Mellon Middle School PTA Meeting
February 14, 2018
MINUTES

I Call to order 8:50 Melissa Bailey

II Approval of January 8, 2018 Minutes stand as written

III Treasurer's report Marilee Kline

- 6th grade purchased Escape Room Kits which was in addition to "team budget" so the $ came out of Educational Expenses.
- Still ahead of budget with membership.

IV. Executive Committee reports

A. President's Report Melissa Bailey
- Next month please come to the 3/14 meeting because our quorum is 7 and we need to vote on the Executive board.
- Not on Social media so if you need to get in touch with Melissa please send an email directly to Melissa if you have a concern.
- 1/10/18 – meeting with Dr. Davis, explaining homeless student education. Homeless is defined as not having the same place to sleep each night. Breakfast and lunch are provided by the district as well as transportation by
- All 30 spots for Markham students at Mellon have been filled. There is a waiting list.
- School board hired a consulting company to make drawings for rock pile. Turf or grass? Best case scenario playable by fall.
- Summer Learning – they want to move that to the Mellon complex. Hoping band camp moves back to the high school so Summer Learning. The rock pile outcome will determine what happens at Mellon this summer.
- Questions for MLEA meeting need to be in writing by 2/25.
- Meeting with School Board in spring, send questions.
- New date for Council meeting – moved due to delay, March 14 @ 9am, same day and time as our Mellon meeting.
- District calendar – no elem & middle 3/1.
- Lock in needs chaperones, chaperones need clearances.
- 2/22 STEAM showcase

B. First Vice President Bob Andrews – no report

C. Second Vice President Mitchell Blasingame – no report

D. Third Vice President Chris Wolfson
- 8 th Grade Washington D.C. Trip - Trip is full - Final payment is due

- Greece/Rome trip over the summer is NOT a school sanctioned trip. While there are hard feelings about Eagle team members being invited and not the other team, it is not a school trip and therefore Mellon has no say over it.
- NAEP Testing - Completed on January 31 - 8 th Grade Civics, Geography, US History - Completed without issue
- Staffing Updates - STRIVE – should be finalized at February School Board Meeting - Technology Education – Should be finalized at February School Board Meeting - 7 th Grade Rockets Social Studies – Mr. Timko
- Cabin Fever - Currently in full swing. - Fun activities with minimal commitments - Appeals to a wide-range of interests and skills - Athletic, artistic, recreational, spectating… - Catalog can be found at – https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_RZ5zllV26Brgfe6ldCbpV2dKqwQTJ4/view
- Important Dates - 2/19/18 – In-Service Day – no school for students - 2/22/18 – STEAM night @ HS - 2/23/18 – Club Lebo @ Mellon - 2/26/18 – Third Quarter Midpoint - 3/5/18 – First Day of Spring Sports - 3/6/18 – Presentation "Anxiety in K-5 Children" @ JMS 7:00pm - 3/7/18 – Yearbook Photos for Activities, Clubs, and Groups - 3/13/18 – Act 80 Day – Teacher In-Service – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - 3/14/18 – PTA Meeting
- E-blasts - Reminder – make sure we have a valid e-mail address! - Make sure you check your e-mails from "Mellon Middle School" - noreply@mtlsd.net

E. Secretary — Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer – Please sign in for meeting

F. Historian — Kelly Latona – no report

V. Faculty Representative — Mr. Pierce Cook – see below

VI. Committee Reports

A. COUNCIL – Council had to reschedule due to snow delay.
- PTA presidents are meeting with MLEA. Submit written questions to Melissa Bailey by 2/25
- PTA Presidents are meeting with School Board. Submit written questions to Melissa Bailey by 3/29
- Dr. Steinhauer is recommending to School Board to only make up one missed school day. Last day of school is 6/15/18 w/ noon dismissal
- Special Election Day – Act 80 – March 13, 2018 – ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE – NO SCHOOL
- Outreach is working on placing counselors in local pediatrician offices
    - Will start seeing adults but they must have a child being seen @ Outreach
    - Mental Health First Aid workshop

        - Starting three new groups – Femtastic, Positive Psychology & Siblings / Children affected by addiction
    - Community Service – Sack Hunger w/SHIM. Will assign each school an item 3/19-25/18
    - Parent Education – Partnering with Outreach – Shape the Sky @ JMS. 3/14 – Adults only. Impact of technology on children. Shapethesky.org
    - Council Nomination Committee – Council Seats 2018-19. Uncontested – slate will sit for 30 days.
        - President – Katie Caste
        - 1st Vice President – Bonnie Dougherty
        - 2nd Vice President – Mary Ellen Donato
        - Treasurer – Rich Messimer
        - Secretary – Rebecca Matheus
        - Historian – Christina Battagalia
    - Next Council Meeting – March 14 @ 9am @ Foster

VII. Old Business – None

VIII. New Business

- Could the municipality consider giving in-house Mt. Lebanon rental events – pool, pavilion, turf, etc, a discount?
- Box tops – drive starts today. Send them in. It would be nice to meet budget.
- Juvenile Protection – complaints are popping up on social media. The chair is about safety, not protection. If something needs to be addressed, take it to JP chair, s/he will bring it to the president and it will go through the proper channels It is not an enforcement position – and it is not for shaming on social media.
- District needs to re-evaluate the "walking district" we are a "no-busing" community and it needs to be re-evaluated. These thoughts need to go to the Police Department.
- Nominating committee has completed the slate for 2018-19 Officers

    President – Melissa Bailey

    Vice President - Moira

    2nd Vice President – Mitchell Blasingame

    3rd – Chris Wolfson

    Secretary – Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer (left out of draft minutes)

    Treasurer – Alison Carey

    Historian – Kelly Latona

Call for nominations from the floor for all positions – no positions contested, the positions will remain open for two weeks. (February 28) Everyone has two weeks, if any changes or suggestions present to Melissa Bailey.

- Will meet with Dan Miller this afternoon about vaping. Any comments or suggestions give to Melissa.

Motion to adjourn – Bob Andrews, Kelly Latona seconded.

Adjourned by 9:58 am

Meeting Attendees: Kelly Latona, Diane Rattay, Jennifer Rick, Mitchell Blasingame, Aubrey Mooney, Bonnie Daugherty, Marilee Kline, Mandy Mitchell, Melissa Bailey, Bob Andrews, Pierce Cook, Chris Wolfson & Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer

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Faculty Representative Pierce Cook Notes:

Notes from Mellon Classrooms - February 14th, 2018

Empty Bowls:

March 8th, 2018, JMS Cafeteria - 5:30 PM. Look for information about ticket sales in Mr. Wolfson's Weekly EBlast. Funds benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank . Participation from several different 8th grade enrichment classes including orchestra, chorus, BIT, and art.

Washington Road Concert Series:

On certain Friday's in May (to be officially announced soon) The Mellon 8th Grade Orchestra, Jazz Band, and MelloTones/8th Grade Chorus will perform a half hour lunchtime concert at Clearview Commons in Uptown Mt. Lebanon.

LitMag

The Outlook, Mellon's literary magazine, earned a rating of "Excellent" from the National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines.

PMEA Festivals

- **Two 6th grade chorus members are attending PMEA SingFest in March**
- **Three 8th grade chorus members are attending Jr. High District Chorus in March**
- **Six Mellon orchestra students & two Mellon band students attending PMEA Jr. High Honors Orchestra (which Mr. Cook is Hosting at the High School) in March**
- **Four Mellon 6th Grade orchestra members are attending PMEA Stringfest in March.**
- **Eleven Mellon band members are attending PMEA Jr. High Honors Band (which Miss Marino is hosting at the High School) in March**

French

French 8 students will be going to the Frick Museum on March 8 for a art tour and a theater-based workshop entitled Joie de Vivre: Art and Revolution in 18th-Century France. This will be the kick-off to our study of Paris and its monuments.

6th Grade Literature

Students are just finishing up the Mt. Lebanon Common Assessment. They kiddos read a short story and write 5 complete paragraphs. This is a big deal for the kids as they are reading and analyzing the information.

Cabin Fever w. Mr. Mikesell

We had our first breakout (escape room) and it was a huge success with six students. There are 11 signed up for "Cabin Fever" for the month of February.

From Team Racer

Kiva is a non-profit micro-loan organization that allows people to lend money to others who do not have enough. This money can help them get an education, support their family, open a business, or any other kind of circumstance where they need assistance. The loans are made starting at twenty-five dollars. Ever since a generous Racer family gave a $100 dollar gift certificate to Kiva in 2012, Racer sixth graders have been doing something to keep donating to Kiva. Since the gift certificate gave twenty dollars to each class, the students needed to make only five dollars in total to make a loan donation. Students are given the job to raise at least twenty-five cents. It doesn't seem hard, but there is a catch.

Albert Einstein once said, "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." These wise words ring true in what we have just done. Students would have to work in order to get their money, but only get the amount of money people in developing countries would earn. A student could clean their house all day and only receive a meager amount of money. After that, twenty-five cents sounds like so much more. This relates to Einstein's words in that students must understand the world's conditions, in order to form the next generation of peacemakers. If students can experience the struggles of people around the world, then they can change the world for the better. I was a "maid" for my house, like many of my peers. I washed the dishes, cleaned the bathrooms, took care of the dogs, etcetera, all for twenty-five cents. I can't believe people in other parts of the world go through so much labor for such little money every day for years. They have no hope of bettering themselves when they don't have the means to do

so. This experience has truly made me realize how lucky I am to live in a place where I have more opportunities.

In the end, Racers raised about fifty-five dollars. Each class donated to a beneficiary from Kiva of their choice. Still, we have extra. It's enough to give one more donation. With this money I suggest we donate it to a group, like Hai's Group. In Hai's Group, a loan of $2,650 helps a member repair her house. There are many other groups with similar needs. Donating to a group will benefit the lives of more people. Kiva is a wonderful organization for people who want to help people to enrich their lives.

Congratulations Team Racer.
Submitted by Brooke