

Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Called to order: 7:00pm

Zoom recording available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ljgilm6k3pqk2h5/12-15MPEPTAMTG.mp4?dl=0>

Attendees

Melissa Stottmann
Emily Crawford
Valerie Deptula
Chelsea Collins
Matt Auerbach
Wendy Turner
Scott Mathews
Laura DeMare
Erica Meme
Michelle Anderson
Pier Bronson
Dianne Davis
Christy Gleason
Julia Shay
Krista
Angie Anderson
Chelsey Coleman
Anannya Rajapantula
Allyson
Amy Honisch
Katie Marin
Rama
Pier Bronson
Angie Anderson
Iswarya Naveen
Brandi Savage
Rama
Adam Vidiksis
Thoa
Bobbi
Leina

Welcome from PTA President (Melissa Stottmann)

- Over 100 gift cards donated to Dragons Helping Dragons so far! Wonderful to see families helping families within our school community.

- Focus for tonight's meeting is the Principal's Update and Presentation by Mrs. Turner focused on *Social Emotional Learning for Parents*.

Principal's Update (Matt Auerbach)

- District plan is for K thru 5 to return on January 11. Things can change, so as always, stay tuned.
- Planning a Title 1 Reading Night to try to still some of MPE's traditions, but in a safe, virtual format. Open to suggestions on how to improve connections (theme for the year!)
- Thinking about bringing back some after school programs to try to maintain some normalcy and make up for learning losses due to remote learning replacing in-person activities.

Membership Report (Melissa Stottmann)

- Member count as of 12/15/20: 80 members (47 parent/guardian; 37 faculty/staff). We are trying to get to 100!

Treasurer's Report (Emily Crawford)

- Lots of teacher grants coming in.
- Mazzella's No-Cook Night check came in (they kindly rounded up their check to us).
- Spirit wear and masks going out.
- PTA purchased extra water bottles for kids who are in school and forgot to bring a water bottle to school.

Events (Emily Crawford, Melissa Stottmann and Chelsea Collins)

- 12/22 MPE No-Cook Night at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza
- Scholastic Book Fair – another virtual event schedule for in May and in-person for next Fall

Special Presentation on navigating the role of a parent in remote learning (social emotional learning for parents):

“Social Emotional Learning, Online School & You” (Wendy Turner – 2nd grade MPE Teacher)

Full presentation available for download:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1aRIOVaK4KgAt-w5ra4tM8eUyy7U9wSgwiREM1AkSOZk/edit#slide=id.p>

SEL – 5 skills (presentation is focusing on the three marked with asterisks for parents)

1. Social Awareness
2. Responsible Decision Making
3. *Self-Awareness – mindfulness (see and feel our feelings, don't judge them). Try reframing negative thoughts into positive thoughts.

4. *Self-Management (regulating emotions and behaviors; managing stress). Boost your happiness with mindful breathing, active listening, acknowledge 3 good things that happened in your day, do 5 nice things for others. Notice physical signs of emotions, drink water, take deep breaths, take a break.
5. *Relationship Skills (actively listening, communicating clearly, offering help when needed; EMPATHY, EMPATHY, EMPATHY). Treat others the way they want and need to be treated – not the way you THINK they need to be treated. Our children may need a different approach or treatment than you think is what they need. Ask questions and set aside your reaction. Avoid blaming statements by using “I” instead of “you”. Don’t jump into Fix-It mode; actively listen and ask questions to understand what they need. Your feelings are also valid, just understand that they are your feelings and not the same as everyone else.

Sample Scenarios:

1. Child not interacting on zoom – won’t be on video and does not want to answer questions.
 - a. Not all children are comfortable being on video and that is okay. Reach out to teacher to make sure child is still participating when called on and turning in assignments...often they ARE and they are just not comfortable being on video...and that is okay. Many students are going through this situation.
2. New concept introduced in class zoom but child does not understand and is upset.
 - a. Ensure child knows to ask the teacher for help. “Kids need to engage in productive struggle to learn and fail forward. F.A.I.L. = First Attempt In Learning.”
3. Difficulty with child taking initiative without parent help.
 - a. Make a list of what your child can do on his own and what he needs help with. Grow the list of independencies each week. Foster independence with small, accessible asks and grow from there. Focus on growth mindset together.

Parent Questions/Comments

Huge applause and appreciation for this presentation. So many parents can relate to the examples and use the strategies to recognize our feelings and to better understand our children’s feelings. Thanks Mrs. Turner!

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm