

**The Mount Washington School
School Family Council
Meeting: 11/10/20, 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, 4th Grade
Karen Ginyard	SFC Representative-Teacher, 3rd Grade
Amie Luther	SFC Representative-Teacher, 1st 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
Alicia Marner	SFC Representative-Parent, 5 th Grade
Deborah Harburger	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Marshalynne Seavers	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Matthew Day, Sr	SFC Representative-Parent, Community Representative
Josie Raney	SFC Representative-Parent, Community Representative
David McMurray	Parent, PTO President
Jocelyn Casser	Parent
Bridgette Chambers	Parent
Warren Chambers	Parent
Maisha DouyonCover	Parent
Meshelle Foreman Shields	Parent
Victor Green	School Counselor at other BCPSS School
Mona Larkins	Parent
Michael Pinkin	Parent
Sharon Small	Parent

Notes:

Old Business & Updates:

October minutes: Notes from the October meeting were approved by attendees without change.

Meeting Dates: Currently meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. There have been some staff and parent concerns about timing, especially since the PTO meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The first Tuesday of the month was suggested. Participants agreed that the first Tuesday of the month would

work. Mrs. Charles-Pierre will update the meeting dates. The next meeting will be December 1 at 6pm. The registration requirement will be removed and the event will be posted in Class Dojo with a link open for everyone.

3rd Grade Representative: Ms. Ward will send out a request to Ms. Ginyard in a week to put a post on Class Dojo asking for a representative.

PTO update: All are welcome at the meetings. The holiday decorations sale is going on now and everyone is encouraged to participate and not wait until it is too late! There is a Clark Burger-Pizza Trust dine out on Tuesday, 11/24 from 3-7:30PM. Volunteers are requested to help with the upcoming phone-a-thon! If you are interested in helping with that, email David McMurray at mws.pto.president@gmail.com.

Subcommittee Meetings

A template has been provided with a November goal for each of the Subcommittees. The SFC moved into online breakout rooms for the subcommittee meetings. Each Subcommittee was asked to designate someone for notetaking and identify specific subcommittee next steps.

Subcommittee Goals/Reflections

Attendance Committee- Notetaker: Ms. Piatt

Goal- Create a quarterly recognition for virtual attendance- 100% or 95%

Notes- Ideas for Attendance Rewards:

- Dress up day (pajamas)
- Certificate for use at a local venue (like \$1-2 off)
- Virtual dance party
- For middle school, a Zoom lunch with friends. We would need teacher volunteers to make this work.
- Socially distanced events can not happen at this time but they are something to consider for the future.

What about students who have experienced barriers to attendance due to technology/access issues?

IB Expansion Committee- Notetaker: Ms. Luther In Attendance - Sara Long, Karen Ginyard, Maisha DouyonCover

Goals - IB brochure, grants/funding ideas

IB Brochure

- marketing document
- Brief overview of IB Program - talks about gearing up for PYP and what we already do for MYP (2 different brochures?)
- Some kind of education for teachers also (to talk to parents about)
- How will IB engage my child?
- What will IB mean for my child?
- One page infographic for quick answers AND a brochure for more in depth information
- Not a lot of words, use pictures and captions

Grants/Funding Ideas

- Mount Washington Improvement Association
- ABLE Foundation (Joe Manko)
- Utilize community members that are familiar with grant writing
- Companies match donations?
- Johns Hopkins interested in supporting?
- PTO add to the auction?
- Some way for families/community members 'adopt a teacher' for training costs (like Donor's Choose but internal)

Communication to parents and staff - is everyone equally invested in going this direction?

Safety & Climate Committee- Notetaker: Marshalyne Seavers In attendance: Marshalyne Seavers, Niki McCormally, Amalie Ward, Sharon Small, Warren Chambers, Dave McMurray

-Physical Plant/facilities: Marshalyne will follow up with Ms. Long for updates on facilities- sidewalk on Lochlea, retaining wall of Outdoor classroom, electrical outlet in Outdoor classroom falling apart (can it

just be removed since it's not "live", something with a light

-Niki asked how non-City Schools employees can help with school buildings getting ready to come back (for example, A/C in Lower Building)

-Dave McMurray gave an update on interior designer (Deb Deitrich) to put together a plan for the UB cafeteria. Deb will develop an incremental proposal. At the beginning of the year, PTO was helping to get 3 bids for sound proofing and but now there seems to be a shift to other smaller/incremental changes (maybe due to large expense and red tape to do so). Dave reports that Principal Long will try to address the cultural issues of the space. May try to paint the walls with sound dampening paint.

-Sharon asked if we should be investing in air purifiers for safety from COVID, Marshalyne added hand sanitizing stations

Family & Community Engagement Committee- Notetaker: Tavian Cardwell

November Goal - Creating Virtual Social events for families.

-We appreciate the connections in person and virtual from last month: Cleanups, math night, etc

-In the acknowledgement of the updated restrictions of no more than 10 people gathering at once, and the weather getting colder we looked more at creating virtual social events for families.

-The top two that we believe we can roll out straddling this month to the holidays are:

- 1) Family Fitness Night- 4 rooms of exciting exercise expression for the whole family.
- 2) Tiger Trivia - An exciting night of intellectual expression to win win win.

-Next steps are securing date, logistics and relying on communicating the opportunities through the e-communication vehicles to get the word out.

-We recognize the difficult situation of COVID. New recent guidelines. Not all parents will come out to certain meetings or events. There may be different pockets coming to different groups. It is important to share more than one possibility.

-Jocelyn's family was present at math night, as well as a trivia night last week. They had questions sent to break out rooms to answer then come back. Jocelyn has the 30 questions on hand from the event and would be comfortable presenting. All we will need is a designated time, co-host and a back end administrator. This can happen!

-Mr. Day has proven contributions in Hosting Family Fitness Zoom Night.

Scholars can choose two half hour sessions of four different room choices.

1. Core Training - Mr.& Mrs. Day
2. Zumba - Jocelyn Casser
3. Soccer - MJ
4. Pump it up - Mr. C.

-Yoga - Possibility for additional room (request with Mrs. Charles Pierre)

-Future possibilities: have teams show up and present their stuff (volleyball, basketball).

Four options, pick 2 and rotate if needed break at 15 minutes.

-Timing - possibly straddling between holidays November - December. We will follow-up email to firm, set and serve!

-Followup Question: If done in a zoom meeting how many can the in-school zoom hold? 300?

-After committee possibility to collaborate with Attendance committee - Dress Up Day! Talk with Mrs. Piatt for collaboration details. Let's get people connected, engaged, tell jokes, get moving, and have fun.

Marketing & Branding Committee-

Notetaker: Deborah Harburger

November Goals: See Action Steps below

Middle School Choice

- Need an updated powerpoint for MWS for the 5th Grade.
- Have 3-5 bullet/talking points about MWS and why to stay at the school *and* why to come to MWS. Should include student and parent quotes about why to be at MWS including for math and science.
- Could also develop a brochure to distribute about MWS with a focus on the Middle School. (Could do a separate brochure about MWS in general.)
- Survey parents to find out what they are looking for? Create a narrative that talks about how we meet the needs of the students at the school. Consider developing a survey to find out more about what parents are looking for.

- Have more evening meetings and invite 4th and 5th grade parents. Start talking about positive aspects of our program. Have meetings before the end of November. ****Need 2 more choice meetings before the end of November.****
- Reach out to our Network Partners that are just elementary schools to target their GAL students to fill out our honors cohort.
- Need to think about how to market the program in place of the shadow days.
- Need to talk about robotics, sports, clubs, debate, National History Day, IB international trip.
- Need to talk about IB, Honors v AA, extracurriculars.
- Personal offer to talk--parents and students who decided to stay? Maybe SFC parents whose children are in the Middle School (now or previously)? Have as a resource list with info about the parents in case other parents have questions. Include a photo of the parent and info about them so the parents feel like they can contact them.
- Panel discussion with students and parents--one during the day during school for the students and then one in the evening.
- Need info about the outcome of MWS students--where they go to high school
- Look into parent ambassador program for current 5th grade parents--get current SFC parents to serve in this role as parents whose children are in the middle school or have moved through the middle school.

ACTION STEPS:

- Updated powerpoint about MWS with information about Honors, IB, extracurricular activities, National History Day, and more. Include quotes from parents and students and information about where MWS students go for high school and even college.
- Develop 3-5 talking points for messaging and the website
- Host 2 more meetings in November: 1 during the day for 5th grade students and 1 in the evening. Make sure parents and students are on the panels as well as administrators.
- Develop resource materials that include talking points, parents to talk to if parents want to know more. Include quotes from parents and students, info on student outcomes.

General Notes after returning back to large group meeting-

There was a conversation about the role of brochures and how they get used because the topic came up in two of the subcommittees. In the past, the brochures were sent home with the students. Now, it may be more helpful to have an infographic that can be disseminated via social media, perhaps in addition to a mailing. Right now, so much information is being sent out electronically that a paper mailing could get some interest and attention.

School Questions & Concerns

There will be MWS World Cafes to get information about how virtual learning is going and revisions can be made. Right now, it is not looking likely to be able to reopen schools right now based on the metrics.

A parent was wondering if we can put some Tiger Pride signs or materials outside of the school. Mrs. Long said that would be fine with her.

Action Steps:

- Ms. Ward will send out a request to Ms. Ginyard two weeks prior to the next SFC meeting to ask all 3rd Grade Parents to consider joining the SFC.
- Anyone interested in helping with the PTO Phonathon should contact David McMurray at mws.pto.president@gmail.com
- *See notes in the subcommittee document for follow up and action steps.*
- Mrs. Charles-Pierre will be reaching out to SFC parents to be parent ambassadors for the current 5th grade families.

Note: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 from 6-7pm. All SFC Meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month beginning in December.