

**Miner Elementary School PTO**  
PTO General Meeting: October 3, 2023 - 6:00 pm  
**Meeting Minutes**

*The meeting came to order at 6:08m. The meeting was conducted in-person in the Miner Cafeteria.*

Welcome and Introductions:

- Welcome to everyone who could join us!
- Thanks to Christ City Church, Miner staff, and a Miner parent volunteer 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 September meeting passed.

Community School Update:

- *Ms. ShaLisa Richardson, Community School Coordinator, [sricharson@ebfsc.org](mailto:sricharson@ebfsc.org)*
- Parent interest surveys will be going out soon to help determine what the needs are at Miner
- We have a need for donations of uniforms (especially pants) up to size 8
- Donations of blankets for some of our PreK classrooms have also been requested

Principal's Report:

- *Principal Lawrence Dance, [Lawrence.dance2@k12.dc.gov](mailto:Lawrence.dance2@k12.dc.gov)*
- Hiring update:
  - Paraprofessional for Ms. T's ILS class has been hired
  - All K classes have a para now
  - We have 2 Leading Fellows who will help with ECE literacy
  - United to Rise (YOUR) aftercare has started
  - We have a new MBI technician who will be starting soon (mental health support)
  - Reading Partners will be working with us beginning in Nov. to help with K-4 literacy
- East of the River will be providing support for nutrition (and teaching the kids about "weird" fruits and vegetables). They also offer parent workshops for a variety of topics.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will soon start swimming lessons!
- There is an early stages childhood development workshop on October 11 at 5pm
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are October 19 (teachers will reach out)

School Committee Reports:

- Mutual Aid Network: looking for 4-5 volunteers to attempt to continue the Community Tables this year. Interest meeting will be during drop off (8:30-8:45am) on October 11. [minermutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:minermutualaid@gmail.com)
- LSAT: Next meeting is October 17 at 5pm. [minereslsat@gmail.com](mailto:minereslsat@gmail.com)

**Regular PTO Business**

Teacher Representative's Report:

- *Ms. Jason Yoho, K Educator/Teacher Representative, [Jason.yoho@k12.dc.gov](mailto:Jason.yoho@k12.dc.gov) and Ms. Kyra Hayes, ELA Coach/Teacher Representative, [kyra.hayes@k12.dc.gov](mailto:kyra.hayes@k12.dc.gov)*
- Important dates:
  - October 9 – Indigenous Peoples' Day (school closed)
  - October 12 – [Math Night](#)

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- October 19 – Parent Teacher Conferences (no school for students)
- October 20 – Professional Development Day (no school for students)
- October 23-27 – Halloween Spirit Week!
- October 27 – [Perfect attendance skate party](#)
- October 31 – Book-o-Ween
- October is anti-bullying month. Parade and wear orange to school date TBD.
- Library updates:
  - The library is open with a new self-checkout station (over 500 new books have been shelved).
  - Dr. Sawyer will be taking all classes soon. Each class has a 30 min block a week. Students are also learning for the first two weeks about internet safety.
- Clubs: LEGO Club start date TBD; Art Club start date mid-October. Stay tuned for permission slips (either paper or electronic via Remind)
- BOY Testing Data
  - Testing subjects:
    - ELA
      - K-2: DIBELS (this year it includes dyslexia screening)
      - K-5: iReady (kids can practice iReady at home)
      - 3-5: ANET (October 11)
      - 3-5: RCT (this is like an exit ticket)
    - Math
      - K-5: iReady (kids can practice iReady at home)
      - 3-5: ANET (October 24)
      - 3-5: RCT (this is like an exit ticket)
  - K-2 DIBELS shows 72% of students below benchmark
  - K-5 ELA iReady shows students are struggling in comprehension
  - K-5 math shows many students 2+ grade levels below benchmark, and 90% are at least 1 grade level below
  - Interventions
    - Reading interventionist will pull students who need extra help
    - Reading Partners (our new partnership) will have 1:1 reading help for students
    - Matt TLI will work pull students who are struggling in math
    - Parents can help at home: you can access the CLEVER portal to use apps such as BrainPOP, iReady, typing, and more. Discuss with your teacher for more information
    - A great way to help with ELA scores is simply communicating with your child. Ask them about their day and talk to them. Having conversations help raises test scores.
  - Parents will receive individualized test scores at Parent-Teacher conferences
  - Still awaiting results of last year's PARCC testing

President and Vice President's Report:

- *Brandon Scott, President, [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com); Abby McGill, VP, [abby.l.mills@gmail.com](mailto:abby.l.mills@gmail.com)*
- October is National Principal's Month. Thank you so much to Mr. Dance (and our whole admin team) for everything you do. We are grateful!
- Upcoming events (click each event to see the flyer):
  - [Mighty Miner Happy Hour](#)—October 13, 5-7pm
  - [Walk to School Day](#)—October 4 (tomorrow!), 7:45am
  - [Football Feeder Night at Eastern HS](#)—October 5, 6pm
  - [Trunk-or-Treat](#)—October 27, 5-7pm
    - Volunteers needed to decorate their cars (email [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com) to sign up)
    - Donate candy in the main office the week of Oct. 23-27

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- Please bring non-perishable Thanksgiving food items to the event for the Thanksgiving Food Drive!
- [Thanksgiving Food Drive](#)—October 27 – November 17
  - The class that donates the most food will receive a pizza or donut party
  - 3-4 volunteers are needed to organize the food on Friday, Nov. 17
- [8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Greenery & Baked Goods Sale](#)
  - Online sales go live the first week of November
  - Actual event is Dec. 1 (5-8pm) and Dec. 2 (9am-2pm)
  - Volunteers are needed, a request will go out closer to the event date
- Bear Paw Fund—donate today! Visit [minerelementary.org/donate](http://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](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2bZ5P_TYTGLj5-1huUIBdc2Ze2zJMVzuT2-MlBqvqU_oOUA/viewform)
  - Email [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com) when you can’t find your answers on our website
- Support the [Miner Spirit Store!](#)

Treasurer’s Report:

- *Nicholas Heitger, Treasurer, [minerptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:minerptotreasurer@gmail.com)*
- Thanks to some recent donations we are in good shape with just over \$5,000 in the bank account. We can anticipate a bump as soon as greenery sales go live, but a good portion of that will go to pay for the trees.
- Send all money-related requests to [minerptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:minerptotreasurer@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

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

*Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.*