PTA Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Present: Jolen Mason (President), Ashley Braun (Vice President), Katy Bittner (Treasurer), Karen Shanahan (Secretary), Waubun Smith, Alex Swenson, Jodi Swenson, Mandy Schwemmer, Josh Schwemmer, Abdirashid (and wife), Xander Gershberg

Greeting - Jolene Mason (President) 1-2 minutes
Treasurer's Report - Katy Bittner (Treasurer) 1-2 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.

Standing Committees
*Fall Festival
*Recruitment - all PTA currently
*Fundraising
*Events - Culture Event, Chair Ankhet Hesi-Ra

Updates
- Fall Festival
- Mays CAFE Thursday, October 26 from 5:30-7:00
  - Alex, Waubun, Mandy, and Karen meeting on December 8, 8:30 to plan
  - Uniform return drive in spring

Events/Projects
- SCIP presentation 6:15-6:30 (implementation and feedback)
  - Karen Shanahan presenting (Hatti Moeller had to cancel due to winter weather)
    - Handouts
      - Family Friendly SCIP
      - Eat Your Math - Base 10
      - Subtraction with Larger Numbers
    - Review SCIP through Family Friendly SCIP
      - Question: Is the SCIP just for Mays? Yes, this was developed by administrations, teachers, and parents working together. There will be opportunities in April, May, and June to be part of the FEP, Compact Revision, and SCIP revision. If you are interested in more information, see Karen Shanahan.
  - Goals
    - Reading - highlighting building Readers Workshop Mini Lesson and small group; in Writers Workshop highlighting structure of the first year curriculum
    - Math - highlighting research-proven, hands-on learning linked to specific benchmarks.
      - Looked at Base 10 materials to understand what “hands-on” learning looks like in the classroom
    - School Climate/Culture
PBIS - Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports
How do we support positive behavior, monthly recognition, involve students in classroom incentives and schoolwide goals

- Question: So these goals are specific to Mays and not directed from district? We are asked to include specific goals on Reading, Math, and School Climate, but what those goals are we decide at the building level based on our data and curriculum.

- How is Mays Monitoring SCIP implementation

- Weekly Walkthroughs
  - Every classroom (general education and SpED)
  - Done by administration, coaching staff, and district specialists
  - Question: Does district require weekly Walkthroughs? No, district does not require weekly Walkthroughs. This is something that Mays administration has put in place.
  - Question: Are the Walkthroughs announced? The subject area that will be monitored is announced weekly. The day used to be Thursday. We are now in a more informal phase where the day is not announced. Mays is trying to get to a place that teachers are comfortable with coaches, staff, and administration dropping in. The idea of the Walkthroughs is to see where we need additional Professional Development as a staff, not to critique individual teachers. Teachers go through a formal review process with administration as well.

- Weekly Leadership Meetings
  - Representing all grades levels, specialists, SpEd, MLL, administration, Parent Liaison, community partners
  - Feedback Loop on what is happening in the classroom around the SCIP

- Weekly Staff Meetings
  - Professional Development and meeting time for groups
  - Rotation of subjects
    - Math
    - ELA - reading and writing
    - IB - International Baccalaureate
    - Innocent Classrooms (PBIS)
  - Parents invited to participate in the Weekly Staff Meeting and be part of the implementation process (dates and subjects provided - see Karen Shanahan)

- What have we found

- Reading
  - More Professional Development has been given to support Readers Workshop (and Writers Workshop) through Reading Labs
    - Reading Labs divided 3-4, and K-2
      - Teachers plan Mini Lesson
      - Teachers teach Mini Lesson
      - Teachers review Mini Lesson
      - Teachers revise Mini Lesson
      - Teachers teach Mini Lesson
      - Teachers receive feedback on final Mini Lesson
Labs planned for January and February to deal with Readers Workshop small group
  - Writers Workshop format is similar to Readers Workshop, supporting one helps both

Math
  - On track for pre and post testing in every grade (benchmark link to activities)
  - Need to do additional professional development for 4-5 for using hands-on activities in the classroom. This is easier to do for the younger grades.

School Climate
  - Ongoing Innocent Classroom Professional Development is needed and supports PBIS
  - Students embrace their part in the process

Parents invited to participate in SCIP implementation through participation in Wednesday Staff Meetings between 3:15-4:15
  - Rotating schedule of focus (ELA, Innocent Classrooms, Math, IB)
  - Privacy may mean that parents would need to leave during data sharing at the end of the meeting (small professional learning communities share data on students)

Reading Partners presentation 6:30-6:45 (Monica 651 362-0430)
  - Xander Gershberg presenting
  - Provides supplemental literacy education using volunteers, one-on-one
    - Teachers refer students below grade level (designed for 6 months to 2 years behind)
    - Asses students
    - Pair with volunteer tutor from the community twice a week
    - 40 minutes, twice a week
    - Impact (see handout)
      - 4 schools in St. Paul, goal to have 50 students working in the program
      - Third year in Twin Cities, 3rd year at Mays
      - 79% met or exceeded their primary end-of-year growth goal
      - 90% mastered key foundational reading skills needed to read at grade level (k-2)

Curriculum
  - Emerging Readers
    - Letters, sounds, basic print concepts
  - Beginning Readers
    - 1st graders learning in class
    - Reviewing letter sounds, incorporating them into words, reading and interpreting reading
  - Comprehension Readers
    - Readers have a sheet linked to a skill answers based on the reading that they do aloud with the tutor
    - games
  - Assessment/Progress Monitoring
    - Monthly spelling quiz BR and CR
    - Before enrolling students the go through the STAR reading assessment
    - Mid Year STAR assessment
    - End of Year STAR assessment
• Volunteers needed
  ○ Partnerships with organizations
  ○ Minimum requirement, one hour a week
  ○ Every tutor goes through a background check, tutor orientation and training (2 hour presentation), pick a school and schedule with the coordinator

• Questions
  ○ Culturally specific books?
    ■ Financial donations and book donations, selection changes from school to school
    ■ Tutor gave a $250 donation for Mays to buy culturally relevant books
    ■ National office in LA and seeks to reflect a full spectrum of US culture
  ○ How is the tutor time spent
    ■ Prep 10 minutes, 45 minutes with students, 5 minute check-out

• Get material to Karen Shanahan to put on the Mays website

• NAAPID - Monday, February 12, 2018 (National African American Parent Involvement Day)
  ○ CWC - Elder Atum Speaker
  ○ January 9

• Culture Night
  ○ CWC and Mays PTA
  ○ Culture Night spring 2018 (May 10 tentative date)
    ■ Highlighting student work
    ■ Elders importance in culture
    ■ Sub committee - Multi-Cultural Committee - Ankhet Chair
      ● Approve funds - guarantee for $500
        ■ Mandy Schwemmer, volunteer
        ■ Alex Swenson, volunteer
        ■ Waubun, volunteer

• Movie Night (PBIS partnership)
  ○ Thursday, March 1, 2018
  ○ Inside Out - zones of regulation
  ○ Concessions
    ■ Hotdogs, popcorn, etc
  ○ License fee - no fee per Carolyn Chisholm

• Health Initiative - Jolene Mason Chair
  ○ National PTA partnering with Aldi’s
  ○ Wilder focusing on nutrition and looking further into physical activities
  ○ Family Event to get bodies moving Pedo Party
    ■ Mandy Schwemmer volunteer
  ○ Movement in Winter
    ■ Go Noodle other apps to get bodies moving
    ■ Open Gym - at rec centers and other local sites? What resources are in the community?
  ○ Mental Health Services
    ■ Social Worker - Allen Moe
    ■ KOFI - Culturally specific to African American students
Thad Wilderson
Trauma PD for parents

- Resources
  - Ashley Braun - Zumba instructor
  - Fare for All
  - Health Partners - Yum Power

- Basketball Concessions
- Volunteers
  - Alex, Xander, Mandy (will ask her volunteer group for support)

The following General PTA Meeting dates are approved:
- Tuesday, September 19, 6:00-7:30
- Tuesday, December 5, 6:00-7:30
- Tuesday, January 9, 6:00-7:30
- Tuesday, April 17, 6:00-7:30
- Tuesday, May 8, 6:00-7:30

Next PTA Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2017, 6:00-7:30. Everyone is welcome to attend.