

PTSA Meeting Minutes

Sligo MS PTSA met on Tuesday April 12, 2016 in the Media Room.

Alison Gillespie presided over the Board Meeting.

Quorum was present for voting.

The meeting opened at 7:05pm.

ATTENDANCE

Alison Gillespie, President

Chris Rutledge, Vice President, Administration, Einstein Cluster Coordinator

Esther Curry, Vice President, Communications

Jeannette O'Connor, Vice President, Fundraising Committee

Scott Leonard, Treasurer

Drina Henry, Secretary

Attendance - 17 PTSA members attended the meeting.

BOD and PTSA Meeting Minutes (Alison Gillespie)

A copy of the BOD and PTSA Meeting Minutes were made available for attendees for review before voting.

VOTE: Alison Gillespie moved to approve the February 23, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and PTSA Meeting Minutes. A motion was moved to second the Motion.

APPROVE: The April 12, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and PTSA Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee (Alison Gillespie, Chris Rutledge, Drina Henry)

Chris Rutledge encouraged PTSA members in attendance to sign up for vacant PTSA leadership positions for next year, particularly for the treasurer position. Any volunteers or suggestions for volunteers can be sent to any of the members of the Nominating Committee. PTSA leadership elections will take place during the next PTSA meeting on May 10, 2016.

Spending Updates:

Water Cooler

The Health Room needs a new water cooler. Sangita Leonard proposed the PTSA should fund a new water cooler. The matter was opened for discussion.

Vote: Alison Gillespie made a motion to approve funding a new water cooler for the Health Room for \$125. Another motion was proposed to fund it and everyone voted.

Approved: The water cooler system for the Health Room at Sligo MS was approved unanimously \$125 as a Staff Grant expense. (It was noted the Board did not approve any annual costs. However, it can be proposed to the board next year for approval.)

Magnets (Alison Gillespie)

Alison explained the importance of the Sligo magnets to our school's spirit.

Vote: Alison proposed the PTSA purchase 250 magnets at the bulk rate of \$2.50 for \$625.

Approved: The PTSA unanimously approved purchasing Sligo MS 250 magnets for \$625.

Bylaws Update (Chris Rutledge)

Chris Rutledge handed out a copy of the By-Laws with handwritten inserts to meeting attendees for discussion.

He explained the proposed revisions to the vice president section of the By-Laws including four vice president positions: 1. Administrative/Executive, 2. Membership, 3. Fundraising and 4. Communications/Outreach.

PTSA members discussed revising the By-Laws. Additional revisions may be considered at the next PTSA meeting before approving on May 10, 2016.

MCPS Choice Program (Alison Gillespie)

MCPS published a report that revealed the lack of opportunity for minorities to join the MCPS Choice program. Alison Gillespie discussed the report and encouraged members to attend MCPS meetings regarding this hot topic including:

Wednesday, April 6, 2016 Gaithersburg, MD
Monday, April 18, 2016 Kennedy High School
Thursday, May 5, 2016 Walter Johnson High School

Members of the PTSA were encouraged to contact the BOD regarding their opinions of the report.

Gillian Hueber volunteered to be our school's point person for responding to the report and other advocacy issues. Gillian suggested the student government become more aware of county issues and advocate for their school.

Melanee Bryant agreed to contact Dan Reed, from One Montgomery, to create a Minority scholars program at our school.

Translation Update

Though we have contacted elected officials and MCPS employees requesting translation services, we still need more help with foreign language translation for parents. Principal Dimmick pointed out Informational Calls are now translated. He suggested using text messages to increase communication for those who choose to use the feature.

IB/Middle Years Program (MYP)

Sligo MS is the only middle school feeding into Einstein HS without a Pre-IB program. Einstein as an IB program and Sligo students are not exposed to the IB program until attending Einstein HS.

Obstacles for creating a Pre-IB program at Sligo MS includes: 1) Sligo MS has underperformed in standardized tests for the last 14 years 2) The IB program is very costly to train teachers and 3) MCPS budget cuts create more challenges in obtaining funds to start an IB program at Sligo MS.

Upcoming Staff Changes at Sligo MS (Dimmick)

Principal Dimmick informed the meeting attendees of new teachers were hired and are coming to Sligo MS including: a new special education teacher, a new full time counselor, a new science teacher, a new English teacher and possible a new math teacher. He also explained due to MCPS's policy regarding diversity among the administration, a few administrative positions may be switched and/or eliminated such as the Assistant Principal position (Mr. Lear) and Ms. Finkbinker's position. These changes are not due poor performances. Sligo's administration must comply with the county's rule to have an administration that reflects its student body.

The Meeting ended at 9:05pm.