

Meadow Park Middle School PTO: Meeting Summary

Location: Meadow Park Middle School Library

Date: 9/16/15

Time: 7pm-8pm

Approximate number in attendance: 15

Meadow Park Middle School Principal: Jared Freeman

Meadow Park Middle School PTO Co-Presidents: Cyndie Pelto and Jennifer Yamashiro

Introduction

Cyndie Pelto and Jennifer Yamashiro are this year's PTO co-presidents. Jennifer has spent the past 2 years as the VP of the PTO. This year she is looking forward to handing off this responsibility to another willing and able volunteer. The primary responsibility of the VP is the coordination of cafeteria and production room volunteers. Jennifer has already filled all cafeteria assignments. All future cafeteria volunteers would be used as subs.

VOLUNTEER NEED: Vice President PTO to take over duties from Jennifer Yamashiro. Contact Jennifer Yamashiro for more information at meadowparkeaglespto@gmail.com

Principal's Report

Outline of school vision (plans for improvements) to be worked toward over the next 5-10 years. The four areas of focus for improvement are:

1. Upgrade current technology and expand technology access. This includes replacement of current tech and purchase of addition tech to achieve a lower student-to-computer ratio. There is available funding from the school bond that could be used for some of these tech upgrades. But there will be a fiscal gap which will need to be filled in creative ways in order to grant better tech access to all MP students. Current tech outdated landscape at MP sends the wrong message.
2. Implementation of AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) on a school-wide basis. In general, AVID is designed to assist first generation future-college students to become prepared for both HS and college. The broader goal of AVID will put school-wide systems in place to help all students achieve competencies to advance their ability to succeed academically well beyond their Middle School years. AVID is a district-wide program that is in all MS's and HS's throughout the Beaverton School District. There is an elective-component to AVID which requires a selective process (students would need to submit an application for elective), but there are also systems in place that assist all students school-wide.
3. Focus on building writing skills through an increase in writing assignment both in the classroom and outside. Adopt a Writers Workshop Model and help students adapt to sustained writing projects that requires more attention to writing for longer periods of time.
4. Re-branding of Meadow Park through improvements mentioned in items 1-3.

Treasurer's Report

No budgetary issues.

Fall Fundraiser Kick-off

2nd annual jog-a-thon will officially kick off tomorrow (9/17/15); packets will go home tomorrow. Jog-a-thon will happen over a 2 day period of time. Students will participate in the jog-a-thon during their PE class on either one of these 2 days. Here are a few more details:

- Jog-a-thon dates: Wednesday (10/7/15) and Thursday (10/8/15)
- Primary fundraiser of the year
- Funds raised will be used for the PTO General Budget
- In the past year, funds raised were used for items both small and large. The goal is to use the funding that will benefit the widest number of students. Examples, of funded items include: photocopier, laptops, textbooks, etc.
- Fundraising goal for each student is \$30.
- Flat rate or lap pledges are accepted.
- Online donations via pledgestar will also be accepted.

VOLUNTEER NEED: Help staff the jog-a-thon on 10/7/15/10/8/15. A google doc will be created closer to the date of the jog-a-thon for parents to pick a shift to help out.

PTO ACTION ITEM: Send out communication to volunteers (or all parents/guardians??) which contains a link to the Beaverton School District online Background check portal and the following content: Parents need to renew their background check EVERY year. If a parent is a current volunteer at another Beaverton School, they need to submit another Background check for Meadow Park.

PTO Business

1. Communication: There is a brand new email system at MP that allows Carol to send out messages to the parents/guardians of the entire student body. Currently, Carol is the only one trained to do this. The PTO also wants to work on expanding their own email/communication. Currently, the PTO communicates via their facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MeadowParkMSPTO>). There is no current Meadow Park website. As a stopgap until a comprehensive website can be built, the PTO will likely build a free and easy site with the intent to transition to something more comprehensive at a later date and with the assistance of volunteers.

VOLUNTEER NEED: Work with the PTO to develop and maintain a Meadow Park PTO website. For more interest contact Cyndie at meadowparkeaglespto@gmail.com

2. 8th grade celebration: Jennifer Yamashiro will convene a kickoff planning/fundraising meeting sometime during the month of November 2015. More information to follow.
3. 7th grade snacks: As a result of the 7th grade lunch break being very early in the day (10:30a) many student are hungry before the school day is over. Parents have been encouraged to include additional snacks for their children to eat later in the school day. However, the PTO has identified a need to provide snacks for those children who have come to school without a snack. The idea is to stockpile an array of healthy snacks (pretzels, protein bars, etc.) to be help in the teacher workroom for teachers to access for their students. The PTO would also like to implement a Fresh Fruit Friday, where students are offered fruit as a snack. Principal Freeman will revisit a possible change to the 7th grade lunch schedule next year.

VOLUNTEER NEED: Work with the PTO to organize the stocking of snacks and Fresh Fruit Friday for 7th graders. Contact Cyndie for more information at meadowparkeaglespto@gmail.com

4. Back to school night is on Thursday, September 24th 6-8pm.

PTO ACTION ITEM: Assist Principal Freeman in making sure presentation given during back to school night is appropriate for Spanish-speaking parents/guardians in our Meadow Park community. Suggestions included having a few PowerPoint slides in Spanish or Spanish language handouts.

5. Production volunteer help is needed.

VOLUNTEER NEED: Help in the production room. Email Jennifer at meadowparkeaglespto@gmail.com

Other Business

- Meadow Park is on the list for HVAC upgrades for next Summer (2016).
- Meadow Park school website needs further updating. Calendar and Principal's message needs updating. Calendar was included in the welcome packet, not as big of a priority as updating the Principal's message which is circa 2013-2014 school year. Activity calendar and bell schedule are updated on the Meadow Park school website.
- More information needs to be disseminated to parents about how to advocate for additional work for non-Summa students. Many parents seem unaware of how and when to communicate with teachers about the assignment of more challenging and rigorous work.
- Carol is very knowledgeable about the various volunteer opportunities at Meadow Park. The PTO will work on creating better communication about those opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS NEED: Art Literacy Volunteer Lead. Contact Cyndie or Jennifer at meadowparkeaglespto@gmail.com

Next PTO meeting (10/14/15 @ 3:45pm)

There will be about 5-6 teachers who will attend the next PTO meeting. This is an opportunity for parents/guardians to ask classroom/curriculum-related questions.

This school year's PTO meeting schedule has been altered from last year. There will be no meetings held during school hours and meeting times will alternate times from being held in the evening at 7pm to right after school. The goal is to hold the meeting at a time that is convenient for a wider swath of parents, teachers and administration.

PTO Secretary and recorder of this summary: Jenna Kivanc