

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

6:00 - 7:00 General PTA Meeting Minutes

Local Unit National ID Number: 02690007

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:

- **Sign In / Ice Breaker: Would You Rather? / Greetings & Intros**
- **Purpose of PTA / Description of Roles**
- **Visiting our School : Take Your Parent to School Day, Mays CAFE, Open Door Policy, Volunteering @ Mays**

We are here for all of the kids.

When parents enter the room, parents at the meeting have said that they do not feel unwelcome popping into class but have noticed some things upon visiting. Some have felt students “sharpen up” when they enter the room like they want the parents to see them at their very best. If the visit is not announced, sometimes it could feel like we are interrupting but not necessarily in a bad way. From a teacher’s perspective -- Momentary: what is this visit about? Do they need to speak with me? Non-verbals.

New procedure for teachers to welcome unannounced visits: “welcome to (4th grade), this is what we are working on to give context to what they will see while they are looking around in the space, looking at what the kids are working on.”

Having families visit helps make our community stronger. Parents are an overwhelmingly positive nurturing force, not just to their own children. The kids all enjoy interacting with parents who visit, whether they are their parents or not. Auntie in the classroom, auntie out in the world when we see each other on the train... The more parents that come in the school, “lets just walk up in the school and love everyone’s babies.”

Background checks not necessary for volunteers who are volunteering in the classroom. Background checks can be sent back/not go through for a number of reasons that would not impact the safety of our kids. Not requiring them helps to ensure we welcome all stakeholders as much as possible. Background checks are needed when a volunteer would be supervising students and were unsupervised by staff, as in chaperoning field trips.

Mays CAFE:

Good conversations, between parents, staff, community members. Getting together to discuss things that are going on in our lives, our school, our community that do ultimately impact our kids. Our ideas are harvested, kept, and returned to in order to design our next CAFE even. CAFE discussions and harvest also inform school practices.

Time Change Conversation:

Research on education at the highschool level. Sleep profile of highschool students, sleep they need, how their brain functions. Research shows that highschool students need to start later; if they start later, someone has to start earlier. Our kids are babies; parents/teachers are concerned/fearful about the dark in the morning. Some parents have been able to maneuver schedules to accommodate but everyone is not in that position. For some parents, it is working out better this

way. At this point, it seems as if people feel strongly one way or the other. Recommendation: If you feel strongly one way or the other, contact school board members. This is one way we can voice our opinions and create change. At this point, it is out of our hands at the building level. Attending school board meetings is another way to directly impact the things that impact our children.

- **Fall Festival**
 - Parent Volunteers Needed! Sign up for a half-hour time slot!
 - Choosing a “Just Right” (reading level appropriate) book / Area for Choosing a Book [In the Green Room]
 - Resource: Asking questions while your child reads / Comprehension Questions
- **Committees**
- **Hopes & Dreams for our Children**

Will be delivered to the kids’ classrooms tomorrow, shared with the teachers. Ultimately, the kids will get a little piece of mail.

- **Membership Heads or Tails**

Committees:

Fall Festival (Friday, September 27) - Chair Karen Shanahan

Spring Art Show (Thursday, May 7) - Lindsay Walker

Mays Moves (Thursday, March 5) - Jolene Mason

CAFE Design Team (Thursday, October 24) - Karen Shanahan (& Erica, Alex, Waubun)

Membership - ALL?

The following dates/times are proposed future PTA Meetings:

- 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****