



Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021 – 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, Ingrid Racine, Kerry Jahn-Drone, Katie Hopgood, Victoria Engling, Kraig Harrison, John Franks, Meghan Nollen, Rachele Stucker, Kristen Fraser, Norman Cole Hum, Kristen Ochomogo, Nikki Stephens, Julie Payne, Pete Finnie, Beth Christensen, Amy Diebold.
- 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

- Electrical work has begun at Mitchell to fix lighting and air conditioning.
- Report cards will be coming home soon.
- Mr. Hilton started a question and answer session about the Return to Hybrid plan.
 - John asked about the fall. Mr. Hilton stated that the district is planning for full time start for school in the fall.
 - Someone asked about PTO events. Mr. Hilton said that parents will not be in the building and PTO will remain virtual through June.
 - Rachele asked if there is a date when we'll have a set schedule for Roomies and Zoomies. Mr. Hilton has no definitive information yet.
 - Kerry asked if there will be mask breaks outside. Mr. Hilton said that they are designating areas outside where they can take mask breaks when teachers are present. There will be no mask breaks during recesses where teachers are not present.

Secretary Report - Victoria Engling

- Minutes for January 2021 need to be approved because the February meeting was canceled. January minutes were approved by the group.

Treasurer's Report - Pete Finnie and Meghan Nollen

- There is currently \$7,535.00 in the 5th Grade camp account.
- We had an income of \$925.00 in February.
- There is \$42,750.00 in the main account.

PTOC Report - Rachele Stucker

- The next PTO Council meeting will be next Monday, March 22nd. The topic will be Restorative Justice.
- Last month, the AAPS Equity Team gave a presentation.
 - Slides of the presentation can be found on the PTOC website.
 - Jill Pritts (former Mitchell PTOC Rep.) moderated the meeting and is actively working toward equity in the PTOs.
 - Ingrid asked if they discussed funding issues at the meeting. Rachele noted that though they didn't discuss it directly, they seem more receptive to fixing this problem.

Old Business - Katie Hopgood

- The Scholastic Book Fair moved the Mitchell date to April 19th. Even though school will be hybrid, Scholastic will still be online only and ship to homes directly.
- Sign-up for the April Science Olympiad session is still open.
- The Directory is still up and taking new entries.
- International Week - Meghan Nollen
 - Meghan is planning a different Dine to Donate Restaurant each week in May.
 - We are gathering entries to create a recipe book of family recipes.
 - Meghan hopes to be able to create a fact sheet for each continent.
 - The virtual International Week will have links to museums and videos, such as crafts.
 - Ingrid has some ideas and would like to help.
- Spirit Wear distribution will take place the first available Wednesday after we receive them.

New Business

- A 5th Grade Graduation Committee has been formed. Graduation cannot be in person. The 5th Grade teachers are working on a plan.
- Teacher Appreciation
 - Thinking ahead because Teacher Appreciation will have to look differently this year. For the return to hybrid classroom, teachers will have buttons with their face on them so that kids will know what they look like without a mask. We ordered two clorox wipes per classroom/office. Teachers and students will also receive reusable masks made by PTO members.
 - In April, we plan to drop off treats for the teachers and staff.
 - In May, we plan to have a day where a local chef prepares them lunch.
- 2021/2022 PTO Board Nominations
 - The PTO Nomination form will go out soon. Amanda Hernandez is the committee chair. The slate will be presented in April and voted on in May.
 - There are job descriptions for the board positions and several of the other roles on the PTO website.

Open Discussion

- Community Garden
 - Beth, Kraig and Ingrid discussed the idea of bringing a community garden to Mitchell.
 - They are actively working on a grant through the Whole Kids Foundation.
 - They hope that the garden can be used as an outdoor learning tool.
 - They are looking for two teachers (one preK-1st Grade and one 2nd-5th grade) to help move the plan forward.
 - Mr. Hilton noted that there are a few options for a location that has a water source.
 - Mr. Hilton thinks that we can move forward with this, and that he hopes that the Rain Garden can be updated as well.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:13pm.