

# Miner Elementary School PTO

PTO General Meeting: December 5, 2023 - 6:00 pm

## Meeting Minutes

*The meeting came to order at 6:09pm. The meeting was conducted both in-person in the Miner Cafeteria and virtually over Zoom.*

### Welcome and Introductions:

- Welcome to everyone who could join us!
- 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
  - Interim Principal, Dr. Shenora Plenty
- Motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting passed.
- Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 9 at 6pm (this meeting will be an informal brainstorming session).

### Regular PTO Business:

- *Brandon Scott, President, [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com); Nicholas Heitger, Treasurer, [minerptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:minerptotreasurer@gmail.com)*
- Greenery Sale Recap/Treasurer's Report
  - Sale was a huge success, thank you to all who were a part of it!
  - Current cash on hand is approximately \$25,000 (bank account shows just over \$34,000, but that doesn't account for the money owed to the tree farm or Eliot-Hine)
- My School DC Lottery
  - Opens December 11
  - Lottery application is unnecessary for anyone remaining at their current school
  - Visit our [admission and lottery page](#) for more info, including Open House dates
- Important Dates:
  - 1st and 2nd Grade Meet and Greets December 6, 5-6pm
  - My School DC Lottery opens December 11
  - No DCPS Aftercare December 12
  - Monthly Engagement Event at Atlas Brew Works December 15
  - Mutual Aid Network Community Table December 16
  - Holiday Spirit Week December 18-21
  - K-5 Awards Ceremony December 20
  - No DCPS Aftercare December 21
  - Winter Break: December 22 - January 2

### Community School Update:

- *Ms. ShaLisa Richardson, Community School Coordinator, [sricharson@ebfsc.org](mailto:sricharson@ebfsc.org)*
- Entrepreneurship Program coming soon! Please contact Ms. ShaLisa at [sricharson@ebfsc.org](mailto:sricharson@ebfsc.org) if interested in joining!
- [Click here](#) to take the parent/teacher interest survey
- We have a need for donations of uniforms (especially pants) up to size 8

### School Committee Reports:

- Green Team: Please see Mutual Aid report

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- Mutual Aid Network: Next Community Table will be December 16 and we hope to hold them quarterly; we are currently holding a holiday donation drive-boxes will be at school next week. Visit <https://www.minerelementary.org/mutual-aid-network.html> for more.
- LSAT: November meeting was cancelled; next meeting will be December 19 at 5pm via Zoom. Dr. Plenty will be there to discuss SY24-25 planning, and someone from the DME's office will discuss the boundary proposals that could affect Miner. Visit <https://www.minerelementary.org/lsat.html> for more.

Principal's Report:

- *Interim Principal Shenora Plenty, [shenora.plenty@k12.dc.gov](mailto:shenora.plenty@k12.dc.gov)*
- Principal Dance's last day was November 27. Dr. Plenty took over as interim immediately and will remain at Miner through the last day of school (June 17).
- We will have a meeting with Deputy Chancellor Bey to discuss the leadership change next Tuesday. More information will follow.
- Dr. Plenty shared her extensive education background and her position as a DCPS Resident Principal this year. She is fully aware of the great deal of change our school community has gone through and asks for grace as this is only her 6<sup>th</sup> day at Miner.
- Dr. Plenty states that "I don't make promises, I make commitments." Her 5 commitments to Miner are:
  1. Lead with integrity and love
  2. Be present and all in
  3. Be a transparent leader
  4. Hold students and staff accountable
  5. Work collaboratively with all families in the school community
- Current staffing changes:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA teacher is leaving
  - 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher left
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher moved down to fill the vacant 1<sup>st</sup> grade position
  - New 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher has started
  - Tomorrow night we are hosting meet and greets for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades
- Remind App will be the primary source of communication for the rest of the year
- Moving forward we will strictly follow the DCPS visitor policy.
- All visitors must fill out the Expectations for School Visitors form.
- All volunteers (anyone who wishes to be in the building while students are present) must complete the DCPS clearance process.
  - This includes
    - Setting up for PTO events
    - Volunteering in the classroom
    - Attending classroom events
    - Chaperoning field trips
    - Entering the building beyond the office unless an exception exists
  - Exceptions include
    - Meetings with teachers and other staff
    - School wide events such as award ceremonies and other assemblies
    - ECE parents walking their students to class (must leave by 9am)
  - See the [volunteer page of our website](#) for all the information you need to complete the process.
- Best way to reach Dr. Plenty is via email ([shenora.plenty@k12.dc.gov](mailto:shenora.plenty@k12.dc.gov)). She will respond within 48 hours.
- Q&A
  - Multiple questions about the visitor and clearance policy.
    - Dr. Plenty stated there will be no parents in the building during school hours without clearance, period.

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- We can have fingerprinting done at school if 40 people sign up. However it's very easy (and free) to go have it done (and it will likely result in faster clearance).
- Questions about safety:
  - If safety is such a big concern, why is nothing being done to address our broken PA system? While Dr. Plenty and Miner staff cannot fix the PA system, they have come up with a means of sharing important information immediately with staff (such as lock downs). They will be using the RAVE system which alerts their phones immediately and very loudly. Parents know this system as Blackboard.
- Concern about administrators being “pushed out” by staff who don't share the same beliefs and vision for the school?
  - Dr. Plenty made it clear that she will hold people accountable and will not treat them as friends—these are her colleagues; her friends work outside of Miner. Additionally, the leave and on-time arrival policies will be strictly enforced.
  - As far as ensuring we get a principal who is the right fit, we will have one of the first panels and will have our principal announced first (likely in early June, before the school year ends).
- Academic concerns/tutoring?
  - Aftercare is supposed to have a tutoring element to it. Dr. Plenty will conduct an aftercare audit to ensure all programming is following the guidelines.
  - New partner, Reading Partners, will work with students (need-based)
- Staffing questions (specifically related to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade changes)
  - Staffing/personnel questions cannot be answered as they are not public, but the reasoning for changes can be related to variety of reasons and will never be done without putting the needs of the students first.
- Boundary Survey
  - Dr. Plenty has met with the DME's office and we hope to hold a meeting with the community soon. We plan to invite them to the LSAT meeting on December 19.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.*