grants—donations are needed so the PTO can make these happen!
- What is Heggerty
 - Phonological awareness lessons
 - Pre-K – 2nd grade
 - Each level of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum provides up to 35 weeks of daily lessons, focusing on eight phonemic awareness skills, along with two additional activities to develop letter and sound recognition, and language awareness.
 - Lessons are designed for a classroom setting, and only take 8-12 minutes.
- Clubs and Sports
 - LEGO Club and Art Club to begin in early October
 - DC Scores Soccer info session tomorrow (Grades 3-5 begin practice on Thursday; grades 1-2 begin on Monday). If anyone is interested in helping coach or helping with poetry practice, please contact minerpto@gmail.com. You will be paid!

Upcoming Events:

- See [Upcoming Events](#) page of our website.

Mr. Dance shared the video of Mr. Yoho's recognition for teaching excellence.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.