



Memorial PTO Meeting

September 16, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Dr. Bilsborough, Alena Guerra, Michelle Kirkby, Diana Frascella, Kelly Behbehani, Katherine Weisse, Nicole Drummond, Sofia Viglas, Jesse Beauregard, Jessica May

1. Welcome and Introductions

Board members, Dr. Bilsborough and parents introduced themselves.

There was a lot of positive feedback from students, parents, and teachers about the first day of school on Zoom. Many shared that the open house helped kids to feel more comfortable on Zoom today.

2. Review of submitted questions

One submitted question: Will there be room parents for Cohort D?

Answer: Yes, there will be room parents for Cohort D. We want all kids to feel included in the school community.

3. Important Dates

a. **Upcoming Meetings** (Wednesdays) - Everyone is in agreement that meetings will move to Zoom at 8pm on the following Wednesdays:

- i. Wed. October 28
- ii. Wed. January 13
- iii. Wed. March 3
- iv. Wed. May 5

4. Recent Events/Initiatives:

a. **School Supply Kits**-The distribution of the kits went smoothly. Cohort D students and students who have left the district also got their kits.

This year we had the largest number of school supply kits ordered ever!

- b. **First day of school/welcome back**-From Dr. Bilsborough's perspective, the first day of school went very well. The teachers were so proud of the kids and appreciative of all of the family support.
- c. **Lanyards**-The lanyards were delivered and will be given to kids tomorrow (9/17) and Monday (9/21). Dr. Bilsborough thinks the lanyards should remain in school and not be taken home so they don't get lost.

5. Upcoming Events/Initiatives

- a. **Supporting teachers this year** (i.e., gathering feedback about what they need, ST math) The PTO wants to support teachers and help in any way that we can-what do the teachers need? Dr. Bilsborough said nothing right now. It will be easier to figure out what the teachers need after the kids are back in the building and the teachers have started teaching.
 - i. Dr. Bilsborough is thankful for the welcome back set-up in the teacher's lounge. It is also a way to encourage teachers to reach out to the PTO to let us know what they need. Nicole said that one goal of town-wide PTO this year is to unify K-5 PTOs.
 - ii. ST Math-Michelle asked if ST Math was cut from the budget? Dr. Bilsborough said that we decided not to use ST Math anymore for a few reasons: It was not giving teachers the information they needed; it was not aligned with the curriculum; and ST Math is not used at Wheelock. Dr. Bilsborough is hopeful that they can find a more effective K-5 math program. She will reach out to PTO if we can help with funding.

- b. **Room Parents**-Dr. Bilsborough said that hopefully we can have some of our in-person celebrations this year. All celebrations will be party in a bag. We can't have any parent volunteers in the classroom. There will have to be two separate parties on different days-one for Cohort A, and one for Cohort B. We will need two room parents, one from Cohort A and one from Cohort B. Room parents will act as the liaison between parents and teachers.

- c. **PIN** - PIN will be virtual. The elementary principals are thinking of changing from an individual format to a grade level format. It's important for parents to "meet" all the teachers in the grade since teachers are planning together and creating shared asynchronous teaching videos. They are waiting to schedule PIN until after we have started with back to school so that they can report back on how things are going. PTO can definitely be a part of PIN somehow. We are all looking for unique ways that parents can be involved this year.

6. Principal's Report

- a. Thank you for the delicious luncheon, the lanyards, and the welcome back display in the teacher's lounge!
- b. Please be patient with us. Please know we are trying-we know that as we move forward with back to school; some things will work, and some will not. We will adapt as needed. The more communication we can have with each other, the better-please let us know if there is anything you hear about that we can help with.
- c. The school looks great. The teachers have done a great job making the classrooms look warm and inviting despite all of the changes.

7. Treasurer's Report and Budget Review

- a. Some teacher start up fund checks from last year were never cashed. Nicole said that we should re-issue those checks as long as those teachers are still in the building.
- b. Katherine asked if we should give a gift for Melissa Foley (technology specialist) as a thank you for all of her hard work? Her role has certainly increased since March. Everyone supports this idea.
- c. Katherine also asked if the preschool is having music this year with Mr. Ken?
 - i. Dr. Bilsborough recommends holding off on booking Mr. Ken for now. He cannot come into the classrooms because singing is not allowed, and the preschool is not doing any remote instructional days.
- d. Katherine will update the staff list and run it by Dr. Bilsborough and Irene to make sure no one is missing.

8. Other

- a. Jesse asked about using some of our funds to help sanitize the playgrounds so that the kids can use them.

- i. Dr. Billsborough, said that right now, the district is not allowing playground use. She is hopeful that directive will change eventually.
- b. Sofia asked if we should start thinking of virtual ideas for activities and fundraising, such as a scavenger hunt, or a virtual paint nite?
- c. Nicole encouraged us to take steps to do some smaller fundraisers for Memorial since the donations this year will be much less than years past. We will not have a Winter Carnival. We should think outside the box to raise money. PTO will start collecting dues between Oct. 15-30th.
- d. Nicole mentioned that there will now be one volunteer form for parents to fill out to volunteer for grades K-5 instead of one form for each school.

Next meeting is October 28th at 8pm on Zoom