



**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2019 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Our Mission:** To foster close relationships between the home and the school and provide volunteer and financial support for parents and teachers to work cooperatively in the development and education of children at Mitchell Elementary School. We welcome and embrace Mitchell families and promote inclusive membership regardless of race, sex, class, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, religion, or ability. Mitchell PTO strives to promote participation in broader educational programs in our community.

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Attending: Katie Hopgood, Matt Hilton, Vicki Engling, Kraig Harrison, Mae Lucio, Rachele Stucker, Gabrielle Borden, Megan Molleron, Kristen Ochomogo, Nidhal Beydoun, Jill Pritts, Alvin Hill, Andrea Nance, Kristen Fraser, Gabrielle Tarrow, Chris Payne, Julie Payne, Ashley Robinson, Danielle Robinson, Rich Walkenbach, Lisa Walkenbach, Lindsay Mann, Liz Thomas, Cathleen Haglund, Nirmala Kamiselt, Pete Finnie, Larry Kowalski, Sarah Anton.

**Principal's Report - Mr. Hilton**

- Review of security protocols during meeting. Call to order at 6:06pm.
- In past meetings, we've had presentations by teachers to help parents to better understand different aspects of the childrens' learning. Let him know if there are any presentations or guest speakers you'd like him to bring to these meetings.
- Welcome to Mitchell. Teachers and students are settling in.
- This year, we have welcomed new teachers who are bilingual and better represent our community.
- There is now a 3s preschool program at Mitchell.
- We have a Girls on the Run team forming.
- We are entering Spanish Heritage month. Students will learn through the curriculum and have a presentation in October.

**President's Report - Katie Hopgood**

- Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered time this year.
- Summer updates:
  - We've cleaned the PTO closet. If you are chairing an event, please check the backstock before purchasing new supplies.

- We purchased a new refrigerator for the PTO area of the Community Center. If you are chairing an event and using the fridge, please keep it nut free.
- Looking for feedback on Welcome Back Night:
  - Sarah Anton noted that it was the best organized yet.
  - Cathleen Haglund suggested that the teachers wear name tags higher up near their collar, instead of the low necklace style.
  - Another parent noted that the balloons were nice on the poles - easier to see than when they were just strung.
- Background check forms must be filled out by anyone who plans to volunteer at school and with the PTO. Once filled out, turn them in to Mr. Hilton and it will be run through iChat. All information remains confidential.
  - A parent asked if food vendors, etc. need to have a background check. Mr. Hilton will find out the answer.
- Because we regularly advertised for the PTO thrift shop, we received a \$1200 bonus from their overage.

### **Treasurer's Report - Pete Finnie**

- August Update:
  - 5th Grade Camp will be paid for this year.
  - We plan to raise the fund's for next year's camp this year so that we're ready to pay next fall.
- Sarah reminded treasurer to add Sodexo to the Treasurer's report.
- Jill added that the PTO helps to fund field trips and events. Each year, we spend about \$23,000 on educational pursuits including Science Olympiad.

### **Fun Run Update**

- Amanda Hernandez is the Fun Run chairperson.
- This year, there will be a few changes. We won't be counting laps with rubber bands. Instead, students will just run as much as they can in the time period and have fun!
- Students will begin the run under a balloon arch and run through bubbles.
- Classrooms have an incentive to raise money - the chance to slime the principal with water guns!
- Pledge forms will go home soon. Students will ask for a flat donation, not a donation per lap.
- Family and friends who live out of town can donate through PayPal.
- If you have any low cost ideas to add more fun elements to the run, please share with the Amanda.
- Sarah has asked students from Huron High School's cross country team to run with our students during Fun Run.

### **Fall Fest Update**

- Tonya Tuitman is the Fall Fest chairperson. She planned a Harry Potter themed Fall

Fest last year. This year, the theme is School Spirit.

- Tonya is planning games and photo booths. She's also secured a volunteer face painter. There will be arts and crafts and a live bluegrass band.
- Tonya is looking at food truck options. The Iron has the best prices and carry foods like chicken waffles, waffle dogs, veggie biscuit sandwiches, etc. They will create a menu specifically for Mitchell.
- We'd like to do a fundraiser at the event to cover costs. Tonya suggested an old fashioned bake sale. To avoid bringing more food allergens into the school through a bake sale, parents suggested some other options such as:
  - Selling Spirit Wear
  - A donation box
  - A raffle to have lunch with Mr. Hilton
  - Selling baked goods at Scarlett on election day
  - Raffle a DJ? One of our parents is a DJ

### **Old Business**

- Sodexo update from Sarah Anton:
  - We're on for selling concessions at the UM homecoming game on October 5th.
  - Volunteers will arrive at 8am. We can make \$75 per person and we need 22 volunteers.
  - It's a fast and fun fundraiser. We can help volunteers get to the stadium by carpooling.
- We still need a Fundraising Chair. Let us know if you have any experience or if you're interested.

### **New Business**

- Nirmala Kamisely is interested in starting a Spelling Bee here at Mitchell. It would be an after school club.
  - Once we are enrolled in Scrips Spelling Bee, we can get started.
  - Ashley made a motion to fund the Spelling Bee program. Another seconded. 22 were in favor. The PTO will fund the enrollment cost.
- Kristen Ochomogo is interested in bringing Odyssey of the Mind to Mitchell Elementary.
  - It is a creative, problem solving competition.
  - To start, we would offer only the primary years program - K-2.
  - Fees would be \$245 per year plus material costs.
  - Teams would be 5-7 kids who present their solution to a problem through an 8 minute skit.
  - A parent asked how this differs from Science Olympiad. Odyssey of the Mind is more about scientific thought and problem solving. It's a good way to get kids who are more interested in art and theater involved in science.

- The PTO suggested we keep this on the agenda and pass out information to families. We will bring it back to the PTO board next month.

### **Announcements/Questions**

- Cathleen Haglund talked about ways the PTO can do something more permanent to help the school.
  - One suggestion would be indoor and outdoor sensory paths. Indoor would be vinyl. Outdoor could just be paint.
  - Kids can theme, design and install the sensory paths. Financial cost would be low and it can be part of our pathway connection.
  - All were in favor of funding this idea.
- Box Tops - Rachele Stucker
  - We can still submit physical box tops. We will still do one more big collection.
  - Add the box tops app to your phone to make scanning receipts easy.

**Meeting adjourned 7:25 pm**

### **Looking Ahead**

- Fun Run - October 4, 2019
- Sodexo Fundraiser - October 5, 2019
- Next PTO meeting - October 15, 2019
- Mitchell Fall Fest - October 25, 2019
- Blaze Pizza Restaurant Night - November 12, 2019