



Memorial PTO Meeting

October 28, 2020 - 8pm via Zoom

Attendees: Dr. Bilsborough, Alena Guerra, Michelle Kirkby, Diana Frascella, Kelly Behbehani, Katherine Weisse, Kelly Scobbo, Sophia Viglas, Meghan Fuller

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Events

a. **Halloween Parties via Zoom:** Overall feedback was good. Michelle and Kelly S. said their kindergartners enjoyed it. Diana said that her son didn't feel like it was much different from a regular Zoom. Dr. Bilsborough reported that some teachers chose not to show the Memorial Halloween parade video because not all of the students in their class were represented. There were 170 photos in the virtual Halloween parade, and it will be sent on with the Thursday packet tomorrow (10/29).

b. **Teacher Professional Development Day - Box Lunches:** The PTO is happy to support the teachers and supply the box lunches.

3. President's Report / Updates

a. **Town-Wide meeting** Oct. 27 - updates

i. Make sure that Google Docs are up to date and ready for transfer

ii. **New volunteer form for town-wide**-There will be one form across the schools to make things more centralized this year. More information about this coming soon!

iii. **How to get more parents to join?** Turnout has been historically low at PTO meetings.

1. Michelle suggested having a topic for each PTO meeting and have a teacher or staff member come and speak about this topic.
2. Sophia suggested maybe having drop-in hours for parents. Parents can sign on to Zoom at a certain time to check in/ask questions with administrators and/or staff.
3. Are teachers interested in joining these meetings? I.e. a teacher joined the Wheelock meeting. Dr. Bilsborough will ask teachers if they would like to attend a PTO meeting. It does not have to be the same teacher at each meeting.
4. Megan F. asked how teachers are feeling about the changes to the current situation. Dr. Bilsborough said that teachers of course want to teach the kids in person if it is safe to do so, but they understand that things are constantly changing, and they are trying to stay afloat and make things work-the staff will be fine with whatever route we take, and adjust as necessary.
 - a. Dr. Bilsborough also noted that a big concern is whether parents would be willing to move their child's class in order to make 4-day FDK work. Survey data will tell us.

4. **Fundraisers/Initiatives** -What are some creative ways to fundraise this year? How can we adapt our fundraising efforts and initiatives to the current environment, while also showing appreciation for our teachers?
 - a. **Annual Fund Drive** - Annual Fund Drive (now with Venmo option); can share on individual class pages. There has been a good response so far.
 - b. **Medfield spirit wear** - one more week
 - c. **Other Fundraising Ideas**
 - i. **Candy Grams** - suggestion/feedback to move to hearts in February since there are a lot of asks around the holidays; might be helpful to do something later in winter; adding Blake in. Everyone thought this is a great idea.
 - ii. **Wine Tasting** - Virtual with Medfield Wine Shoppe-Wine tasting via Zoom. Proceeds go to PTO. The event would

support local businesses and bring parents together in a safe way.

- iii. **Cookie Decorating Kit**-Connect with local bakers and offer decorating kits for families to do at home
 - iv. **Flamingos**-Something like Wapole does-Flamingoing can happen at any time during the year-it's not associated with a holiday.
- d. **Idea:** presentation at staff meeting to encourage grant requests. Dr. Bilsborough said that if we (a PTO rep) come to the faculty meeting in-person or on Zoom, we might get a better response from staff.
- e. **Staff appreciation Ideas:** How can we make sure we are showing appreciation for our teachers?
- i. **Appreciation lunch** (before holidays): Maybe on one or both of the December conference days? Teachers will be in the building for conferences; they won't have much time in between teaching and when conferences start, but that is ok since they can't eat together in the conference room anyway-teachers can grab their boxed lunch to go.
 - 1. Kelly S. said to let us know what teachers want for snacks, little supplies, etc. We are happy to provide.
 - ii. **Appreciation notes**-How can we get positive messages out about the teachers/staff to counteract some of the negativity on social media?
 - 1. Sophia suggested getting the kids involved to make video thank you messages on a Padlet?
 - 2. Maybe room parents could coordinate thank-you messages to the teachers from the kids around Thanksgiving?
 - 3. Michelle suggested somehow highlighting how happy the kids are in school? Maybe have the students from Memorial talking about their teachers and have Dr. Bilsborough put it in the weekly newsletter?
 - 4. Dr. Bilsborough asked if we see people posting false information or asking questions on social media to point them in her direction so they can have a conversation and Dr. Bilsborough (or one of the other principals) can explain why things are the way they are. Dr. Bilsborough

emphasized that the teachers, staff and administrators are all trying hard to do what is best for our kids.

5. Principal's Report

- a. **Parent surveys**-we are waiting on results. If a change is made to the current schedule, it would be sometime after Thanksgiving.
 - i. There are pros and cons to all of the different scenarios. We recognize that changes to the schedule could be very disruptive for families. We recognize that lead time for parents is important. And there is a domino effect-if Memorial changes its schedule, that affects MAP, Kidsborough, etc. Also, the rise in cases plays a role in what the district decides.
- b. **Kindergarten Registration**-We are working on the logistics. We are not sure how we can do a walk-in registration, so we are trying to figure out how to do it online. Information should be coming out shortly.
- c. **New Tradition?** Teachers decorated pumpkins (we had about 20-25 participants), and we put them outside for a pumpkin walk for the kids. It was fun-maybe we'll do it again!
- d. **PD Day (10/30)**-Teachers will prep since they are missing the next few Wednesdays. They are also working on curriculum maps that will be made available to families.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. **Income:** School supply kits
- b. **Expenses:** Teacher start-up funds, Friday (10/30) staff lunch, teacher appreciation station set-up and refills

Next meeting – January 13th at 8pm via Zoom

Next town-wide meeting- January 27th (Alena won't be able to make it)