

**Mercer Elementary**

**Mercer PTO Board Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2017**

**Meeting Minutes**

April meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted after motion made by Erin Connell

**Principal’s Report – Mr. Florence**

* Thank you to the outgoing PTO Board Members for another great year and ongoing support of the school. In his 14th year at Mercer, the PTO gives a glimpse into the commitment to Shaker and to Mercer!
* End of year activities: 4th grade Exhibition next week, field trips, class picnics and Field Day
* Summer is a time to reenergize, review the district strategic plan and prepare the coming year’s calendar.
* There was a question posed to Mr. Florence about the recent announcement about science curriculum and he has confidence that the proposed changes will enhance what is being taught in the classrooms.

**Teacher Liaison Report –** **no report**

**President’s Report - Leslie Moore**

* Superintendent Brown Bag was attended by Leslie M and Monica G. which also addressed the recent announcement about the science curriculum. The district has been discussing this for more than a year and this is part of the district’s strategic plan. The plan is to increase the number of field trips. The Tech position is not a replacement for the science position, which has been dissolved. The Director of the Great Lakes Science Center and other experts will be working on the new curriculum.
* Upcoming events:
  + Field Day is 5/26. Email blast sent 5/16. Volunteers are needed, lunch aides will be used
  + Incoming Kindergarten Coffee is 5/26 hosted by Laura Kestin. Evite was sent.
  + Family Picnic is 5/26 from 6-8 hosted by Dave and Mireille Kious. Games have been arranged. The Spirit Store will not be open.
  + Clap Out is 5/25 – Senior Clapout. 27 former Mercer students who are now High School Seniors will been in attendance and 3 will speak briefly. Light refreshments will be served for seniors and their family members. A request for fund to cover costs was requested. Erin Connell approved the motion to support this event with $100 for refreshments.

**First Vice President Report – Monica Gurbach**

* Roster- there are still a few openings. Webmaster is a district requirement and Mirielle may know someone; still need someone to work with Sharon Galin to take over duties of Mercer Mailbox; need Special Education Liaison, and Raider Day Co-Chair (Jessica Goldstein is currently doing it solo).
* New roles have been created – Marketing and Social Media will be headed by Abby Botnick and Joanna Laytin; Father’s Walk will be headed by Darnell Parker
* Calendar has been reviewed by Mr. Florence and Ms. Ng.
  + Incoming playdates were suspended due to low attendance last year but may do informal playdates and Amy Karfeld will assist with this.
  + Mercer Mingle and Teacher Meet and Greet will be before school starts. Buses will be available for kindergartners and new bus riders.
  + There was discussion about new families group and potentially having coffees and BBQs
  + Grandparents/Special Persons Day will be held again in April. May need a liaison even though this is not a PTO event.
  + Field Day and Mini Marathon will be combined into one Friday
  + International Night will continue with concert in the gym
  + Book Fair will continue to be held in Jan/Feb and there was some discussion about partnering with Book Depository. Used Book Fair will continue and an additional summer book fair in May to promote summer reading was suggested.
  + Parent lunch days will be held in conjunction with Spirit Days
* We discussed the idea that was brought up a few meetings ago to standardize our events and messaging. If the event is PTO sponsored, it will have the PTO logo and common language. This way, parents will be able to easily know which events are not PTO-sponsored.
* Next year goals are to continue to make it fun. To increase parent involvement, including making PTO accessible to working parents.

**VP Communication – No Report**

**VP Outreach – No Report**

**VP Educational Enrichment – No Report**

**VP Financial Management/Treasurer – Mia Ruffing**

* We are up to date on request but please follow up with Event Chairs to submit reimbursement requests as books close on June 30th.

**VP Education & Advocacy – Jakecia Durham**

* Woodbury is adding an area by the Library to make a STEM Maker space

**New Members installed- see Roster**

Next Meeting:  Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Mercer Library

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leslie Cohen