

General Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2021, 5:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Linwood Hudson @ 5:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Executive Board Members

- Linwood Hudson, President
- Nichole Marsden, Vice President
- Debbie Nichols, Secretary

Guests

- Amanda Weidner, BMS Principal
- Karen Jones

Minutes Review

The minutes from the January Board Meeting were reviewed by all present, and Nichole Marsden motioned to approve. Amanda Weidner seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

Financial Review

Linwood Hudson reviewed the Financial Report with Elizabeth Shouse. MCPS has approved a county-wide license into the summer for Brain Pop. The PTO will keep the item in the budget for now, but will likely not need to pay for it through the end of the school year. We are in good shape financially, with funds unspent in flexible places to be moved around.

Principal Update

Ms. Weidner thanked the PTO and the parents for all the support.

- Teachers appreciated the gift of seeds in their mailboxes as well as the continued raffles.
- Final MAP tests of the year took place on March 29, 2021.
- SOL Testing will take place in May.

- State has granted the opportunity for eighth graders to do an alternative writing assessment in place of the writing SOL's in April.
- There is no opt-out from the SOL tests, but parents can refuse for their children to participate. Parents with COVID concerns need to reach out to Ms. Weidner.
- More information will be included in report card mailing.
- Fall sports are wrapping up, and spring sports are beginning April 12.
- Spring Break begins Thursday April 1 through Monday, April 5.
- Lifetouch will be in the building on April 9 to take school pictures.
- Several entries have been submitted for the student T-Shirt Design Contest. The deadline to submit designs is April 6.

Teacher Update

Karen Jones provided a brief teacher update.

- Returning full-time has gone very smoothly. Kids are wearing masks appropriately. Everyone is looking forward to the last quarter.
- Kristen Mills shared that her son's experience returning to the school building has been positive.

PTO Business

Linwood Hudson reviewed ongoing PTO business.

All requests have been purchased and delivered, except possibly the Oriental Trading items requested. Ms. Weidner will send us the name of the teacher who made the request, and the PTO will reach out to see if they are still interested in making the purchase.

Teacher Appreciation

There are 80 teachers left who have not received a gift card from the raffle. The gift cards for the raffles have all been provided by local businesses. The PTO would like to purchase gift cards for all the remaining staff to distribute at the next staff meeting at the end of April. Linwood made a motion to spend \$800 to purchase 80 \$10 gift cards from local businesses for the teachers. Debbie McDowell seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Teacher Appreciation Week

The PTO has been discussing ideas for Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-8). We would like to do a catered lunch one day. The PTO would also like to do a snack cart or set up snacks at tables at the end of the hallway. Ms. Weidner suggested using teacher work spaces in the halls that have them, and then possibly set up some snacks in another location. Nichole proposed a note board where students would write notes to their teachers and stick them to an "appreciation board(s)." One concern was that the post-it notes could fall off. Notes could

possibly be given directly to teachers. A version of this could be done from teachers to other teachers. The PTO will continue to consider ideas for appreciation ideas for April and May. Additional ideas should be emailed to the PTO.

The PTO shared information on a free Moss Arts Center event on March 31. Most other social gatherings cannot exceed twenty people.

Student Events

One idea proposed was to offer a free or reduced frozen treat for the students from a local vendor through a coupon system. A local vendor at the farmer's market used to offer discounted treats to local elementary students, and may be a possibility. Cookie Insomnia may be another vendor to contact.

The PTO will consider providing vinyl stickers for each student, possibly using the runner-up designs. The runner-up designs for each grade could be the design for the sticker for that grade.

Another possibility would be to provide T-shirts at no cost to the 330 eighth graders in place of the eight grade dance. The T-shirts could also be provided in appreciation to the teachers and staff (~130 people).

Other Business

Nichole proposed adjusting the budget to increase discretionary spending to cover some of the proposed student appreciation and teacher appreciation expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.