



MVCS PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022
MVCS Cafeteria

- I. Welcome by Megan Reing**
 - a. Everyone greeted someone who they did not know.
- II. Opening Remarks & Presentation of the Agenda by Megan**
 - a. It's been two years since we have had an in-person membership meeting.
- III. Building Update by John Finnigan, Director, ACPS Facilities**
 - a. Cafeteria
 - i. Removed flooring that had asbestos.
 - ii. Now serving out of the kitchen.
 - iii. Tomorrow is the opening ceremony.
 - iv. LED lights, new windows in walls.
 - v. Tactile boards tested for asbestos. None found. Painted over them. More color will be coming to the space.
 - vi. Expanded to two serving line has increased efficiency.
 - vii. Workers have own bathroom.
 - viii. All new equipment in dish washing room.
 - ix. Cooling tower put on roof. HVAC is old. Just awarded contract for chiller. Hope chiller will be in place by summer (may be later due to supply chain issues).
 - b. Library
 - i. Removed flooring.
 - ii. All new shelving. There are a lot of books! Ordered 14 additional shelves.
 - iii. Architectural features give it more depth and color.
 - iv. Phased work to include some painting, shelving, furniture, lighting. Students will be able to "loungue around." All shelves are on castors. PTA meetings can be held there.
 - c. Courtyard
 - i. Storm water management study done.

- ii. Really have 4 different buildings. A lot of water flows into the courtyard. Main component is digging it up and resizing pipes. Will add rain barrels, seating and landscape beds. Gas line is underneath sidewalk. Now have to move that. Hope to get a permit within the next month for courtyard work.
 - iii. Soil gets saturated because of rain falling around different buildings.
 - iv. No moisture on orchestra pit anymore.
 - d. Playground
 - i. Pea gravel and mulch is all over the place. Will come in to separate it. Pebble and mulch get into the doors.
 - e. Ms. Burrell asked about electronic marquee
 - i. Question of equity. Must complete work at other schools.
 - ii. Is it a nuisance for drivers? Are there other restrictions, such as size of lettering?
 - f. Parents received a letter about asbestos tiles. Not dangerous if not disturbed.
 - i. Over spring break, replaced flooring and ceiling tiles in eight rooms plus health room.
 - ii. Continue to ask for funding. Asbestos doubles time and cost involved.
 - iii. May do a whole hallway over Winter Break.
 - iv. Did all windows on three-story side.
 - v. Roof is two years old.
 - vi. Trying to do more inside the building now.
 - g. Questions?
 - i. Did you replace ceiling tiles?
 - 1. Did spot changes. Changed out stained tiles.
 - ii. How do you make decisions about where to put resources across district?
 - 1. Took on extra roof projects when pandemic hit.
 - 2. MVCS roof and others should have been changed 5 years ago.
 - 3. Now working on HVAC district-wide.
 - 4. Facilities condition assessment completed (mechanical, plumbing).
 - 5. 18 buildings. Must identify where we need more money and request more money each fall.
 - 6. MVCS windows good, roof is new. MVCS “scored” this time.
 - 7. Will now do more aesthetic projects (re-painting tiles, dressing up bathroom counters)
 - 8. Spending more money for supplies that will last longer.
 - 9. Will dress up the lobby. Probably different flooring.
 - iii. Is there a budget for the whole district or per school?
 - 1. Both.

IV. Update from Ms. Liza Burrell

- a. Introduced new assistant principal, Ms. Salvador.
 - i. Ms. Jen Hamilton, current AP, is new DL Coordinator. Is an expert who will advocate for improvement of our practices in the school and division.

- ii. Received 82 applicants for AP. Selected 8 to interview.
- iii. Wanted someone knowledgeable about dual language, bilingual, familiar with our school. Ms. Jessica Salvador fits all criteria.

V. Ms. Salvador Remarks

- a. Is native Salvadoran. Came to US at 18 years old. Learned English. Currently Dean of Students at GWMS. Been there 10 years and has been heritage Spanish teacher, parent liaison, secretary. Works close with community partners. Eager to serve community. Open to suggestions. I'm learning. Excited to serve you all. Soon we will be getting emails from one another. I used to do PBIS at GWMS and worked closely with parents.
- b. Question: What grade levels will Ms. Salvador be assigned?
 - i. If we follow current model. Ms. Hamilton is AP for Sped and EL. If return to former model Ms. Salvador may be AP for 3rd-5th.

VI. Upcoming Events by Megan

- a. **Big Flea is this Saturday.** Thank Hallie. Bake sale to support student council. Showed schedule. Can pay \$10 to enter early at 7 a.m. Still need help. Sign up on SignUp Genius. Will be doing some deliveries.
- b. **International Night on Friday, May 13th from 5-7 p.m.** Performance by Mexican group. Parents can host a table.
- c. **Trex Plastic Film Recycling Update**
 - i. MVCS Won Mid-Atlantic Region Winner by over 200 pounds. Collected 475 pounds.
 - ii. Won brand new trex bench. It will replace old bench at main entrance.
 - iii. Ms. Kessinger is looking for volunteers to take bins to Giant.
- d. **Teacher Appreciation Week**
 - i. Proud of way we treat teachers.
 - ii. Monday = lunch in lounge. Bring fruit
 - iii. Tuesday = Small gifts
 - iv. Wed = Ice cream cart
 - v. Thurs = Teacher Supplies Bar (fill a cart on Amazon)
 - vi. Friday = Happy Hour at Piece Out (free pizza, must buy own alcohol)

We need 1-2 people who have 1 hour to help. Have children make a card. PTA will help with everything else.

 - vii. On Sunday we will "chalk the walk".
- e. **School Supply Update**
 - i. Carrell McAllister is volunteer.
 - ii. Do not need to purchase supplies through the site, but it is very easy. Everything will be delivered to your child's classroom next year. Sale through June 30th.
- f. **Thank you for outstanding volunteers**
 - i. Gardeners.
 - ii. The Campos/Amesbury cleaned out shed.
 - iii. Signs say "student gardeners only." Look but don't touch.

g. Science Night

- i. Mr. Dougherty taught our students for 2 hours using Cheetos.
- ii. Passed out 600 pieces of pizza.
- iii. Table hosts engaged with students (physics of sound, students from GWMS/GWU and Georgetown.)

h. Executive Committee Volunteers Need

- i. Looking to fill positions in May.
 - 1. Myth #1 – Don't have enough time.
 - a. Two meetings per month. It's fine to miss. All work outside the home.
 - 2. Myth #2 – PTA is for Moms
 - a. Have four dads on board.
 - 3. Myth #3 – PTAs are for English speakers
 - a. Have interpretation at meetings. Google Translate for emails.
- ii. Don't wait until your children are older. It will make your experience here richer.

VII. Treasure's Report by Patrick Smith

- a. \$67,527.88 is bank balance of 4/20/22.
- b. July 1-June 30 is fiscal year
- c. Every month I give a line item report
 - i. Biggest is teacher supplies every month (current approx. \$5K)
 - ii. Deadline to spend in March. Lots of teachers submitted expenses.
 - iii. Rentals for Big Flea \$1174.32
 - iv. Receipts do not include Spring2 Action (\$12,965 raised – half was matched by Jen Walker).
 - v. Is stepping down as treasurer after 2 years. Will mentor new treasurer.
- d. Teacher supplies (Megan)
 - i. Not glue sticks
 - ii. Include creative things, such as toy cash registers, calm nook, soundboard. Ask for what they see as needs for their classroom to do something special.

VIII. Presentation on Anxiety and Depression by Ms. Zaida Morales and Carly Gruther (school intern)

- a. Carly Gruther will be at MVCS for 5 more weeks. Was at high school previously.
- b. Morales counsels 3rd-5th grades
- c. Thank you, PTA. Counselors get resources. Teacher Appreciation is very awesome.
- d. Agenda:
 - i. What Anxiety and Depression Are
 - 1. Increase of self-harm/suicide among children aged 5-17.
 - ii. COVID impact on children's mental health
 - 1. Affected children differently than adults
 - iii. School Counseling vs Therapy or Other Mental Health Professionals

1. Sometimes have to refer to outside therapy, which is more extensive and on-going treatment
2. School counselors cannot diagnosis.
- iv. Helping our students
 1. Ways to help: model good behavior/talk about anxiety; remind them of past success; ask what they most worry about/what they've learned from experience
- v. Coping Strategies
 1. PBIS = Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
 2. Move to make yourself feel better. Five-finger breathing.
- vi. Safety Rules
 1. Cover personal safety with Kindergarteners. What a trusted adult is. Safe and unsafe touches.
- vii. Awareness
- viii. Support with SOLs
 1. District Level SEAL to help with SOL
 2. Counseling Lesson – test taking strategies
 3. Resiliency Week – May 1-7, 2022 Same as SOLs
 - a. Give them a positive thought
 - b. GEAR Parent Network Calendar available online
- ix. National Child Abuse Prevention Month
 1. VA DSS is trying to be proactive. Ms. Shannon Southard is the school social worker.
- x. Reusable Bags
 1. Thank you for bringing them in.
- xi. Questions
 1. Do you wait or are you proactive?
 - a. Visit classrooms each week.
 - b. Principal is so supportive.
 - c. Tell the district that social-emotional learning is important.
 2. Can you put the calendar in Thursday folder?
 - a. Will put slide deck on website (Megan)
 3. How will Box Tops be used?
 - a. Student council will determine what is purchased with them

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Martha Davis