



Meeting Minutes
November 17, 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, Victoria Engling, Kraig Harrison, John Franks, Megan Wolgast, Pete Finnie, Frances Lazette, Meghan Nollen, Jill Rachele Stucker, Alvin Hill, Kate Hutchens.
- 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.

Principal's Report - Mr. Hilton and Alison Epler

- Report cards should be issued December 17th this year instead of before Thanksgiving.
- The second supply distribution went really smoothly. Students received art supplies and books to read. 5th Graders received instruments. 4th Graders received recorders. It was a highlight for staff to be able to see some parents and students in person.
- We are welcoming a new staff member in the office. Sonia is a Spanish speaker and will also be answering phone calls along with Martha.

Secretary Report - Victoria Engling

- Rachele made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 2020. Kraig seconded. All approved.

Treasurer's Report - Pete Finnie

- The October beginning balance was \$36,600 and the end balance was \$38,150.
- The 5th Grade Camp refund was posted to October's report.
- We paid PTOC dues in October.

PTOC Report - Rachele Stucker

- There was a PTOC meeting on November 16th.
- The theme was how to support all students - led by Dr. Swift.
- One major discussion was on accessibility issues, brought up by a parent whose child is legally blind.
- Other concerns were about lack of breaks for middle school students and general screen fatigue.
- There was a chance for each PTOC Rep. to talk about how school and PTO are going. Some schools haven't been having PTO meetings. Fundraisers have been low key, mostly restaurant fundraisers. Some schools have been doing them more frequently, such as once a week or once every two weeks.

Old Business

- The Sensory Path partnership with Huron High School is on hold.
- The Scholastic Book Fair will be open the rest of the year and families can continue to make orders.
- Spirit Wear distribution was very successful. Many have been asking about when the next order will be. We need a minimum of 50 pieces to make an order, so we plan to wait until the spring.
- The School Directory is live. Those who signed up for the School Directory have received an email on how to access the directory. We might get more interest if teachers send the directory invite out in their newsletters.
- Grade Level coffees won't happen until after Thanksgiving. Let Katie know if you would like to host.

New Business

- The PTO will be launching "Mitchell Builds," a virtual community event.
 - There will be a lego build and a found object build, and it will be divided by grade level - pre-K through 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade through 5th Grade.
 - The build themes are buildings, animals, or simple machines.
 - It will run from December 7th to December 18th and students will post videos or photos to Flipgrid. All comments will be monitored before they go live.
 - Everyone who participates will be entered into a raffle for a prize.
- Science Olympiad has announced that they will run this year and that it will be fully virtual. We will need to have a head coach by December 3rd if we want to participate. We need to send out info to see if anyone would be interested.
 - There will be a new format.
 - The events will be self directed.
 - Each month will have a theme.
 - Students will record a video of their work and send it to their coach.
 - Students will need a device and a google account.
 - Grades 2 through 5 can participate.
 - They are waiving fees this year.

Open Discussion

- Pete noted that the local Dine to Donate fundraisers have been successful here and at Scarlett. Would it be worth asking other types of local businesses if they would like to do this kind of fundraiser?

Meeting Adjourned.