

2024.10.08 Mary Lin PTA General Meeting

Co-Presidents – Stephanie Shumacher & Ann Cloud

Secretary – Danielle Gallo

Treasurer - Rachel Weinthal Frank

VP, Communications – Beryl Firestone

Co-VP, Education – Saskia Owoade-Bryant

Co-VP, Education - Michelle Kotheimer

Co-VP, Fundraising -Esther Lipmann

Co-VP, Fundraising – Stephanie Smith

Co-VP, Operations – Amy Wheeler

Co-VP, Operations – Laura Tanguturi

Co-VP, Parent Involvement – Sarah Perlin

Co-VP, Parent Involvement – Kristen Zarbock

Parliamentarian – Claire Oates

Principal – Denise Bringslid

Assistant Principal – Katie Zubrowski

Guest Foundation Member – Emily Newton

AGENDA

Call to Order 7:03 pm

Discussion of Mary Lin Parent Support Organizations

Discussion of Special Committee

Adjourn

Quorum (>15 attendees): Established

Discussion of Parent Support Organizations

This is not a vote to actually change anything at this point, just to discuss if we want to start a committee. This is being brought to the table because when Ann Cloud first signed on as co-President in the Spring 2024, she had many conversations with the incumbent PTA and community around the PTA and the Foundation. There have been discussions over the past few years about whether or not we want to combine into the same organization.

Claire Oates made it clear that as a PTA we have to follow specific rules and only paying members of the PTA are allowed to vote and reiterated that the purpose of this meeting is only to vote on whether we want to establish a committee to explore further or not.

Ann reviewed the one-page document attached that details the differences between the PTA and the Foundation. Ann spoke to the PTA efforts and responsibilities and Emily Newton covered Foundation contributions to Mary Lin.

Denise spoke a bit about her experience at Mary Lin with the parents being somewhat confused about which organization does what. When she worked at VaHi, they had a

PTO and she had a positive experience there as well as with Mary Lin parent support organizations. Springdale Park also has a PTO. Morningside has a PTA and a Foundation.

Addressing Questions about the Process

What exactly is the expected timeline to discuss this and the next step from there? Any conversations that have occurred to date have been very early phase. If this is going to move beyond discussions, the first step is establishing a committee. That said, generally the PTA thinks the process would be that first the committee would do due diligence and then present findings to the PTA members in January/February in an in-person meeting. Conceivably, you could do the whole process in a year but also it could stretch into two years depending on the amount of research and work the committee discovers is needed.

Claire opened the floor and Alex Zubrowski made the motion to form a special committee to explore the viability and feasibility to form a PTO. The motion was seconded by Sarah Perlin.

A vote was held and it was unanimous with 29 ayes and 0 nays.

Once approved, the following individuals volunteered to sit on the special committee:

Claire Oates

Katie Zubrowski

Amanda Walker

Lauren Estrin

Michelle Kotheimer

Rachel Weinthal

Sarah Perlin

PTA AND THE FOUNDATION

Mary Lin Elementary



Two parent-based volunteer organizations support Mary Lin Elementary, the PTA and the Foundation. They both raise money for the school and support teachers and the Mary Lin community.



These two organizations currently fundraise separately and support different school efforts and activities, as described in this document.

PTA

What does the PTA Support?

- **Communication:** We prepare and send the weekly Rocket Blast to all parents with regular updates on school activities and events.
- **Teacher Support and Appreciation:** Funds raised through the PTA provide classroom supplies, gifts, meals, and treats for teachers throughout the year.
- **Community Engagement:** We organize events for kids and families including playground play dates, restaurant dine outs, movie nights, bingo, parent coffee mornings, and grade-level parent outings.

How does the PTA raise funds?

- Annual Fun Run in September
- Donations from local businesses who become sponsors of the PTA
- Selling of school spirit wear (school shirts, tumblers, and other school spirit items)
- Local restaurant Dine Out nights (local restaurants will have special days where a portion of proceeds support the PTA)
- PTA membership dues

The Foundation

What does The Foundation Support?

- **Capital Improvements:** Mural Paintings, the Outdoor Habitat, School Chickens, the Playground and Outdoor Classroom Space, Signage throughout the building
- **Professional Development:** Specialty Teacher trainings and certifications such as GIFTED and Social Emotional Learning training, Teacher Conference Participation including Project Based Learning, STEAM and Math Conferences, and Integration of the Arts
- **New Technology:** Microscopes, Walkies
- **Curriculum Needs:** Online resources for core subjects, STEAM Lab materials, Compost Now, Tournament of Books, Play Based Learning Supplies

How does the Foundation raise funds?

- Rocket Fuel Fund is our main annual fundraiser, a fun classroom competition
- In person events (i.e. Kindergarten Welcome)
- Ongoing contributions from our community are welcome throughout the year at <https://www.marylinfoundation.org/>