



MVCS PTA General Membership Meeting
Zoom
October 14, 2021

1.. **Welcome – Megan Reing:** Welcome and please post a message in the chat about what is going well, what does your child love and learned.

2. PTA events – Sarah Amesbury/Lauren Heslep/Dana Colarulli:

- Reflections: Friday 10/15 from 5 to 6 Reflections night. Theme is “I will change the world by...” Come create art, eat snacks and there will be 4 tables with lots of art supplies and Duncan library will help with poetry writing.
- Pumpkin Bingo: Friday 10/22 from 3-6 there will be pumpkins, crafts and games and baked goods that are individually wrapped. Bingo will start at 4:30 with Mr. Dougherty.
- Fabulous Fall Fundraiser: Saturday 11/6 from 6-10. Food, fun, photos, auction and adult beverages. You can buy tickets and drink tickets in advance. We still need volunteers to start setting up – please reach out to Dana if interested in volunteering.
- Blessings in a backpack – weekend food support to 110 students. Packing events held the first Saturday of each month and takes place at Alive!. We also need volunteers to bring that food to MVCS on Thursday mornings. Look for more information and volunteer sign-up.

3. Treasurer report – Patrick Smith:

- Bank balance 69104. Spending this FY 18224. Patrick provided an overview of spending (spirit wear sales, magnets, popsicles, teacher reimbursements, etc).

- We need to approve FY 21-22 budget, adding 10,000 to fundraising was the only change. We got approval on vote – Marina motion to approve and Martha seconded.
- Audit approval – thank you to auditors, Beth Cantrell went through the audit. Dictated by the Virginia PTA – reviewed all tax, revenue and expense, etc. Also selected a sample of 30 checks and only one had only one signature, and some money due to Virginia PTA that has now been paid. One recommendation is to get a sales tax exemption when you buy something from PTA. Motion to approve audit and Dana seconded.

4. Dual Language Update – Martha Davis:

- Recognized and thanked the MVCS PTA Dual Language committee!
- Dual language handbook going home next week with Ks and with any new students without a dual language handbook – and can access it virtually on the PTA website in both Spanish and English. Overview by grade, dual-language non-negotiables, etc as well as school expectations per grade.
- ACPS dual language advocacy committee from ACPS – slides outline all members both administration and parents. One task is to look at strategic plan of 2015-2020 to inform development of 2025 plan. Parents had requests for ACPS 2025 plan, including better assessments, include LA instructions in grades 3-5 to prepare for middle school DL success. Study abroad for middle school, etc. Full list in slides. Contact Martha with questions or concerns.

5. Guest speakers: Dr. Diane Dubinsky and Natalie Talis

Both speakers provided parent education about children and COVID 19 vaccines.

Dr. Dubinsky, pediatrician with AAP, provided updates on:

- Why should children get vaccine?
- How does the vaccine work?
- How do we know vaccines are safe for children?
- Common side effects
- What is a serious allergic reaction
- Who should and should not get the vaccine?
- Facts vs myths

Full information on each update and further resources available on slide deck, that can be found online at the MVCS PTA website, under the October 2021 PTA meeting section. Please note that data changes daily, and recommendations and protocols also change, so the information on the slide deck is relevant for the date it was presented (October 14, 2021).

Natalie is from the Alexandria Health Department. She provided an overview:

- The current COVID situation in Alexandria, including current cases and percent of population vaccinated. The 12-17 age group has highest vaccination rates anywhere in Virginia.
- Parents will receive information from the city, ACPS, and PTAC once vaccinations are available for 5-11 age range. Plans are to offer at rec centers, mobile clinic events, and potentially schools.
- Go to [Alexandria.gov/vaccines](https://alexandria.gov/vaccines) for most up to date information.