

**The Mount Washington School
School Family Council
Meeting: 3/2/21, 6-7PM (Virtual via Zoom)**

Attendees:

Leaha Charles-Pierre	Co-Chair, SFC Representative-Teacher, Parent
Amalie Ward	Co-Chair, SFC Representative-Parent, 4 th Grade
Bethany Jacobs	Administration-Assistant Principal
Michael Johnson	Administration-Assistant Principal
Amie Luther	SFC Representative-Teacher, 1st Grade
Karen Ginyard	SFC Representative-Teacher, 3rd Grade
Barbara Drummonds	SFC Representative-Teacher, 4th Grade
Tracy Demissie	SFC Representative-Teacher, 5th Grade
Shawna Harvey-Flowers	SFC Representative-Teacher, 5th Grade
Janae Corbin	SFC Representative-Teacher, PE/Health
Elizabeth Piatt	SFC Representative-Teacher, K-8 Music
Kathryn Chib	SFC Representative-Parent, Kindergarten
Tavian Cardwell	SFC Representative-Parent, 2 nd Grade
Eric Norton	SFC Representative-Parent, 3rd Grade
Alicia Marner	SFC Representative-Parent, 5 th Grade
Deborah Harburger	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Dionne Mitchell	Parent, PTO Representative
Jocelyn Casser	Parent, PTO Representative
Todd Murphy	Parent

Notes:

Old Business & Updates:

February minutes: Notes from the February meeting were approved by attendees without change. Notes are being posted on the Mt Washington School website.

School-Wide Events:

Q&A with a Pediatrician & Master Educators: The date has been set for this event on March 22, 2021 at 6pm. The event is open to the community.

Trivia Night: Dates for the event are being explored for early April.

PTO Online Auction: The auction will be opening for participation on April 15th. Items for the auction are still being requested.

School calendar: There is interest in creating a schoolwide calendar next year to ensure that meetings and events are balanced across weeks and months with the PTO, SFC, cleanup events, and other special events and activities. There was a conversation about what guidance should be considered when scheduling an event. There was agreement that there is no one answer, and organizers need to consider the audience and

participants (family vs students, elementary vs middle school, whole school community), setting, activity, timing (day, time), role of administration and faculty, etc.

School Directory: The SFC will be developing a schoolwide directory, including obtaining permissions from parents if they want to opt-out of the directory. It will get updated annually with kindergarten and new families and removing families who no longer go to MWS. Decisions regarding format (hard copy or electronic only) are to be decided. The directories will be provided to each grade band with information for that grade band only to support communication across the grades.

School Updates:

Community Budget Forum: This meeting will be held on 3/3/21 at 6pm. Information about how to log into the meeting is in Class Dojo. The forum will include a review of the budget for the upcoming school year.

In-Person School: In-person schooling began in the Lower Building yesterday. Teachers reported that the students were great and the Administration did what was needed and the first day went really well. Third graders did very well keeping masks on without reminders and following other rules. 4th & 5th grade will have half days next week in preparation for the return to the school building. If Baltimore City opens up a second enrollment period, that will be opened up for families who have remained entirely virtual who may be interested in returning to in-person school later in the spring.

Material Pickup: Materials are still available for pickup for the third quarter if anyone hasn't picked them up yet.

High School Acceptance: Mrs. Charles-Pierre is working with the 8th graders to put together a video about where the 8th graders are going for high school. This will be shared with the school community. Mrs. Charles-Pierre asked that the grade band representatives remind parents to remind their students that attendance and participation is expected to continue through the rest of the year, even though they may have been accepted into high school.

PTO Updates:

The Read-A-Thon has started. Information went out on Dojo and via email and is on the PTO Facebook.

If you have items to donate to the school auction, please email mws.pto.president@gmail.com.

There is no dine-out scheduled yet for this month but other events are getting organized for later this spring.

The Baltimore Mediation Center event was held in February. It is a resource for families and community members. If you need support for a range of different issues related to family, school, community, and more, you can contact them at www.communitymediation.org.

Other Updates:

There is an 8th grader who is interested in organizing tutoring and mentoring for elementary students. The students will go into breakout sessions to help with students who may need some extra support. Mrs. Charles-Pierre is going to outreach to families that may be looking for virtual tutoring or support from 8th grade students.

National History Day occurred with school-level judging and projects will be moving on to represent MWS at the Baltimore City competition.

Appreciation was expressed by families toward the teachers and administrators about their support in the return to in-person school.

At least one teacher noted that some families may not feel comfortable sharing with their child's teacher the challenges they are going through, whether they are related to student engagement, social-emotional issues, or other concerns. It may be helpful to remind the school community about the resources available through the school (i.e. social worker, psychologist, counselor), and that they can be provided confidentially,

including posting the information from the start of the year. This also needs to be incorporated into some of the Children's Mental Health Awareness month plans for May.

For April and/or May Meetings:

- Discuss further the options and strategies for developing a school-wide calendar for next year.
- Invite the school's mental health and support team (social worker, counselor, psychologist) to the next SFC to talk about ways to share resources with families, to learn more about how they engage with families and what options exist for engagement, and to make a plan for Children's Mental Health Awareness Month (May).
- Provide updates on high school and middle school enrollment plans for next year.
- Provide updates on the budget forum held on March 3, 2021.