

AGENDA

GENERAL PTA MEETING

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Alice Brookner @ 6:33

- PTA mission statement was read.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from August 2021 general PTA meeting

- Motion to approve – Alice Brookner
- 2nd – Patrick McGrath
- Minutes approved

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

- Fall Fest was well attended and thanks to everyone who came and helped.
- Lunch was purchased for teachers on their Oct. workday.
- School tours started last week. Spread the word with parents of new students or rising kindergartners.
- Operation Care Basket is starting this week. If you would like to help, contact Alice. If you would like to receive baskets, contact president@marylinelementary.com
- Contact Point raffle ends tomorrow.
- Book fair started today.
- Yearbooks are still for sale. Ordering details are in the Rocket Blast.
- LOST & FOUND! Please come look to see if anything belongs to you!

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

- Strategic planning is going well with the GoTeam. Ms. Briscoe presented our initial data from our MAP data at a district principals meeting.
- Katie Zubrowski will move into a district position to oversee the cluster, but will remain physically located at Mary Lin. A teacher will be promoted to Ms. Zubrowski's old position.
- The Foundation gave Lin a large donation to the school's discretionary fund. Ms. Backus and Coach Dee will be recognized.
- Book Fair is happening this week.
- 4/5 Academy Update – the district and the board are still working through the proposal and the board has not yet seen the official proposal, nor have they voted yet. Please reach out to Let's Talk and your Board members if you have feelings one way or the other on this topic and advocate for yourself and your family.

- The contact info for the Board members was in the chat – here is the link that was posted with the contact info:
<https://mailchi.mp/marylinelementary/rocketblastjuly26-5174398?e=1857bc215e>

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Profit and loss - \$18k in income – grant for sunshade, dine-outs, Fall Fest
- See treasurer's report for dollars spent and current balance as of tonight.

VICE PRESIDENTS' UPDATES

- Communications
 - Lots of Rocket Blasts going out.
 - Thanks to everyone who's sending their submissions early
- Education
 - Schedule is up for Mary Lin extracurriculars on the MyAfterSchoolProgram website
 - Registration for afterschool activities for next semester opens Dec. 1st @ 9:00
 - The spelling bee is postponed to Jan. 10th, and it will be live-streamed for parents
 - The APS district-wide spelling bee is Jan. 22nd
 - Science night will be Jan. 20th as planned. We're not sure yet if this will be in-person or virtual.
- Fundraising
 - See treasurer's report for more details.
 - We brought in about \$5k from the bounce houses at Fall Fest.
 - We brought in about \$18k from school partners, including from lots from parents – thank you!
 - Keep using Amazon, Kroger, and Publix rewards cards
 - Spirit wear should be coming by the end of Nov. or beginning of Dec.
 - Contact Point raffle ends tomorrow. A new raffle for InterAtlantaFC is next month. Details will be in the Rocket Blast.
- Operations
 - Looked into how to get our school PTA recognized on national level for membership. We need to look at setting some goals for next year to be eligible.
- Parent Involvement
 - Donations for Mary Lin families who need assistance – Operation Care Basket started yesterday and continues through Friday. This is a collection we do for families in the Lin community who have had job loss or have financial difficulties. Non-perishable food donations will go to Lin families over Thanksgiving break.
 - A brief parent engagement survey is out in the Rocket Blast and room parent email. Please participate, it is short.
 - Shout out to Chris and Christina Murphy and to Erin Aynes for running the Care Basket and Halloween Candy donation.

NEW BUSINESS

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

- The board of directors approved the creation of this new committee and Tonya Berry will be Committee Head
- Melissa Hawkins read the mission statement for this new committee: “The mission of the ML PTA DEI committee is shared with the GA PTA mission - to create a high-performing, productive association through an inclusive community environment in which each individual is valued for his/her unique skills, talents and contributions in order to capitalize on the innovation inherent in diverse populations. Diversity affects our mission-driven programs and services, our public image, interpersonal, personal, and organizational activities. Diversity is defined as diversity to include the many differences that distinguish people, including mental, emotional, psychological and physical disabilities; learning styles; geographic residence; languages used; cultural heritage; educational level and more.”
- Thank you from Ms. Briscoe to the committee for setting this committee up and leading it.
- Parent question - Is this committee Lin PTA-specific or how far does this reach into the community? – It will start with the PTA, but hopefully branch out into the community in years to come.
- Deanne posted a link to the National PTA DEI Exhibit in the chat: https://publish.exhibbit.com/gallery/403875314424696736/long-gallery-72007/?v=20211102071802&fbclid=IwAR1OJ3xQSD3Han_xd3zXiM-YOREY_UWsoyTF0ycRyMjlb2mXCQvnKxqhrC4
- GA and National PTA has a toolkit on diversity, equity, and inclusion on their websites
- Parent Involvement Survey on Spring Event(s)
 - This was mentioned also during the Parent Involvement update.
 - This is a 7-question survey to gather information about how comfortable everyone feels about meeting or gathering in person for PTA events in light of COVID
 - Please fill it out. It's in the room parent email and will be in next week's Rocket Blast.
 - We need to recruit younger parents for Board service since many in the current board will age out of Mary Lin when the 4/5 Academy opens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There is a collection happening for non-home-room staff. If you would like to contribute, the link is in the Rocket Blast.
- Foundation update: The Foundation is currently in their big fundraising push. We are at 80% of our \$120k goal.
 - Classroom competition is happening now. Every grade level will have a winner with a gift basket for the winning teacher in each grade. More opportunities to donate are coming soon – giving Tuesday, etc.
 - The Foundation has paid or plans to pay for things like:
 - StemScope digital science program
 - 20 keyboards for Ms. Backus
 - GATE endorsements for more teachers
 - STEAM project funding
 - Signage at the school
 - Grants for alternative seating in kindergarten classes
 - Send questions regarding The Foundation to Claire Oates
 - Questions
 - Is there a minimum donation requirement? No, just participation.

- Was my donation applied to my teacher for the contest – yes, all donations should now be matched to each teacher.
 - Does the money I donate go directly to my child's current teacher? No, donations are to the foundation, not to any specific teacher.
- Lake Claire Arts & Crafts sale is coming up Dec. 4th (rain day Dec. 5th) and 10% of all sales will go back to Mary Lin
- Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) – Annsley Klehr – thank you to anyone who has donated. Go to cinsatlanta.org for more information or to donate. They award grants and Dr. Waldman was awarded one of these grants.

QUESTIONS:

- Is the parent involvement survey gauging how parents feel about events like the Small Tall Ball, the 5th Grade trip, etc.? No, this survey is only for parent engagement events.
 - Ms. Briscoe said the Small Tall Ball is unsure – they may hold a Small Tall Ball for just 5th graders. The 5th grade trip is an overnight trip. APS has lifted the ban on field trips, but she still does not know about overnight field trips.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25