

Myers Park High School PTSO Executive Board Meeting December 11, 2020

1. Call to Order - Katharine called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Attendees include Katharine Bolt, Shelby Patrick, Sherese Smith, Boo Viser, Mandy Rencher, Elizabeth Damesek, Catherine Hensley, Sarah Ryan, Mark Bosco, Stephanie Cline, and Beth Feit.
2. Minutes from the November 13, 2020 Exec Meeting were approved via email.
3. Principal Report
 - a. The Board approved extending remote learning until Jan 19. Teachers/students do have to return next week for state exams. We get federal and state money so students are required to take these exams in person. There are some options for kids who do not want to come in and take the exam. They can take the exam in the Spring and take an incomplete for now. There are some issues for athletes. They can't have an incomplete to participate in Spring sports. Mark and team sent out a google doc to see who would actually come in and take the exam. Mark needs every teacher possible to come in and help with exams. Mark doesn't think all the kids will come in and will exercise the flexibility to take their exam in the Spring. Looking at google doc info today to get a feel for numbers.
 - b. Sports will still go on in Plan C. This could always change.
 - c. Dr. Sullivan gave a talk to principals. She gave data that 35-45% of people with Covid are asymptomatic. That's a real problem in a school setting. That's how it's spreading.
 - d. No graduation date for Spring yet.
 - e. Staff Changes - we have a new counselor, Adriane Corbett. Very experienced. Replacing Kristen Hodges. Hiring a 10th counselor. Brendan Kenyon retired. Hired Hope Wright as attendance secretary. Mark has worked with her before. He thinks she will do a great job in that department. A few teachers have retired - Mark Clark. Hired Sarah Ryan to handle Crisis for Outreach. A few English teachers have moved on, but have hired some great folks.

Questions for Mark:

- Will the new administration waive EOC/CTC's in the Spring? Mark has no idea.
- Does each family have a choice in taking the EOC? Yes, they have a choice. They can take an incomplete and then take the exam in the Spring.
- How are teachers handling kids that are struggling online? Teachers do have flexibility with kids that are struggling online. Admin can get involved. Most teachers are going to try to work with students as best as they can.
- Are test corrections permitted? Yes, we always allow test corrections. Work with the teacher on this, and again administration can get involved.
- What percent are in Plan D and what is it for CMS? 850-900 were in Plan D and that increased when we gave them options. Closer to 900 now in remote D. Mark doesn't know what the CMS number is.
- What is the morale of teachers after the BOE meeting? Mark really doesn't know. They are focused on business and how they are going to serve kids. Mark thinks they are going to do what is required.
- What is the teacher/parent push/pull? What are you hearing from parents? It's probably split. Some want their kids to stay home, and some want them to go. Mark hears both sides. Knowing that a vaccine is right around the corner, it allows people to be a little more conservative, They can be careful and preventative in the short term knowing there is hope on the horizon.
- Do you think teachers should get the vaccine as essential workers? Mark says yes. They are hearing teachers would be in a third phase rollout. He is hoping all will do it.
- Catherine mentioned that some families out of that 900 may be staying home because it's more predictable and easier for their families. It's not necessarily about underlying conditions.
- AP/IB End of the year exams. Will they happen this year? Mark thinks they will. He thinks those classes are "trucking right along."

4. Treasurer Report (Stephanie)

- a. Cash Balance and Income/Expenses - We have \$197,474 in the Bank. The biggest budget change is in Outreach (spent 50% of their budget) due to buying gift cards for students in need.
- b. Budget Changes - None
- c. English teacher stipends - no longer needed next semester. The spot has been filled.

- d. Wish List Funding - rest of auditorium chairs - could we replace the remaining chairs? Obtaining a quote for finishing chair replacement and will discuss at our next meeting.
 - e. Shop with Scrip Gift Card Program - Stephanie has set up a Scrip account to buy gift cards. They have avoided \$1,000 in fees. Have gotten around \$200 in rebates.
5. Annual Fund Report (Mandy, Elizabeth and Beth) - We're at 81% of our goal which is great. Getting new donors. Collected 2K in holiday outreach, but they need about 5K (will use Outreach budget for the remaining needs). Up to 182K of our 200K goal. There was one large donor that gave 22K less this year. So we really would be at our goal if this family had given what they gave last year.
- a. Giving Tuesday - Collected \$8,092 (16 people).
 - b. EOY final push - The plan is to do a stand alone Mustang Express to try and get a few more donors/money.
6. Update from other groups:
- a. SLT (Shelby) - No update at this time.
 - b. IB Parent Board (Ana) - It has been a very busy 1st semester for seniors. The audit went well. Katie just received the MTBA (report from the MYP and IB self study) and indicated information will be shared sometime in January. With regards to the IB exams, at this time, IB is still moving forward with in-person testing. There was discussion about the lack of communication from IB and what kids need to be doing. Big concern from 9th and 10th graders. Recommendation is to put info in Mustang Express, not just IB Express.
 - c. Mustang Club (Shelby) - Mustang Club met Wednesday night. Coach Poore meets with state representatives. There is no talk at the state level of any changes. Students will play sports as of now. By Saturday, there were 10 teams back on campus. This is a year they look at teams across the regions and we may get realigned. Will have new teams to play. They are making updates to the weight room. They are addressing the fundraising aspect to make sure it is balanced and transparent. Started a new site (can be found on the Mustang Club website) and can donate to the team of your choice. Instead of each coach doing their own thing, all teams will need to use the same site for their fundraising efforts. So all the money will stay with the Mustang Club. This will keep it streamlined and will be overseen by Coach Poore. All funds would go through the same site. 25% of all fundraising will go to Mustang Club. We've had 100 bricks

ordered. Will install the first group in early Feb. Sarah suggested for everyone to join the Mustang Club.

- d. MPHS Foundation (Katharine) - Have met once since last meeting. Camp Thunderbird went well, and want to roll it out again in the Spring. Art in the Park scheduled for April 17 in small groups/in-person.

7. School and Committee Announcements:

- a. Auditorium Chairs installed, November 23. Katharine will send pictures to the Board.
- b. New refrigerator - Math building - Came out of Mark's discretionary fund. Teachers are very thankful.
- c. Prospective Parent
 - i. Open House, November 19 - very well attended. Had Panel discussion over a Webinar. It went great.
 - ii. Freshman Orientation, January 4, 5pm - will keep this date. Will be recorded so people can go back and refer to it. Will be similar in format to the Open House.
- d. Campus Beautification, November 21 - finished up the tree campaign; planted around the cafeteria. Sarah said about 10 people showed up to help clean. Did weeding and trimming. Not a huge clean-up but helped with general needs. Margaret McBryde has finished planting. Thank you to Margaret and team for all their efforts.
- e. Outreach Efforts (Sarah) - Sarah is the new Crisis person for Outreach. We've had a huge need - caseloads are down, but needs are higher. Since mid-November, Outreach has distributed \$1200 in gift cards to assist 8 students (25 family members). They have also helped 2 families with hotel costs. For Thanksgiving, Outreach provided 53 families (235 people) with holiday breads and WalMart gift cards. They gave out a total of \$6300 in gift cards during a "drive through" event at school on 11/23. Today they are putting together Christmas gifts for 163 students...Spirit-wear sweatshirt and \$50 Visa gift card. 20 families have also been adopted.
- f. Staff Appreciation - BTS luncheon and holiday gifts - It was fun and well received.
- g. Guidance - Liz Bundon and Lauren Ball are taking holiday gift bags to the team next Tuesday. They will be getting a loaf of cinnamon chip great harvest bread and 3 \$10 gift cards.
- h. Office Volunteers - Chris Brenner and Christie Hinshaw are providing the 12 days of Christmas (baked goods) for the office staff.

- i. Mark and Liz are giving out green MP fleece to all staff. It may have to be a drive-by depending on when they come in.
 - j. PTSO are going to help with mid-year graduation. It will be Jan 14 in the afternoon. Will be about 45 students.
 - k. Katharine and Shelby have secured a few Welcome Back Signs to use when students return to campus.
 - l. Catherine suggested maybe using some of our funds to do something for each grade level to boost morale. Could be drive-bys. Mark said if it doesn't have anything to do with school, it wouldn't get approved by CMS. It needs to be linked to school business or school related activity.
8. Other Upcoming Dates and Calendar Changes:
- December 21 - Last day of Classes
 - January 4 - Freshman Orientation via Webinar, 5pm (recorded)
 - January 5 - 2nd Semester Begins, Back to School, Plan C
 - January 8 - PTSO Exec Meeting, 9:00am, via Zoom
 - January 18 - No School, MLK Day
 - January 19 - Plan B rotation, Group A starts in person
 - January 27 - PTSO Committee Chair Meeting at 9:00am, via Zoom
 - January 20 - No School (Holiday)
 - March 4 - Rising 9th grade open house and curriculum night (moved from 3/11/20)