

Myers Park High School
PTSO General Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2024
9:00 am Art Gallery

1. Call to Order 9:07am

Attendance: Rebecca Drendel, Ghazale Johnston, Katie Davis, Tracie Northan, Tammy Jones, Audrey Denham, Shelly Cole, Sherese Smith, Denise Pineno, Kris Humphreys, Sarah Ryan, Laura Freeman, Bob Folk, Deleisha Webb, Kaylee Lundburg, Ann Lamm, Holly Wood

2. Outreach Committee - Presentation/Discussion with Deleisha Webb, McKinney-Vento Social Worker

- McKinney-Vento is a Federal program for students experiencing housing insecurity or transition.
- Transportation (due to transient housing situations) is a main concern but difficult to manage when families/students are not in a stable situation
 - Mecklenburg county attempts to cover transportation needs for the entire school year to provide consistency for students; however, it is primarily a home-to-school service. This service takes time to set up and is incompatible with students whose housing situation is inconsistent
- Currently, Ms. Webb serves 89 MPHS students
 - Typically, she will interact on behalf of 120-124 students in a given year. 96 individual students have needed attention thus far.
 - Students are identified through several avenues: parents, teachers, student, community services
 - 9 Unaccompanied Youth are on her caseload at present, representing situations of independent/without guardian and sibling group unofficially living w/teacher. For these students, transportation, food, and clothing are primary needs.
- The PTSO's Outreach Committee works very closely with Ms. Webb and the other guidance counselors and CIS counselors to help MPHS who need help with basic needs.

2. Principal Report - Mr Folk

- Testing has begun marking the start of EOCs and midterms
- Homeroom block (movement) is being eliminated due to problems with the transition time for some students. Homeroom will now be included in 2nd block and students will remain in their 2nd block classroom; however, the bell will ring and signify the break/transition to SEL content (teachers are provided curriculum/activities).
 - "Sources of Strength" nationwide program with a mission to prevent suicide is being adopted by MPHS
 - Feb 14-15 training for leader teachers and student group (approx 100 students and 20 staff) Ms. Aliota will be the lead/director on staff
 - The program is "student-lead/social group" focused to capture more

- participants and appeal to a broader range of students
- Wellness Center “grand opening” is continuing to be planned for February to honor the Huff family and formally present the new space to the community. Over 100 students are regularly using the wellness space on Wednesdays and Fridays during lunch.
 - Avyon Thomas plaque will be selected. Mr. Folk has had conversations with the family. Avyon’s friends have received support on campus.

3. Treasurer Report -Tracie Northan

- Committee chairs received budget updates via email
- We are at the midway point of the school year; should you need any adjustments made to your committee’s budget, please reach out to Tracie via email.

4. Annual Fund Report - Katie Davis

- To date: We are just under 192K (98.5% of goal with pledges)
 - Matches of \$3500 are also forthcoming
 - We are receiving fewer donations from families over past years; however, the average amount of each is greater than past years
 - One more email push is forthcoming

5. Nominating Update/Audit committee update - Ghazale Johnston

- 2024-25 PTSO nominations are on the horizon
- Slated for the committee: Kris Humphreys, Nichelle Weintraub, Lindsey Jones, and Lynne Mc Donald
 - Motion to approve the slated Nominating Committee was made by Holly Wood; Tracie Northan seconded.
 - All in favor; motion/committee approved.
- 2024 Audit Committee: Kris Humphreys Leah Nazworth, and Beverly Shull*

6. Information/Updates

- a. Foundation (Sherese Smith) - Art for the Park, February 23
- b. IB update (Tammy Jones) - Eligible families impacted by the new school boundary who wish to remain at MPHS for the IB Programme must officially submit the request through the CMS Lottery system. MPHS administration has been working hard to ensure that all 400+ families are made aware of this new development.
- c. SIT - Sources of Strength program update was the focus of most recent meeting
- d. Calendar - Please send updates to presidents if your committee wants something added to the school calendar.
- e. Gift cards for students - new policy: *Snacks/meals can be provided to students who are providing additional services/support for school sponsored events but there will be no gift cards. With that said, any students from the Tech Theatre class who are providing A/V support to school sponsored events (outside of theater productions) can be given a \$25 gift card for 2 hours of work.*

7. Committee Reports:

Attendance office - All volunteer slots have been filled through the end of the school year

InReach/ Outreach - Holiday 205 students got sweatshirts and candy, 11 families were sponsored by other parents with holiday gifts, mid-year grads received gifts

Front office -

- We continue to support Christy and Jane primarily by opening doors so they may attend to incoming calls, parents, etc....
- We also provide passes for students to return to their class rooms and help parents label items dropped off for student pick up.
- Occasionally there are special projects from Mr. Folk which are completed while answering doors and directing traffic to the attendance office, nurse, Ms. Buyers, Sandra, and Guidance.
- Sick students are also something we help manage when Jane and Christy are occupied.

Holiday Outreach - (see above)

Guidance -

- We are in the middle of helping Guidance with Fall 2024 class registration, which will continue on 1/29/24 (after exams) and run two more weeks. We help check students in, get them to the correct counselor, manage the flow of students, and help them properly “sign-out”. We still have open volunteer spots! We have found that a minimum of two volunteers is needed for each slot, but 3 is better (3 to 4 blocks a day)! Please consider signing up for open slots!
- Counselor appreciation week is the first week of February. We will be providing additional meals to the counselors that week.
- Coming up shortly thereafter we will be providing a breakfast for the counselors and the middle school counselors that come to kick-off the rising 9th grade registration process for MPHS feeder middle schools.
- Career and Military Day is on March 15th, the Spring College Night is on May 2

Mentors - AVID (Laura Freeman) -

- Got off campus twice in the fall: UNCC, Innovation Barn. Ms. Corbett is the current lead and is brand new to MPHS. Committee is working to set up a meeting with Ms. Davis to anticipate any changes to the program due to staffing/rezoning moving forward.
- There has been a lot of transition and change around PTSO committees regarding mentorship, tutoring, etc. Is there something to be said for recreating a separate committee to meet student needs?

Registrar Support - We continue to support Stephanie and Kory with various projects/tasks and manning the SS desk when needed. Most recently we've assisted with registration prep for the counselors.

Mustang Express -

- Remind committee chairs to send in blurbs when they would like them published.
- 3700 people receive editions and we have a 72% open rate.
- Reminder that information needs to be MPHS / PTSO affiliated to be published.

Mustang Round Up and Open Campus: These are both summer events and planning will happen in the next couple months. If you know anyone interested in getting involved in this, let Natasha know! Maybe we can get some new families involved!

Prospective families -

- Rising 9th Grade & New-to-CMS Tour & Program is on 2/1! We used to do one in Nov and March, and now just one in Feb, before families must make decisions on enrollment.
 - On 2/1, can you help greet or walk families around? SUG coming!
- Tours are going great! A bit cold, but families are very excited for MPHS!
- The new folders are very successful as we have almost no paper and many QR codes for scanning!

Mental Health Initiative (Holly Wood)

- Continuing sponsoring monthly activities in the Wellness Center (breathwork and relaxation, gratitude graffiti, grief and remembrance, Bark at the Park).
- Schoolwide presentations through lunch blocks + virtual evening program for parents: October/Suicide, December/Drug and Alcohol Use/Abuse, March/Anxiety + Depression
- Subcommittee of parents are preparing to host 5 student focus groups lead by Ms. Billmire as facilitator to survey/engage on student perspective of ideas of what we can do to support them
- New blurb/articles in the ME are forthcoming

School Store/ Hoof Hut - Hoof Hut won't be open this week due to exams or next week with the Teacher Workday. Then we'll have a semester change, requiring us to find new volunteers in some cases.

Staff Appreciation (Sherese Smith)

- We hosted the staff at Suffolk Punch Southpark for a holiday party on December 19. Staff were treated to heavy appetizers, drinks and raffle prizes. (Suffolk Punch was a perfect spot for this party!) We also hosted a BBQ lunch for our custodial and cafeteria staff in December as well.
- Coming up we have our annual candy bar for staff and our bus drivers in February and are planning events for March, April and May.

Social Media - (Denise Pineno)

- If your event is going into the ME, consider sending to social media committee as well via email.
 - Some notice is appreciated, especially if you do not have a graphic to accompany your post. It takes about a week to go through the creation/approval process.
 - After-the-fact pictures are appreciated -get verbal approval from any students' faces in your images.
 - We only promote things that the PTSO is doing (not Foundation, not

- school news/announcements).
- New Linktree on the account that will direct followers to pertinent events/content.

Teacher Recognition - (Ghazale Johnston) Staff Holiday party was a big success

9th grade events - 9th Grade Social in October at The Jimmy was a big success; however, they were not the easiest to work with. The turnout was fantastic. Suggestion to work with Brazwells in the future, as they were delightful to work with for the 10th Grade Events committee. Parents want a fall social; consider planting the seed with incoming chairs to budget for these events.

11th grade events - (Ann Lam) Trying to get one more week of “treats” for students into the calendar (perhaps the week before Spring Break: March 18-22).

Signup Genius parameters will be discussed and a new formal policy will be put in place to address the inconsistent expectations of committee volunteers to donate money, gift cards, items, and food.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am

*The candidates for the 2024 Audit Committee were presented via email and unanimously approved by the executive board on January 16, 2024.

Upcoming Campus Events:

January:

- 24 End of Q2
- 25 Teacher Workday

February:

- 1 Rising 9th Grade & New-to-CMS Tour & Program - 5:00-6:45
- 2 PTSO Executive Board Meeting
- 3 Sadie Hawkins Dance
- 7 Prospective Family Tour - 10:15
- 8 Mid-year graduation
- 14 Early Release Day
- 19 Holiday
- 21 Prospective Family Tour - 10:15

March:

- 1 PTSO Executive Board Meeting
- 2 Campus Cleanup
- 6 Prospective Family Tour - 10:15
- 13 Early Release day

- 20 Prospective Family Tour, 10:15
- 28 End of Q3
- 29 Teacher work day
- 20 Prospective Family Tour, 10:15
- 29 Teacher Workday

April:

- 1-5 Spring Break
- 10 Prospective Family Tour, 10:15
- 12 PTSO executive board meeting
- 24 Prospective Family Tour, 10:15