



**MVCS PTA General Membership Meeting
March 31, 2022
Zoom**

Welcome- Megan Reing

Student Council Message- Mariana Carpio, Emery Morales, Maya Bharat (Student Council Members)

- Student council presentation on bag drive and box drops.
- Bag Drive: encourage moving from plastic to reusable bags for the ALIVE program. Need bags that can hold 18-20 cans, bring bags to your classroom, winning grade level will be announced.
- Box Drops: Instead of cutting them out, you can scan the photo of the receipt of purchase. Do so within 14 days of purchase.

Cafeteria and other facility updates: Ms. Burrell and Mr. Finnigan

- The pandemic delayed it and made some accommodations, so walk-in cooler and freezer are behind and will be delivered in May and will take a few weeks for installation. As such just going to wait till summer to do that work. We have large temporary coolers that will work for now.
- Wall coming down between cafeteria and kitchen during Spring Break, will then complete flooring and cafeteria walls then – will provide more light. Also over Spring Break completing electrical work for rooftop units.
- Food will be able to be prepared on-site in a couple of weeks once inspections are finalized and passed.
- Back of kitchen – putting in ramp, some shelving and ovens back in kitchen. Moving cooling tower and chiller.
- Also doing updates to library and some design work.

- Asbestos tiles – Presidents’ Day weekend they removed asbestos tiles from 6 rooms and over spring break will do 6 more. The rooms need to be sealed off when they do it. Over summer will remove rest of asbestos. Reminder they have not been moved so not dangerous.
- Courtyard project will take care of exterior work on the east side of school building. Need to take care of piping underground and water feature that collects more water. Will do same thing on playground side, so downspouts don’t just go under the building and into auditorium and other low areas.

PTA Events Update - Megan Reing

- April 28 is our next April PTA meeting- it is in person in our new cafeteria! Childcare available and we will have a meet and greet with pupusas and empanadas! Starting at 6:30 and regular meeting from 7-8.
- Big Flea: April 30, Saturday: Need volunteers – for last drop off April 2 and also moving furniture that morning. Please join us and there will be t-shirts for volunteers! Great community event.
- PTA Spring Clean-up and Garden Prep! Sunday, April 3. 2-4 pm primary playground.
- Yearbook Update: Working on it! A little behind since school pictures were taken a little late. Please send photos of both teachers and students. Order forms coming
- Science night: 4/22, 5-7. Popular science projects returning! Let us know if you can volunteer.
- International night: 5/13, 5-7. Outdoors. Let us know if you can volunteer or host a table.

Presentation from our school council liaison - Kelly Booz

- Wrapping up 3 months of school council. We want to keep pulse of community and answer any questions you have. Have been at a few events and great to see our kids in action and great to see our parent volunteers back in school building.
- Council working on budget then comes back to school board for approval.
- Watch Dr. Hutchings State of Schools if you didn’t get a chance to, good way to get a sense of where we are for Equity for All plan.
- Big topic council working on is asking city council to consider funding school resource officers at middle and high school for one more year so council can really look at what school safety looks like in the long-term.
- School division updated that they are raising pay for substitute teachers to try to get more subs. And teachers will also get a small stipend if they have to cover extra classes.
- Tracking teacher loss and it’s a big concern so want to make sure we have all the educators we need in the fall.
- Early college program – within the next two years we will be doing cohort of students that will walk away from ACHS with an associates degree in partnership with select VA universities.
- Question: Did we amend the lawsuit to challenge governor on mask mandates, Kelly unclear where that lawsuit stands at this point but will get back to MVCS PTA.

- Question: Will paraprofessionals and instruction aid substitute positions be getting a salary increase too? Unsure but she will check and get back to us.
- Question: Crossing guard shortage – she didn't know it was an issue and she will follow-up on that as well.
- Comment from PTA member: Virtual option for dual-language should be considered.

Alexandria Parks and Rec Presentation - Laura Durham and Jack Browand

Laura Durham: Deputy Director for Rec Services:

- You can find information on all of our services at website, rec centers and mailings.
- Back closer to pre-covid in number and types of offerings for our summer camp program. Still room in some specialty camps and Mount Vernon Rec center camps.
- All three of outdoor pools will be open this summer.
- Getting people ready for Out of Time school registration. Changes include pre-registration for those that need financial assistance. General registration is online only.
- Just like schools facing challenges with hiring so are we – which impacts capacity (camp counselors, lifeguards, facility staff). Looking to be at top of pay for those hourly positions.
- Question: If families don't have online access, can they call and does anyone at the center speak Spanish? You can call - and we also have a language line where they can get back to you in language needed. Staff can sign them up right at outdoor pools as well.

Jack Browand: Deputy Director for Park Services:

- Pickleball everyone wants in! Adding three additional courts in the city and we are getting word out!
- Some projects working on include Triangle Park and Mount Jefferson Park, construction happening there. Having meetings about these last two years.
- Del Ray gateway project with splash park.
- Four mile run trail, the bridge was closed in August behind Cora Kelly as there was infrastructure failure. We are working to replace bridge in FY23 budget.
- Simpson park – major renovation at dog park, as well as the two diamond fields and additional parking.
- Replacing surface material at Warwick Park, implement the same synthetic system to better target small repairs.
- Minnie Howard construction begins next week. This will be state of art facility as well as new indoor pool. Minnie Howard ready by 2024-2025.
- Waterfront park – new art exhibition, come check it out! Also new Robinson Landing Pier is now fully open – public pier and floating dock. Full trail from Jones Point to Dangerfield island. We saw a 50 percent uptake on how people using parks as a result of pandemic. Improvements to Chirilagua and looking at open spaces and rec offerings there.
- Drudging four mile run channel in July and there will be a detour through there just FYI.

Treasurers Report – Patrick Smith.

- Bank balance: \$75,490, Spending \$58,529, Taken in a little over \$53,000.
- Spending: shirts for big flea volunteers, dual language books, eye2eye, grants for teacher supplies and spirit wear.
- Income coming in for Spring is Big Flea and Spring2Action fundraiser.
- PTA's taxes have now been completed.

Misc - Megan Reing

Please fill out the equity survey!! Deadline April 3 and schools that do well in participation get monetary reward and helps ACPS with Equity for All.