

PTO Executive Board Meeting
Friday, September 15, 2017
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Presidents' Report (Debra Stephans: MES and Melanie Paxinopoulos: FMS)

- Minutes from the June 2017 meeting accepted.
- Teachers' Welcome Back Breakfast (9/1, Chair is Debra Stephans) was successful, Dr. Petersen thanked all the volunteers, and there were a lot of volunteers and donations.
- Back to School Night
 - FMS Back to School Night was held on 9/14 and the FMS Bake Sale raised \$850. Thank you to Chairperson Margaret Ohnikian for pulling it together with just 48 hours to spare after receiving approval from the Superintendent's office to sell baked goods as long as parents take them home and place them in their children's lunchboxes the following day. Any baked goods left behind in the classrooms will be automatically thrown out without any exceptions.
 - MES Back to School Night will take place on 9/28, and Chairpersons Kristen Driver and Kristen Babb still need bakers. Please view the submitted flyer in your Wednesday Folder and visit Signup Genius to contribute your baked goods, which must be individually wrapped and please separate gluten free goods.
- Ice Cream Social (Chair is Carolyn Roche) will take place on 9/15 rain or shine.
- Fundraisers in the fall will be Square 1 Art Sale (October), KidStuff Coupon Books (Envelopes due 9/27), Yankee Candle (Forms due 10/16), Pie Sale (just before Thanksgiving) and the Holiday Boutique (12/4-12/8) will need a lot of volunteers.
- Hot Food Ordering Session 1 is now open until 9/15. Late fees apply through 9/22, and you will have to contact Deb Stephans directly via email after 9/15. Service is from 9/18- 1/26.
- PTO Board requests volunteers for various responsibilities and still need Chairpersons for Winter Carnival (February), Hot Food Lunch and International Day (1/19) always seeks new countries.

VP Report on Class Parents (Cindy Merlino: MES and Tara Hill: FMS)

- Class Parents will collect a minimum of \$15 for reasons outlined below per respective school, and an additional \$5 (for a total of \$20) will be optional to support MEF Casino Night & PTO Trivia Night.
- MES VP made selections and will need confirmations from Class Parents to accept positions, and MES VP will notify teachers regarding Class Parent names and contact information.

- MES VP will distribute a welcome packet and additional information soon with class lists.
- MES will have two (2) Class Parents per class, Class Parents are encouraged to use class money for crafts and goody bags, and MES still needs additional volunteers to serve as Kindergarten Class Parents.
- FMS Class Parents will have two (2) Class Parents per class who will work with each grade's coordinators, FMS Class Parents will receive announcements about acquiring food via approved PTO caterers/vendors for class parties, and FMS class money could be used for all class parties and 5th grade party.
- FMS VP will send a Class Directory Form to all FMS Class Parents, who will submit form and collect money on or before 9/29 (\$ due to PTO on 10/5). FMS Class Parents will distribute list to their classes.
- Class Parent session will take place immediately after the PTO meeting adjourns on 9/15 to review and discuss Class Parent roles and responsibilities.

Treasurer's Report (Annette Vozzolo)

- Finalized records for the fiscal year ending 6/30, \$30,000 was donated back to the school district for FMS gym and FMS new furniture, and \$21,000 was donated for curriculum enhancements and 3 R's Day.
- Will report on fundraising efforts every meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (Mrs. D'Amaro)

- Fourteen (14) teachers volunteered to work at the Ice Cream Social.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Darren Petersen

- Thank you to PTO for Teacher's Welcome Back Breakfast.
- There will be three (3) different goals in the school district: 1) student growth in social, academic and physical developments, 2) staff and student wellness, and 3) support teachers in professional development for authentic learning opportunities.
- Thank you to staff for completing summer work to complete the roof replacement, gym renovation, new lighting and new 21st Century class learning environments, art room has new furniture, painting, retiling and upgrading safety to staff identifications.
- Montvale Board of Education meets once a month.
- Montvale ranked as seventh best place to live (7 out of 513 towns altogether) by *New Jersey Monthly's* newly published list of the Garden State's Top 100 Towns. The full list will be available in the September issue of *New Jersey Monthly*.

Principal of FMS, Ms. G. McCormack

- Hired new Assistant Principal Mr. Scherer, who will also assume Athletic Director duties.
- FMS will provide enrichment programs, differentiation in instruction, and October Book Fair to students. FMS finished building improvements over the summer.
- Ms. McCormack met with Tara Hill as the new Fieldstone MS Vice President.

Principal of MES, Mr. D. Collier

- Introduced Mr. Pellegrino as the new Memorial ES Vice Principal, who will work with the Character Education Team to provide support for the community and families.
- Great first day of school on 9/6, and we experienced rain for the first time in seven years since Mr. Collier had become Principal.
- Guidance Counselor Mrs. Fasano will return to school as of 10/23, and Mr. Collier and School Psychologist Chelsea Smith are always available for students.
- Montvale Police Department has asked drivers to respect crossing guards, use sidewalks, and please don't park in the fire lanes on Memorial Drive.
- MES Back to School Night will take place on 9/28 and grades K-2 curriculum will be reviewed from 6:45pm to 7:15pm in their respective classrooms, Specials, PTO & MEF meet and greet will occur between 7:15pm to 7:45pm, and grades 3&4 curriculum will be reviewed from 7:45pm to 8:15pm. The Fourth Grade Team will present in the Multi Purpose Room.
- Family Night will happen on 9/26, and the theme will be tied to the Character Education Program's monthly initiatives, and they will update the bulletin board.
- Picture Day will take place on 10/5-10/6. The younger kids will go first and the older kids will go later in the day.
- Professional Day will happen on 10/9 when teachers will turnkey information and learn about technology and educational enhancements.
- Focus will be on what is best for our students.

MEF, Judith Laquidara (Treasurer)

- MEF approved grants totaling \$48,510 to support One Book, One School (MES), author visit(s), Pre K-1 reading libraries, digital photography (FMS), teacher professional development, iPads and Chromebooks.
- There are two (2) large events per school year: 1) Casino Night (11/17) and tickets are on sale as of 9/18 and 2) MEF Challenge in the spring (TBD).
- MEF Spirit Wear added Montvale sweatshirt blankets to their order list.
- Please solicit businesses for donations to help support MEF Casino Night.
- First MEF Meeting will take place on 10/10/17 at the FMS Library.

Library Volunteers (Mrs. Westervelt)

- Library volunteers are scheduled twice a month in three (3) 90-minute shifts to reshelv books and assist students with checking out their books. Please contact Jessica Panagiotou if you are interested in volunteering.

Supervisor of Special Services (Mrs. Christina Gouraige)

- Parents are invited to attend the Special Services meeting on 10/5 at Memorial ES at 6:30pm to meet the Child Study Team and all of its activities.

Meeting adjourned.