

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: April 2, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 6:05 PM.

Opening remarks

Thank you to Christ City Church DC for babysitting. The next PTO meeting date is Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00pm.

Minutes from the March 5, 2019 General Meeting were emailed to the PTO distribution list and posted to the PTO page on Miner's website. Membership approved motion to dispense with reading of the minutes, and minutes were approved.

Principal's Report - Mr. Jackson

Grades 3 through 5 have already started testing: ELL (English Language Learners) started 2-3 weeks ago and Special Education began yesterday. On Tuesday the 9th the 5th graders start PARCC science testing. After Spring Break, each grade will test for two consecutive weeks – one week of ELA (English Language Arts) and one week of Math. Testing is planned to complete daily by lunchtime. This should have a minimal schedule impact on grades not doing testing. Some specials may have to be rescheduled so they aren't in the morning during testing. Computers won't come out of classrooms, but computer labs won't be open due to their use for testing.

School can now begin the hiring process for new teachers and staff in next year's budget, including one new Special Education classroom and one new ECE classroom. Miner will hire four paraprofessionals: one for the new SpEd class, one for the new ECE class, one for 1st grade (possibly) and one for 2nd (definitely). Main office staff went from six to three. The school's Personnel Committee interviews candidates, and can have one parent participate in each interview. Contact the PTO if you're interested in being a part of the "parent pool" for the Personnel Committee.

Although the results of the Specials survey resulted in an overwhelming preference for a STEM or Science teacher, due to DCPS/City requirements, the school will have to add a second PE teacher so that each classroom can receive two classes of PE each week.

Enrollment for next school year has begun. Principal Jackson asks that parents act as "ambassadors" with other parents and encourage quicker enrollment. If enrollment rates are above goals, the administration can apply for extra funding that DCPS Central Office holds in reserve. Miner's waitlist is fairly large, so quicker enrollment of current families helps in notifying waitlisted families whether they can enroll or not. Current families re-enrolled by the night of the Spring Dance are eligible to win an iPad (must be present at the dance to win).

The Community School Coordinator (Ms. Woodson) hosted a "partnership breakfast." There was great attendance and a lot of energy in the room. Partners helped find areas we could strengthen, and are willing to go out and find additional partners. A very productive discussion!

Middle of Year (MOY) data: attendance is about the same as last year. TRC (K-2 reading) is within 2% of EOY data from last year. Reading inventory (3rd-5th) showed a 12% reduction in students scoring below basic, which is 11% better than last year's MOY data. 52% have met or exceeded MOY goals. The administration is positive about academic progress and direction.

Recent trips and experiences for our students include ECE trips to a veterinarian, Kindergarten had a yoga lesson and a boat trip on the Anacostia River with the Anacostia Watershed Society, the 3rd graders attended a theater

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: April 2, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

performance, and the US Air Force brought their “Singing Sergeants” to sing the Singapore anthem (through the DCPS Embassy Adoption program for the 5th graders).

Miner will be the host site for four summer camps: Mr. Tony’s Adventure Camp, Capital Cycle Camp, and two Department of Parks and Recreation camps,

Regarding the Old Miner building, the mayor has proposed to convert it into an early learning center. Renovation would occur in FY22-23. It’s not totally clear, but the center may be “birth to 3,” whereas DCPS has indicated the possibility of it extending to ECE (PK3-PK4).

Special Topic: School Garden Update - Mr. Riddick and Ms. Markus

Mr. Riddick, a 2nd grade teacher, is Miner’s “School Garden Coordinator,” and Kathy Markus of Cultivate the City, is our “School Garden Manager.” The overall goal of the garden program is to get as many kids into the garden and exposed to nature as possible. Student participation in the school garden is realized through the school’s Garden Club, partnership with local urban agriculture organization Cultivate the City (CTC), and through classroom instruction. The Garden Team has a blog and newsletter (<https://thepeacegarden530554794.wordpress.com>).

The Garden Club is based around garden-based activities, cooking & healthy snacks, and nutrition. Some recent activities include using the PTO-purchased vitamix to make smoothies; and making salad from greens harvested from the Peace Garden. The club meets every Tuesday from 3:30-4:40. All students in grades K-5 are welcome to join. See Ms. Pitoniak (K) or Mr. Riddick (2nd) for a permission slip if your student is interested.

Classes in the garden are designed to bring core academic subjects (ELA, math, science, and social studies) out into nature. Units of study that can benefit from time in the garden include “rows and columns” and “lifecycles of the seed.” ECE and specials teachers have also recently begun garden-related instruction, including Ms. Amaya’s classes growing an indoor “salsa garden” which will then be transplanted into the Peace Garden, and Ms. Y. Jones class doing plantings which will go into the forthcoming new ECE garden.

Cultivate the City has partnered with Miner for the past 3 years. They have a nursery and urban farm on the rooftop of Jenks hardware on Bladensburg Road, just blocks from Miner. They also host a Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) program for which Miner is a pickup site. Sometimes some of the food items for the CSA comes out of the Peace Garden.

To encourage family engagement in the garden, there are weekly open hours each Tuesday from 4-6 PM in the Peace Garden. There will be no dedicated cleanup day this year (due to regular, ongoing maintenance), so families are welcome to come by anytime and lend a hand.

As part of the “Master Site Plan” that re-envisioned the north campus including a new playground, the garden itself may be moved to a new location. As a result, most plantings are done in moveable containers.

An exciting development for next year is that Miner has (unofficially) been chosen as a FoodCorps (part of AmeriCorps) site for next school year! We will have a full-time servicemember fully engaged in the garden and nutrition who will lead and co-lead activities with the teachers.

Miner Elementary School PTO
General Meeting: April 2, 2019 - 6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

LSAT Report - Tammy Alexander

Due to budget constraints, next school year the librarian will be half time and won't teach classes, but instead supporting grade-level teachers who bring their classes to the library.

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for April 23 at 5:00 in the Large Group Instruction Room. We will hear more about MOY data. The meeting is open to all.

PreK Parent Committee Report

An Earth Day event is planned for Monday, April 22 from 3:30-4:30. The ECE teachers have planned several stations, including snacks/fruit/veggies, drop cloth painting, milk carton plantings, cheerio bird feeder, recycling sorting game, and filling the bird feeders in garden. A request for volunteers will be coming soon.

The recent dental clinic with Gordon Dental, arranged by Miner's Community School Coordinator, Ms. Woodson, was a great success. The plan is to do it again next year.

The next play date for prospective and incoming families is April 27 from 10 AM to noon. The bounce castle will be set up. Current families are invited to attend and spread the good word about Miner to the new families!

PreK promotion ceremony is June 7. There are a number of possible events for the remainder of the year, including another Parent Café, a basketball game, Mother's Day and Father's Day events, and an end-of-year event to coincide with Field Day on June 11.

President & VP Report

Reminders:

- Enroll today! Forms are available at the sign-in table, in the Main Office, or online at <https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/71>
- Bike to School Day is May 8 <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>
- Summer camp at Miner - online registration is now open at <https://dcadventurecamp.com/> and Miner families receive free aftercare (a \$50 value per week).

The next play date is April 27 from 10am - noon. Volunteers are needed!

The Yard Sale raised \$2,227 and the Scholastic Book Fair raised \$3,066!

Traffic update: From the March 25 DDOT meeting, the city is looking into the possibility of a speed table at 16th & Rosedale. The alley along the southern edge of the school is too narrow for usual mitigation techniques, so possible options include making it one way, or even a totally new method.

PTO and LSAT election info will be going out late April - one change to PTO policy this year is that you can only run for a single Executive Board position. This is not a bylaws change, however.

There is one proposed bylaw change, which will be voted upon at the May PTO General Meeting:

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: April 2, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

- ARTICLE III “OFFICERS” / SECTION 2 “TERM OF OFFICE”
- FROM: “The term of office begins at the conclusion of the General Meeting at which election results are announced to the PTO membership, and ends upon the same the following school year. Officer elections shall be held in the spring, concurrent with parent elections for the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT).”
- TO: “The term of office begins at the conclusion of the General Meeting at which election results are announced to the PTO membership, and ends upon the same the following school year. The exception is the Treasurer, whose term of office shall last for two school years. Officer elections shall be held in the spring, concurrent with parent elections for the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT).”
- RATIONALE: The PTO is a formal 501c3 organization and as such, has a high requirement for rigorous and accurate financial management and accounting, as well as regulatory compliance (e.g., taxes and insurance). The role of Treasurer has a steep learning curve and having the same Treasurer for at least two years would be of great benefit to the smooth running of the organization.

Treasurer Report

Cash Summary from February 28, 2019 through March 25, 2019:

Balance as of February 28, 2019:	\$24,916
Plus: Income (Feb 28 - Mar 25):	\$4,295
Less: Expenses (Feb 28 - Mar 25):	\$(827)
Balance as of March 25, 2019:	\$28,384

Budget to Actuals:

Budget:	\$90,850
Actual:	\$51,051
Delta:	\$(36,546)

Most budget accounts have considerable allocation remaining. Exceptions are Community Engagement (\$353 remaining) and Fundraising & Grants (over budget by \$3).

Teachers were reminded to please utilize the classroom and field trip grant funding.

Teacher Representative Reports

Miner has a new partnership with the Special Olympics for our Special Education students.

Committee Reports

The committees reported the following at the meeting:

- Appreciation & Recognition: no additional report
- Communications: no additional report
- Community Engagement: no additional report
- Facilities & Grounds: no additional report

Miner Elementary School PTO

General Meeting: April 2, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

- Family Engagement & Events: discussed the upcoming 3rd Annual Spring Dance (Friday, April 12, from 6-8pm)
 - RSVP is available online or by returning the flyer that went home in backpacks
 - There will be dancing in the gym, dining in the cafeteria, an arts and crafts room, and professional photography. Everything is free to Miner students and families except photos (cash only).
 - Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, and various roles during the dance. Please sign up via the website (<https://www.minerelementary.org/dance.html>).
 - Donations are still needed for the “boutique.” Any dresses, shoes, shirts, ties, jewelry, and accessories are appreciated. Sizes 4T-16/XL Donations of juice boxes also needed.
 - This is an official school enrollment event, so bring your enrollment forms or fill them out at the event (forms will be available). All current families who enroll between April 1 and 7pm on April 12 will be entered in a raffle to win a Miner t-shirt or an iPad (must be present to win)
 - Membership voted to approve a budget increase of \$600 for the event, bringing the final budget to \$1,350
- Family Support: no additional report
- Fundraising & Grants: no additional report

Reminder that interested parents and staff may join any PTO Committee by reaching out to the Committee chair(s).

Upcoming Events, Reminders & Opportunities

Reviewed the list of upcoming events for the next month, as displayed on the “Upcoming Events” page of the school’s website.

Reminders & Opportunities

Enrollment is open. Students matched through the lottery must enroll by May 1 to secure their seats.

Volunteers are needed for the April 27 play date. If you’re able to help, email minerpto@gmail.com or if you’re an ECE parent, respond the Rallyhood request for volunteers.

If you are interested in being a classroom volunteer or field trip chaperone, there are requirements to have a TB test and a background check. The background check consists of an application & fingerprinting: <https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bg37a864v?a=dbpage&pageID=26>. For more information, visit the DCPS classroom volunteer page: <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/volunteer-our-schools>

Note that MedStar PromptCare at Eastern market has TB tests for \$20, and there’s usually not a line.

Open Comments/Discussion

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.