



Thursday, January 12, 2023
PTA Member Meeting
Casa Chirilagua

1. Principal Appreciation Week + Casa Chirilagua Recognition
 - a. Principal Appreciation
 - i. Thank you to Dr. Burrell, Ms. Ricks, Ms. Salvador and Ms. Keil!
 - b. Casa Chirilagua
 - i. Washingtonians of the Year 2022! - Executive Director, Adriana Gómez Schellhaas chosen as one of the award recipients!
2. PTA General Updates
 - a. Three Bingo Nights – Volunteers Needed!
 - i. Jan. 27, Feb. 17 and March 10
 - b. Science Night – Friday, April 14
 - c. International Night – Friday, May 19
 - d. Padres Activos Coffee – low barrier entry for families - January 24
 - e. Landscaping: Two front beds done this Spring
 - f. Kinesthetic Equipment at the school!
3. Treasurer Report
 - a. ACPS proposed budget FY24 - Open comment period
<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/departments/financial-services/budget>
 - b. Jan. 19, 2023: Public Hearing on FY 2024 CF Budget
 - c. MVCS PTA Budget report
 - i. Summary of accounts (receipts + spending)
 - ii. Areas of spending since last report in December
 1. Community building (teacher incentives, teacher appreciation, teacher gift cards, alexandria fund scholarship)
 2. Health and wellness (lice treatment, eye exams)
 3. Enrichment (teacher supplies)
 4. Fundraising expenditures (bingo)
 - iii. Receipts since last report
 1. Memberhub (teacher gift cards, BIAB, open donation)
 2. Still tbd amount from Candy Cane Crawl - will get update soon on how much money came in

4. Dual Language Program Update, Jennifer Hamilton
 - a. Jennifer Hamilton as lead for Dual Language program across the district; she oversees staff who coordinate to program schools
 - b. Change to dual language program at MVCS, starting in SY 23
 - c. Changes to support overall student needs + better alignment with ACPS dual language program model
 - i. Ex: middle grades program, dual language program features social studies content in Spanish - this doesn't match up with subject areas taught at younger grades and can make for a more challenging transition for students wanting to stay in dual language program
 - d. Current model
 - i. John Adams 70/30 (English/Spanish) in K, 1st grades; then transitions to 50/50 for upper elementary grades
 - ii. MVCS 50/50 across all elementary grades
 - e. Beginning in SY 23, phased approach to shifting MVCS to match with John Adams program
 - i. Starting in SY23: Kinders shift to 70/30 model (Spanish/English)
 - ii. Starting in SY24: 70/30 model (Spanish/English) follows into first grade
 - f. For older elementary grades, phased approach for 3rd and 5th graders
 - i. Starting in SY23: 5th grade social studies content in Spanish, science content in English
 - ii. Starting in SY24: 3rd grade social studies content in Spanish, science content in English
 - g. Rationale for changes
 - i. Improve long term literacy outcomes for all participating students
 - ii. Improve Spanish proficiency for all participating students
 - iii. Better alignment between elementary and middle grades
 - iv. Better alignment between instruction language for high stakes testing mandated by VDOE (SOL)
 - v. Research based practice, based on bi literacy models
 - h. Q&A
 - i. Staffing: What about teachers who are mono lingual?
 1. MVCS leadership evaluating how to make changes in staffing plan so that those teachers who aren't proficient in Spanish can teach in other grade levels/subjects/focus areas to best match program needs and staff expertise.
 - ii. Are there anticipated changes to program options for dual language at the high school level
 1. Currently AP Language track
 2. Dual credit options
 - a. Looking to grow from there, including additional core content and career/technical education
 - iii. What is the anticipated impact for MVCS kids who may only experience one year of program changes?

1. Seeing some benefits already with current sixth graders who had similar changes from the John Adams program; results look promising
 - iv. Will there be an impact to other content time because of changes to the schedule?
 1. Trying to keep things as balanced as possible; one benefit will be that teachers won't have to spend as much time prior to testing windows helping kids transfer knowledge from Spanish to English in core tested areas (ex: science)
5. Duncan Library, Katie Whitman
- a. Growth in Spanish language books
 - i. Non fiction
 - ii. Boxed books (option to read the book and/or have it read to you)
 - iii. Graphic novels
 - iv. Fiction
 - b. Similar growth (above) for English text
 - c. Winter reading challenges!
 - i. Alexandria city-wide challenges, see website for details
 - ii. Kids get a free book for completing challenges
 - iii. Duncan specific challenges
 - d. Programs by age level, variety of offerings - see website for more info/details
 - i. 0-5th grade; 6th- 8th grade; Teens
 - ii. Pre k storytime, includes crafts
 - iii. Scribble book club
 1. 1 - 2 x/month
 2. Get to keep copy
6. Q&A w/Dr. Burrell
- a. Thanks to Katie/Duncan library for helping to develop strong connections between MVCS and library; possibility for more partnerships in upcoming school year
 - b. Thanks to Jennifer Hamilton for work on enhancements and thoughtful approach to dual language program
 - c. Notes re: building security
 - i. Cameras
 - ii. Purpose to monitor who comes in
 - iii. Guests need to check in at front office
 - iv. Upgrading security will continue over the next several months. Goal to have mostly completed by spring break (April)
 - d. Request for talking points to support talking to kids about safety concerns and what the school is doing to help the community feel and be safe. Age appropriate.
 - i. Look to ACPS website for info on security enhancements across the district

- e. School counselors, social/emotional support team also there to help families and students navigate questions/discussion
 - i. Note re: NPR article on helping address kids questions re: school safety
 - 1. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/05/26/1101306073/what-to-say-to-kids-about-school-shootings-to-ease-their-stress>
 - f. Attendance
 - i. Statewide effort/area of concern
 - ii. Please call in any absences
 - iii. MVCS attendance rates part of accreditation
 - iv. If 5+ days unexcused absences, school support staff will call home
 - 1. See website re: unexcused/excused - school board sets policy
 - g. Upcoming Kinder concert
 - i. Friday, Jan 20
 - ii. Also planning/thinking about opportunities for families of older students to see children perform.
 - iii. Mindful of pacing out school activities, given sickness, logistics
7. Thank you for attending! Next member meeting will be via Zoom
- a. Thursday, February 9, 6:30 PM
 - b. Invite to come closer to the date!