

BES PTA General Meeting
10-5-21, 7PM

Participants (~48; taken from screen names)—ZOOM meeting

Juliette Searight, Susan Limb, Mia Morrison, Amanda Sutaria, Chris Robinson, David Hecht, Roya Rateshtari, Asha Balakrishnan, Tomoaki Ishigaki, Stephanie Kodiak, Katie Harris, Melissa Waite, RR, Kristin Regen, Rebecca Slaughter, Kevin Kenney, Kevin Stults, Jessica Gilbertson, Jodi Lazarus, Eric Kramon, Aruni Warnakula, Carol Henninger, Christie Grymes, Elizabeth Crowley, Jaclyn Greenstein, Jennifer, Jill Bradford, Kate Bradley, Lauren Bates, Lea Mosen, Marget Maurer, Micaela Fernandez Allen, Natalie, Parker, Sari Britz, Stephanie Kaplan, Vanessa Sax, Verinda Fike, Julie Lam, Anna Benefiel, Heather Golde, Jessica Mackler, John William McKenzie, Nadia Sirdar, Christie Thompson, BrandiPhone, Jason, Katharine Gordon

Introduction (Juliette Searight)

Principal's Update (Kate Bradley)

- Welcome back. Kids doing good job with masks, and otherwise moving towards “normalcy”. Kids are active, energetic, happy to be in school.
- Construction since May (building is useable, but still completing final touches)
 - o New security vestibule
 - o New classroom (2nd grade)
 - o New main office
 - o Still waiting on art rooms, music rooms, the bottom level is taking a lot longer (was supposed to be done the first week of school, but still not done).
 - o Staff is tired of construction, but it's almost done!
- New windows—winter or spring break, depends when they can get the materials in
- Media center is beautiful, spacious. Furniture is backordered but will be great—and THANK YOU PTA for donation to purchase furniture.
 - o Plan to have a celebration when media center complete.
- MCPS delivered 6 new Boxlight panels, mobile and have been used all over
- Chromebooks—Parents responsible for all parts. If you have problems, losses, etc, contact Sarah Chuk, Media Specialist.
- Halloween (Friday October 29)
 - o K-4 parties in classrooms
 - o 5th grade on blacktop
 - No parade
 - o Costumes are great, but need facemasks and no Halloween masks
 - o Party parents can send home goody bags, but no food in class
 - o 1-2 parent volunteers per class, and no siblings
 - Volunteers must take required video training
- Principal's Coffee on Wednesday Oct 6 at 6:30. Will go into COVID quarantine, etc, tomorrow night.

PTA Board 2021-2022 presented to membership for vote (Juliette)

Some changes made over summer

President: Juliette Searight Evans

President-Elect: Hie Jung Limb (Susan)

Treasurer: Kevin Stults

Secretary: Katharine Hope Gordon

VP of Fundraising: vacant

VPs of Education: Lauren Bates and Jodi Lazarus

VP of Diversity and Inclusion: Beth Crowley

VPs of Communication and Membership: Amanda Sutaria and Jessica Mackler

VP of In School Activities: Asha Balakrishnan and Erika Satlof

VP of Before and After School Activities: Verinda Fike (nominated not confirmed)

VP of Social Activities: Heather Golde

VP of Community Service: Mia Morrison

MCCPTA Delegates: Melissa Waite and David Hecht

Assistant Treasurer: Girish Tumpabura

Cluster Reps: Laurie Blunt and Kevin Kenney

Special Education Reps: Vanessa Sax and Marget Maurer

GT Liason: Laura Beers

NAACP Rep: vacant

- Katharine Gordon moved to approve, Vanessa Sax seconded.
- **36 votes for. Board slate for 2021-2022 approved.**

NOTE: Open Roles=Fundraising and NAACP Rep

- **Plea for someone to step forward for these positions**
- (From chat: Anna Benefiel is interested but would like to talk to previous Chair)

2021-2022 Budget presented for vote (Kevin Stults)

- Net change is -\$49,370.00 projected, but that is with \$47,000 worth of grants from PTA
- Unclear what is going to be able to happen this year with Fundraising...
- Marget Maurer moved to accept, Susan Limb seconded the motion.
- **37 votes for, and 2 abstaining. Budget for 2021-2022 approved.**

MCCPTA COVID update (Juliette)

- MCCPTA lobbying to improve quarantine protocols, and encourage parents to sign up for randomized testing
- JS forwarded Takoma Park ES flow chart for COVID protocols in the Zoom chat
- BES is "cohort 3" for randomized testing. MCPS is currently testing in "cohort 2", unclear when they will move to "cohort 3"

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Introduction (Beth Crowley)

- Introduction meeting call next Tuesday around 7
- Old google group has been revived
- Email Beth at elizabethcrowleymckinnon@gmail.com if interested

Social Activities Update (Heather Golde)

- Not sure what will be possible this year, sort of in a holding pattern
- Back to school picnic was great, went smoothly.
- Mayfair will hopefully be able to take place
- Drama club
 - o Will likely start practices after December
- Book fair also may be postponed to after kids are vaccinated (Juliette)

Community Service Update (Mia Morrison)

- October 13 from 7:30-8:30, virtual meeting for a subcommittee—contact Mia if you're interested (miashana@gmail.com)
- *Good neighbors of Capitol Hill collecting gently used household items for Afghan families*
 - o Seeking gently used household items* (bedding, pots, pans, plates, rugs etc.), toys and clothes to support Afghan families resettle in Montgomery County and other parts of the DC metro area.
From now until October 17th drop off your gently used donations at 6510 79th Street, Cabin John, MD (leave donations in the plastic bin outside of the fence).
 - o Volunteer on October 17th from 2:00 -3:30 PM to sort donations and load them into the car
- Future projects: Thanksgiving donations, plogging
- Goal to get kids more involved in Community service again this year.

MCCPTA Advocacy Goals Update (David Hecht and Melissa Waite)

- MCCPTA advocates with MCPS, BOE, County Council, Maryland State legislature
- MCCPTA delegates will be looking for feedback from BES community on proposed priorities for 2021-2022 school year
 - o Topics include Communication, COVID response, Curriculum, Facilities, Transportation,
- Survey results to be reviewed by MCCPTA delegates to look for trends, redundancy, etc, and passed by Board prior to going back to MCCPTA
- Hot topics
 - o COVID mitigation by eating lunch outside, result of MCCPTA concerns
 - o Renaming of schools in MCPS—students are petitioning to rename 6 schools in MCPS. Trying to define how this process could work, currently there are no protocols in place for renaming.

Vanessa proposed motion to adjourn, Kevin Stults seconded. Meeting adjourned ~8PM.