

Miller Avenue Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization



Meeting Minutes September 25, 2019

Miller Avenue School, General Purpose Room
Meeting Called to Order - 6.37pm
Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: 21 members in attendance plus the 5 members of the PTO Board attended the meeting.

Principal's Report (Parent University) - Mrs. Smith, read by Janice Opatovksy

Mrs Smith sends her apologies for not being here but was unavoidable.

It was a pleasure to get to know everyone so far this year.

The Kindergarten picnic was well attended and organized, filled with smiles, good weather and a thanks goes to the PTO for providing class t-shirts to all students as well as Kindergarten students.

A thank you for the Welcome Back Lunch to staff on Superintendents Conference Day (September 3rd 2019) that was for all staff from the PTO. It is a busy day, so a grab and go lunch for all was appreciated - thank you. The Open House on September 12th was well attended and feedback was positive, with the PTO, WHAM, WAC and SEPTA all represented.

Picture Day went well - thank you all who volunteered and for the 2nd grade picture day also.

Food Service began last week - students were excited and Mrs. Smith was pleased how smooth everything went.

Fall decorations placed last week look beautiful around school - thank you PTO.

A thank you for the tea and coffees surprise for teachers this week.

It is clear that the PTO are dedicated in helping Miller Avenue students feel like they are at home away from home. Thank you.

PTO Board members introduced themselves to the PTO.

Treasurer's Report - Lauren Verderosa

Pizza line is set to be the same - doubled for 2 days, but for half of year.

Bagels and chicken nuggets lines are halved due to food service ending January 2020.

A new Parents Night Out line added. The date and location is to be determined. There will be donated raffle baskets, live music and food/drinks. The PTO are looking for basket donations from local businesses and locals. It will be 100 people minimum to guarantee the night. It was at Willow Creek in the past. Baiting Hollow is an idea. Suggestions for location requested. Melissa Brandt chairing.

The Budget is same as last year with Parents Night Out added to off set Food Service reductions from January 2020.

President's Report - Elizabeth Valencia

Old Business-

The Kindergarten Play date in August went well with new friends made, free class shirts given out and good weather.

All students should now have class T-shirts. Thanks to Ashley and Lauren on the PTO for helping all students receive T-shirts at school.

Picture Day went very smoothly- thank you Kristen! Retakes are October 30th.

Food Service went off to a very good start. The food service links are closed now. Food service through PTO is still planned to end in January. We will pass along information as soon as it is given to us from the district about the switch to Food Service being shuttled in from the Middle School in January 2020. Thank you to all food chairs- Debbie, Christine, Ashley, Deb, Erin, Robyn and Maria!

PTO Membership Drive is ongoing throughout year. There is a link is on the Miller Avenue PTO website.

Fall beautification at school looks lovely thank you Lauren and Ashley.

New Business-

Kids Stuff Coupon books were already sent home. This is a fundraiser for the school. 50% of proceeds go to the PTO for student needs. Please purchase or return books by October 4. They are \$25 each. Cash or check made out to Miller Avenue PTO.

The Fall Festival is on Thursday, October 3rd 4:30 at Fink's Farm. If you purchase a ticket by 5:00 pm on September 26th, then you may pick up your tickets at the school anytime on September 27th with Mrs Linda Anderson at the office. Any tickets not picked up or purchased after that will be sent home with your child on October 2nd. Lost bracelets are not refundable or replaceable. Sales will completely close October 1st and all tickets will then have to be purchased at the door for \$12. Bracelets are here today for pick up after the meeting. This event is discounted from \$17 regular farm price - so save money by going with Miller Avenue School on October 3rd while raising money for the PTO.

Smencils are the first Wednesday of every month, beginning October 3- thank you Debbie and Robyn! This is the sale of smelly pens, pencils, stickers for children during lunch. Please send your child in with cash on the day itself. A warning for gels and crayons - they are not make up or for young children.

The 3rd Annual Fathers Charity Event Flag Football is on October 4th 6:00 pm at the High School. All proceeds and donations go to The Andrew McMorris Foundation. Spouses are playing and all are encouraged and welcome to attend!

Box Tops for Education are running for Miller Avenue School - two ways to collect until the end of the year - thank you Sue for chairing! - You can download the app and then take a picture of your shopping receipt on the app. You can also collect coupons until end of year too. There is a Facebook page about the app with details. Remember it is valid only for 14 days from date of purchase to take picture and scan into the app. Also find the button on the app to register for your kids' class to help them win the class contest.

The Book Fair is scheduled for October 22-25 (set up on October 21 after PTO meeting!) There also an evening book fair on October 23rd for families to shop together and help children choose items. Please sign up to volunteer by visiting tinyurl.com/MillerArcticFair -Thank you Ashley and Erin!

Students must buy a book first before other items during school time book fair.

Candy Buy Back will be this year again - please donate extra Halloween candy sending into school and our local dentist donates overseas to the military. There are Monster collection boxes ready for students “to feed the monsters the candy” - this will be a grade level contest.

Volunteers/ Chairs Needed are for the Year-Book or can be co-chairs by grade level.

The PTO are looking for more fundraising options to help with food service loss:

- One idea is Raise Craze where 90% of profits that are donated go to the school for good deeds done in the neighborhood.
- One idea is Yankee Candle sales.
- One idea is a Shoe drive- collecting shoes. It is 40c per pair of shoes approximately for a 60 day campaign. They then collect it. It looks like \$1000 approximately for small school could be raised. Kelly interested in being chairperson.

Miller Avenue School has Amazon Smile already set up so please use this - www.smile.amazon.com It's the same as Amazon, but you purchase using the url listed and only have to select the school as the nonprofit one time and then Amazon donates to the school every time.

Welcome and Presentation - Co-president of SEPTA - Kristen

SEPTA is a Special Ed PTA for the whole district. SEPTA works with families who work with children in inclusion classrooms, special services, autism spectrum, special education services and more. The meetings have range of speakers and presentations. There is information on services, clubs, sports programs and best buddies programs.

It is a PTA for all. The next meeting everyone is invited to attend is on October 24th 6.30pm at the Middle School.

There is a clothing drive currently going until November 10th for gently used shoes, clothes towels, raising 20c per pound. Over 35 bags have been collected already.

There is also a Holiday Pie Drive as a joint WHAM fundraiser. Order forms are available at this meeting. The pick up date is in November. Please order ahead of time for pies and donuts. These funds will be split with WHAM. SEPTA wants to know any questions and ideas and are growing.

Other Business - Elizabeth Valencia

Please make sure to check our website and Facebook page for up to date important info. There are also flyers printed at the meetings. Please email for any questions and please reach out with any thoughts or concerns.

There is a vote to adopt the budget.

Questions from Robyn Heavey about 2nd grade moving up being \$1000 - this might not be enough. Student Council is \$750. Last year it was \$500 for this item. Suggestion to move \$250 from Student Council to Moving Up for 2nd grade (bagel breakfast, pens, drawstring bags, DJ; burgers and hot dog lunch, yearbooks are in the Yearbook line).

There was feedback that Moving Up Day was like a Field Day repeat. The suggestion was to make it an afternoon ceremony for parents, and use the morning for field games for students only. Also another suggestion is to have the ice cream man for students (approx \$400) instead of lunch for all.

Another suggestion is to have a 2nd grade only fundraiser in the winter, to help off set year-book and ceremony. Another suggestion is to add \$250 more to Smencils line and the profit will be returned. There was feedback that the 2nd grade move up ceremony had too much food last year but it was good to have everyone fed. A suggestion is to have pizza, watermelon, and ice pops instead. Another suggestion is to keep it simple - have a ceremony, ice pop, watermelon, making it a shorter day for parents. Or to focus on the making the ceremony special, maybe dividing into classes after with kind words from teachers, or art in class groups. The final suggestion was to have a 2nd grade parent meeting to plan the 2020 moving up day.

There is a question about PARP not being in the new budget? Janice answered that it will be changed to school managing from reading teachers and teacher volunteers creating a theme and kick off assembly. There will still be a Family Literacy Night building on mystery readers, teacher swaps, screen turn off week, maybe having an evening event game night, putting covers over TVs. The PTO will be contacted for help after the theme is decided. The PTO buys a book for everyone using scholastic dollars so not needed in the budget. \$800 was for PARP last year - so motion to add it back in as \$500. There could be a Read-a-thon to support this.

The first grade \$1000 can be used better with new ideas welcome. Last year it was used for beach buckets for Beach Day (buckets, bubbles, sunglasses, color visors), in addition to Holtsville Ecology Center and BNL trips.

Membership Fees are to pay parent booster club to have Tax ID as well as accountant for insurance and taxes. Fees for BJ's, Amazon Prime, Booster.

There was a unanimous vote to adopt the budget and make the changes of moving \$250 from Student Council (making it \$500) to 2nd Grade (making it \$1250).

Sportswear volunteers are planning to get moving with orders.

There was a question about the Coupon Books that came home - what the funds are raised for as the flyer missing from some. Half of the proceeds go to the school - so more details how funds used in the future would be helpful.

New meeting schedule:

The next meeting time was moved to 6.30pm on October 21st 2019 at Miller Avenue School. Volunteers are welcome before and after the meeting to help set up the book fair.

Motion to adjourn at 7.36pm, accepted.

Minutes recorded by Miller Avenue Recording Secretary, Emma Tees

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Remind App for Alerts and Updates:

Kindergarten: @mapto2032

First Grade: @mapto2031

Second Grade: @mapto2030