



Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020 – 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: Matt Hilton, Alison Epler, Katie Hopgood, Vicki Engling, Kraig Harrison, Megan Wolgast, Heather Finnie, Pete Finnie, Ashley Robinson, Meghan Nollen, Sarah Anton, Rachele Stucker, Kesha Faison, Kerry Jahn-Drone, John Franks, Alex Hencken, Kristen Fraser, Jami Socha-Phegley, Torrie Hoffmeyer, Julie Payne, Aaron Padgen, Amy Diebold, Lillian Chen.
- PTO Pres. Katie Hopgood welcomed the group and reviewed Zoom guidelines/suggestions:
 - Please mute your mic.
 - Please label your window with your name.
 - Please try to submit questions in the chat.
 - Please raise your hand and wait to be called upon before unmuting your mic.
 - Please try to limit logging in to one device per household to minimize audio interference.
 - If you are zooming while in motion, please turn your camera off.
 - Votes will be held by voice. If a clear majority is not discernible by voice vote, we will ask each member to record their voice via the chat function. Yes, No, or abstain.
- Introduction of the new Executive Board:
 - President: Katie Hopgood
 - Vice President: John Franks
 - Secretary: Vicki Engling
 - Treasurer: Pete Finnie
 - Co-Treasurer: Meghan Nollen
 - Fundraiser: Kraig Harrison
 - PTOC Representative: Rachele Stucker

Principal's Report - Mr. Hilton

- Thank you to Mitchell families for their support and patience as we begin this year online.
- Mitchell's focus so far has been on a successful launch - getting devices to all students

and figuring out daily technical logistics. Attendance has been high so far.

- Morning meetings are important. Right now, they are focusing on the new aspects of morning meeting (Zoom, being online, etc.), but when those become more familiar, morning meetings will be more like Mitchell morning meetings used to be.
- There will be a supply distribution scheduled in which returning students can return library books, old technology, and turn in enrollment forms. Student supplies will be distributed in a cardboard luggage-style box. Mr. Hilton is excited to see students and families during the supply distribution.

Secretary Report - Victoria Engling

- The PTO approved meeting minutes from February 2020.

Treasurer's Report - Pete Finnie

- Pete explained the difference between our normal budget vs. the proposed budget that will exist during Covid. He removed the expenses for all planned events that can no longer occur during Covid. Our projected expenses this year without Covid would have been \$23,148.00. Our projection with Covid is \$9,070.00. However, this is a fluid budget. If we decide that there are more expenses, we will need to do more fundraising.
- Ashley Robinson suggested that if we cannot hold a 5th Grade Graduation in person, the budget line could increase and we could celebrate their achievements in other ways. She also asked if we have a committee for 5th Grade Graduation. Mr. Hilton and Katie Hopgood noted that there is not a committee and Ashley is willing to start building one.

PTOC Report - Rachele Stucker

- The next PTOC meeting is Monday, September 21st at 7pm and open to all AAPS families.

Old Business

- We upgraded the grant submission process for teachers and placed a link on the "About Us" page on our website. This makes the process easier for teachers.
- The Sensory Path partnership with Huron High School is on hold.
- Camp Storer is not holding camp this year, so 5th Grade Camp is canceled. They have sent us a refund of our deposit. The 5th Grade team is working on alternate ideas.

New Business

- We will run Scholastic Book Fair online this year. It will run for two weeks and Mitchell will receive 25% of sales. Book orders over \$25 will receive free shipping.
- We are creating a school directory to keep families connected. The directory will be password protected and on the PTO website.
- Start thinking about what events can be converted into a virtual format. The group had several ideas:
 - International Night could become International Week;
 - Can we hold events during Wednesday's downtime, or at an earlier time like 3:30pm;
 - Fall Fest Costume Fashion Show;
 - Spirit Week;
 - Virtual Talent Show - submit videos over time and have a watch party;

- Virtual Fun Run or Virtual 5k fundraiser;
- Virtual Read-a-thon for fun prizes;
- Virtual Black Men Read event;
- Science Olympiad might offer a virtual platform.
- When/if we return to school, masks will be mandated and provided by AAPS. However, a group of parents have started sewing back-up masks for both children and adults. 300 have been sewn for students and 90 have been sewn for adults. Others are welcome to donate.
- We'd love to do more Teacher Appreciation gifts throughout the year. Our first idea is to create a video of students in their learning spaces to send to the teachers and staff.

Open Discussion

- A parent noted that some elementary schools have a student of the month/student of the week program that teams up with local banks that offer small scholarships. Mr. Hilton said he would be curious to find out what kind of criteria other schools are using to make that decision, which he thinks would be a difficult one to make.
- A parent asked Mr. Hilton about the supply kits and if they will ever contain physical books. Will there be other opportunities to get books into the hands of the students? Scholastic might have a wishlist option that could help with this. Mr. Hilton will start thinking of ways to make the library available. They also discussed Schoology and how it will be used to access content and see assignments.
- Julie Payne, a parent and social worker, expressed interest in helping Mitchell families that are really struggling - to connect them with community centers or churches to get the help they need. Mr. Hilton will get her connected with the group working on this in AAPS.
- Will we run another coat drive this year? We are going to look into coordinating with the PTO Thrift Shop and House by the Side of the Road to see if they can help meet the needs of Mitchell families.

Closing Thoughts

- Kraig Harrison and Kesha Faison both gave a big thank you to parents for being patient and helpful this past week.
- Mr. Hilton and Ms. Epler said that it has been great seeing the students again and visiting different classrooms throughout the day.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:12 pm.