

Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2020

Called to order: 7:00pm

Attendees

Melissa Stottmann
Emily Crawford
Valerie Deptula
Amanda Waters
Chelsea Collins
Matt Auerbach
Wendy Turner
Jillian Savage
Julia Shay
Maureen Clark
Jess Heller
Elane Brown
Lisa Fusco
Karoline Robertson
Adam Vidiksis
Jessica Grant
Laura DeMare
Christy Gleason

Welcome from PTA President (Melissa Stottmann)

- Focus for tonight's meeting is the Principal's Update and Presentation by Dr. Robert Walter of Brandywine Pediatrics

Principal's Update (Matt Auerbach)

- K-5 now back and going well. Some parents are going back to full remote so numbers are a little low.
- Questions about 3rd/4th marking period and/or requests to change from remote to hybrid, email parent.info@bsd.k12.de.us.
- Restrictions for class size are not just based on classroom capacity but also cafeteria spacing. Gym is being used as secondary space but there are other elements for consideration in keeping a safe environment.
- Recent riots at Capitol have been lightly addressed on morning announcements and staff are getting support and guidance as needed on how to discuss with their classes/students.
- Preparing for Black History Month and best ways to incorporate into lessons.
- School staff are considered phase 1B for vaccines and they were supposed to happen in mid-January but now with delays in distribution to Phase 1A, they will likely take place in

late January/early February. School nurses will be administering the vaccines. District meeting tomorrow will provide more information.

Membership Report (Melissa Stottmann)

- Member count as of 1/12/20: 82. Low compared to previous years, but not too bad considering the remote situation we have been facing. We don't usually see increases in membership from this point in the year on, but we'll keep putting reminders out there.

Treasurer's Report (Emily Crawford)

- Several teacher grants this month
- Anthony's check coming soon. Being mailed directly to school. Event went well.

Committee Reports (Emily Crawford, Melissa Stottmann and Chelsea Colins)

- 1/26 MPE No-Cook Night at Chipotle
- Masks are available for purchase from spirit wear. Melissa is delivering those as ordered. Spirit wear inventory running low and we're just letting that run out until we order for next year.
- Story Walk will get going soon! February to feature a Black History book.

Special Presentation by Dr. Robert Walter: COVID and Kids

- Office saw 9 kids last week and 2 kids today with COVID.
- Kids do have an innate ability to fight off the virus but the immunity does wane as they get older. A 2-year old has better immunity than a 9-year old, and a 9-year old has stronger immunity than a 14-year old, and so on.
- A five-year old child in DE died this week. He did have other issues, but there are indeed cases of children not being able to survive the virus. This is the 106th death of a child under the age of 16.
- Less children are getting sick of other things right now because of good hygiene habits, masks and distancing.
- Kids tend to get more GI symptoms than respiratory issues from COVID.
- Most kids are getting it at home from a family member rather than at school.
- Rapid tests are available but the mouth swabs are more accurate (97% vs. 98-99%).
- If positive, quarantine for 14 days...CDC is saying that you can come out of quarantine at 10 days (0% risk of spreading at 14 days vs. 1% risk at 10 days).
- We are in Phase 1A. CDC announced today that they will allow elderly beginning tomorrow.
- Most healthy parents won't get their opportunity until the spring.
- A vaccine may be cleared for children in the summer.
- For those concerned about vaccines: They didn't shorten the studies...the time savings came from not having to raise money and get volunteers.
- Mental health concerns (depression and anxiety) for elementary age children are heightened right now. Weight gain has also been more prevalent. Make efforts for in-person experiences (with safety measures in place) as much as possible. Really try to

get kids to play outside—with a mask—with trusted friends or family members of similar age because there are so many physical and mental health benefits to be gained.

- After coming out of bubble, will kids be less immune to colds? Probably not too much, even if it has been a year.
- Most pediatricians' offices will offer COVID tests on site in isolated rooms. Brandywine Pediatrics has PCR and rapid tests available.
- Even if you get the vaccine, there is still a chance of transmission to a non-vaccinated person, so you still have to take precautions.
- For people who assume that because they had it, that they have an immunity: If it has been more than three or so months, they still need to be concerned.
- Thought is we might have to get a booster every 2-3 years following initial vaccine, but studies still out there and depends on mutations and other factors.
- Face masks will probably still be enforced next year, so be prepared for that.
- What info should we know about the new strain? It is more infectious, but more beyond that is unknown.

In chat:

- Delaware is also offering at home tests. Order and then you do them while guided with a Zoom. <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/home-test-kit/>
- <https://curative.com> is great for drive through testing.

Open for questions/comments:

Christy Gleason represents MPE on council for students with disability. She will be sending information to Melissa to share for further collaboration for those interested.

Suggestions for speakers: Wendy Turner suggested author Jess Sinarski who wrote Riley the brave and can speak about children and feelings and fosters social-emotional learning. Wendy will reach out to connect Jess with Melissa.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50pm