

**The Mount Washington School
School Family Council
Meeting: 2/2/21, 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
Sara Long	Administration-Principal
Bethany Jacobs	Administration-Assistant Principal
Michael Johnson	Administration-Assistant Principal
Barbara Drummonds	SFC Representative-Teacher, 4 th Grade
Karen Ginyard	SFC Representative-Teacher, 3 rd Grade
Elizabeth Piatt	SFC Representative-Teacher, K-8 Music
Niki McCormally	SFC Representative-Parent, 1 st Grade
Tavian Cardwell	SFC Representative-Parent, 2 nd Grade
Eric Norton	SFC Representative-Parent, 3 rd Grade
Alicia Marner	SFC Representative-Parent, 5 th Grade
Laura Green	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Deborah Harburger	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Marshalyne Seavers	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Josie Raney	SFC Representative-Parent, Community Representative
David McMurray	Parent, PTO President
Patricia Agaba	Parent
Jocelyn Casser	Parent
Ashley Cook-Plymouth	Parent
Lindsay Folkmann	Parent
Joycelynn Gray	Parent
Christina Theisen	Parent

Notes:

Old Business & Updates:

December & January minutes: Notes from the December and January meetings were approved by attendees without change. Notes are being posted on the Mt Washington School website.

Principal Update:

There were 339 responses to the K-5 survey to select whether families will be returning to in-person school, which is a 96% response rate. The Administration is working to get the final 15 people to respond to the survey. 149 families are choosing to come in-person; 190 will be staying virtual. The responses are pretty much evenly split across K-5 grades. There are additional Tiger Talks coming up, with links posted on ClassDojo. There is one on Thursday, 2/4 at noon and 7pm.

School-Wide Event:

Family Fitness Night: The event was held on January 9, 2021 and was successful. There were increasing reminders on social media and ClassDojo to support attendance. The event had a great sense of community. If there are suggestions for improvement, please let Tavian Cardwell know. There were not a lot of attendees so there is a question about whether the link was challenging to access (through the student's school login). There was conversation about making a more accessible link for the next event. How do we get more families to participate and engage? There were some suggestions to think about ways to engage, including offering extra credit, having students lead events, and having additional cross-promotion with the PTO. The SFC could consider ways to partner with other youth organizations or other schools. The timing of the event can impact participation as well.

PTO Updates:

- The PTO was approached by Baltimore Community Mediation Center to provide a presentation to the MWS community. It will be held online on Feb 17, 6pm. Learn about mediators and how they do their work. Information will be coming out soon.
- The February dine-out event will be at Pizza Blitz, date TBA.
- Check out the PTO website for more information if you are able to donate to the MWS auction.
- Thank you to the SFC for helping to make the Hiatus Cheesecake Fundraiser and Talent Shows successful. Cheesecake pickups will be close to Valentine's Day.

Q&A with a Pediatrician & Master Educators: MWS parent Martha Johnson has helped to organize an online session with a pediatrician and educators about health (physical and social-emotional) during this time. Questions will be able to be submitted in advance. Questions can be about an individual child's health or well-being (can be asked anonymously) or can be general about challenges, questions, and strategies to support children and families, particularly during COVID-19. Questions can be posted to the moderator in the zoom to keep them anonymous. This event could be made available to the larger community beyond Mount Washington; the registration link could be made available to more communities, particularly additional neighborhoods where students live. The recommended date is March 8. The Administration will assist with inviting teachers to participate.

Break-Out Room Planning:

Family Community Engagement Committee: Planning Virtual Trivia Night (3/21, 4:30-5:30)

- Before Trivia night: all questions/answers brought by MWS scholars.
 - Scholars submit questions/answers to Mrs. Piatt by Feb 28..
 - Request Lindsay's assistance for early promotions - multiple use lead up.
- On Trivia Night: The whole family will need to work together to get the answers.
 - Warm up with a little scavenger hunt beforehand.
 - Winners get a possible card, which is something to dance about (spotlighted on victory dance at 5-minute dance party to close out)

After Action Report on Family Fitness Night. Strong production and great value brought out by our community members to share. Helpful promotion, but lacking expected volume of participants. In search to involve more community during this time we look at these possibilities:

- Extra Credit for participation in events
- Students Leading events to push the word out.
- Time issue as late for early learners.
- Work with Sister Schools of the event
- Re-opening Paper flyers --> (Ask Mrs. Long about paper distribution)
- Robo Text the day of to say log on to join as it is happening.

Safety & Climate Committee: How can we support school building reopening?

Marketing Committee: Discuss the brochure

The committee recommends moving forward with one brochure for the whole school. The purpose of the brochure is to highlight the strengths of the K-8 programs at MWS in order to increase retention of rising middle school students and encourage neighborhood families (and prospective neighborhood families) at every grade level to choose their local public school. The brochure could be mailed broadly in late

spring/early summer 2021 and be distributed as a handout to realtors, feeder schools, and preschools. It can also be mailed to 5th graders in early fall.

The Administration will provide talking points and comments to round out the information that is included. There is language that Ms. Jacobs will share from the letter that was sent to all current 5th graders to encourage them to attend MWS for middle school. It may help to have a meeting with Mrs. Long to talk about how she wants to frame the information. The Administration has developed materials that include quotations from parents and current middle schoolers that can be shared. [Note: Josie Raney is maintaining a separate notes document that will be used to develop the brochure.]

Follow Up

Consider having an event like the pediatrician/educator Q&A that is specific to children's mental health and social-emotional well-being in May as part of Children's Mental Health Awareness month. Mrs. Long asked Ms. Statman to coordinate the MWS Children's Mental Health Awareness activities.