

## Tuesday, May 21, 2019

6:00 - 7:30 General PTA Meeting Minutes

The purpose of the Benjamin E Mays PTA is to provide a forum where parents, teachers, administrators, and community members can come together to discuss ways to promote quality education, encourage community involvement, and work for a healthy school environment.

**Mission:** Mays PTA is committed to representing and serving the members of our multicultural community, welcoming and helping parents, teachers and administrators give our very best for all of our students. Together we are a powerful voice for children.

### Participants:

Tre'Meescia Hopper

Andy Carter

Waubun Smith

Josh Schwemmer

Mandy Schwemmer

Lindsay Walker

- **Sign In & Greetings!**
- **19/20 - 20/21 School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) Review**
  - A SCIP is a roadmap for the school. Mays SCIP is reviewed regularly by our Leadership Team which represents all grade-levels and many support staff (family liaison, ELL, Special Education, counseling, etc.) and meets weekly during the school year.
  - The SCIP we are reviewing will cover two school years. This makes the plan more targeted as there is more time to implement, practice, and evaluate the results.
- **CULTURE SCIP CONVERSATION:**
  - Wondering: How can we extend our positive school culture on the bus??
    - Students as bus captains!
  - Circles:
    - Circles can be used to help students get to know each other at the core; kids know where each other are coming from "if they don't have any shoes that fit, haven't seen mom for a while, have things on their mind." A greater understanding of each other helps on many levels.
  - Interested in starting to create and hand out year books. Increasing number of field trips for kids. Experiences with and in celebration of each other, our community.
  - Stuffed animal day: if you're having a hard day, you can bring it in and snuggle it.
  - Parent involvement in PTA- sending out paper invitation with agenda so parents can see what will be discussed and come to meetings they are interested in.
  - Cheerleading team, basketball games: such a fun vibe. Parents were out, people were highly engaged, excited..
  - Would like to see admin presence at bball games.
  - How could we create this level of excitement surrounding other activities here? More activities for the kids: Dance groups, Track team, Coding Club; during or

after school. Parents could provide transportation. Would love to have the option to make this happen for the kids.

- Build up our PTA to implement more activities like this (bball/cheerleading/clubs)? Reaching out AT bball games to get more parents involved (appealing to the parents at the game)!!! We need our community to come together in order to make this happen.
- Fund raising: networking about who parents know, etc. Connections to our community. Reaching out to General Mills, Target for funds, donations of snacks for our classrooms,
- ELC: (Mandy) Hosting West Minnehaha Rec Center, FREE last day of school celebration with bouncy house, fun stuff. Will be providing information so we can let families know. Newsletter??
- Can we do national night out at school??? Good way to get families out, have families get to know each other, have kids get together to play, all have fun outside together without technology; games, grilling, chalking, playing...
- Affordable T-shirt sales for parents/kids available for purchase throughout the year. The beginning of the school year can be expensive for families and it seems like that's when purchasing t-shirts has come up, throughout the year might be better because the expense of the new school year has settled down. Common "gear" to visually show pride in/support for our school across staff/kids/parents.

#### ■ **MATH/READING SCIP CONVERSATION**

- Teachers sending home tools for parents would be helpful: "This is how I taught it." with homework. Parents want to know how they should support their kids with homework and studying at home but the kids are learning things much differently than we did. Math looks different now, new tools and strategies that we didn't learn in school.
- Consistency for learning and how students are approaching their academic work. Social too. Even knowing to use "Take a Break" language instead of "Time Out" at home helps with consistency.
- Reading and writing: growing up, we were taught it needs to be spelled exactly correctly every time and that l's need to be dotted a certain way and t's should be crossed a certain way. Knowing that this is not the experience for our kids helps. They have been taught to sound it out and it doesn't have to be perfect; the sounding out is what they should be working on, etc. Knowing what and HOW the kids are learning in school helps supporting kids from the parents' standpoint at home.
- Idea: A "How to Help Your Kids with Homework" guide at the beginning of the year from teachers to parents.

#### ■ **OTHER FEEDBACK CONVERSATION:**

- Learning different languages at a young age is wonderful. Excited that the kids have access to world language learning as a normal part of their school experience.
- Track and field day: parents are hoping to volunteer but have not heard about volunteer opportunities. Would love to see more organized group activities as part of the experience: water balloons, red rover, want to see the kids running,

more hands on. Chalk lines on the field, medals, make it a big deal. We could have the kids make the awards/buttons to hand out at the event.

- Picture day right away in the school year is not ideal, families are still getting in the swing of things. Would prefer one picture day instead of two and to have it take place in like January when everyone is more settled into the school year.
- School year round! More consistent learning, could maintain normal school/work/childcare schedules year round. Group interested in exploring this and how it could be a positive thing for our school community.

- **Other PTA Business:**

- **Upcoming Event: Mays Moves! Thursday, June 6 5:30 - 7:00**
  - Excited, open to volunteering

**Standing Committees:**

Fall Festival - Chair Karen Shanahan

Recruitment - All PTA Currently

Culture Night - Chair Ankhet Hesi-Ra

**The following dates/times are proposed for SY19/20 PTA meetings**

**(voted in favor of dates/time changes 4.16.19):**

- Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 6:00 to 7:00
- Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 6:00 to 7:00
- Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 6:00 to 7:00
- Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 6:00 to 7:00 **\*\*Elections: Nominations\*\***
- Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 6:00 to 7:00 **\*\*Elections\*\***