

**The Mount Washington School
School Family Council
Meeting: 5/4/21, 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
Amie Luther	SFC Representative-Teacher, 1st Grade
Lauren McKinley	SFC Representative-Teacher, 4th Grade
Shawwna Flowers	SFC Representative-Teacher, 5th Grade
Karen Ginyard	SFC Representative-Teacher, 3rd Grade
Elizabeth Piatt	SFC Representative-Teacher, K-8 Music
Kathryn Chib	SFC Representative-Parent, Kindergarten
Niki McCormally	SFC Representative-Parent, 1 st Grade
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
Tiffany Thomas	Guest, Mental Health Association of Maryland
Ilene Berman	Parent
Jocelyn Casser	Parent
Stefan Charles-Pierre	Parent
Brian Hehn	Parent, PTO President-Elect
Dionne Mitchell	Parent
Brett Phillips	Parent
Tahilin Sanchez Karver	Parent
Ethel Weld	Parent

Notes:

Old Business & Updates:

- *Meeting Notes:* February, March, and April notes were reviewed. No changes were made and all minutes were approved.
- *School Directory:* The Administration approved moving forward with a school directory for the 21-22 school year. The co-chairs have created a draft letter to be sent to families for approval to be included in the directory. Families will have to opt-in to participate in the directory. Kindergarten will be added toward the end of the process. Ms. Ward offered to assist with sending out the letters.

The directory will be online but details are still being determined. The goal is for the letter to be sent out by June via Class Dojo.

- *Uniform Survey:* A uniform survey was sent out. There were 117 responses; 77% of respondents were parents/guardians. Just over half of respondents answered “agree” to the question, “ALL students (K-8th) should be required to wear school uniforms at our school.” There was a conversation about getting input from the students, particularly for the 4th-8th grade students. Mrs. Long suggested that a survey be given to the 4th-7th graders and have a more informal conversation with the K-3 students. The 8th graders will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on uniforms--what they liked and what they didn’t like. The Administration will take that information and work together to develop a policy.
- *PTO Updates:* PTO fundraising has been successful: \$5,800 from the Auction & \$2,200 from Flower Mart. The PTO is helping support Teacher Appreciation Week. More people are needed for some of the general PTO board positions. The deadline is May 7th (contact Katie Vaeth with your bio: katie.vaeth@gmail.com). May 26th, 4:30-7pm Chesapeake Food Truck will be in the parking lot across from the Clayworks. May 31-June 2 there will be a code to order Taharka Ice Cream with proceeds going to the PTO. The time of the meeting will be changed after the summer.

School Updates:

- *COVID-19 Testing & Safety:* There has been 1 positive test and the impacted classes were quarantined. All subsequent individual tests were negative and there have been no more positive COVID-19 tests. Information was communicated with the full school community after the impacted classes were notified.
- *COVID Safety Walk:* A safety walk with the Baltimore Teachers Union occurred last week. There were representatives from the school and families as well as BTU. They determined that all health and safety protocols are in place.
- *School Budget:* The budget was approved and the Administration will be moving forward with the budget as presented. One of the resources will be reduced to .5FTE, which will be announced over the summer. The person impacted is aware of it. One teacher is not returning next year for personal reasons; this role is currently being filled with a long-term substitute.
- *Closing Ceremonies:* The closing ceremonies will have tight operating procedures. The priority is for the 8th graders to have an in-person experience and a virtual experience for kindergarten and 5th graders. More information will be forthcoming. The in-person ceremony will be very limited (likely 2 guests per student) and will move to virtual if necessary based on metrics.
- *Honors 4th/5th Grade:* There will be a new split class with students in 4th and 5th graders next year. It will be an honors class. Students will be identified through a number of data points, including a test that will be administered. It will align the students’ work in these grades with the honors curriculum in middle school.

Mental Health Awareness Presentation: A presentation was provided by Tiffany Thomas of the Mental Health Association of Maryland, a partner in hosting Maryland’s Children’s Mental Health Awareness Campaign. Resources were shared with attendees (families and teachers) and can be accessed at www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org. Resources include information on how to find help, fact sheets and information on specific behavioral health needs, and ways to practice self-care and support strong mental health for both children and adults. Additional resources include www.mhamd.org and www.mdcoalition.org.

Grade Band Representatives: If anyone is interested on serving on the SFC next year, we’d love to have you! We have openings across the SFC and welcome parents and teachers to serve. We need community representatives and middle school representatives in particular, as well as all of the other grades (there can be more than one representative per grade). We will be voting on the membership at the June meeting. There will be an orientation to new members over the summer. Meetings typically last 1-1.5 hours.

Subcommittee End of Year Report: There will be a report from each of the subcommittees at the June meeting. All subcommittees are asked to provide highlights of the work and what needs to be done next year so please prepare glows and grows.