

MWES PTA Meeting Minutes
From September 17, 2007
MWES Media Center, 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by Amy Crawford, Recording Secretary

President, Angel Bivens

The minutes from the PTA meeting on May 14, 2007 were approved. Adrienne Taylor moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Bowen seconded the motion.

First VP - Greg Thomas

Greg updated everyone on the Back to School picnic. The event was very successful and everyone seemed to have a good time. He had planned for 780 people in attendance, and more than 700 attended. Suggestion for next year is that some staff members were not aware of the event, so we should advertise the event more to staff.

Second VP – Barbara Ohnmacht

Nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary – Amy Lowe

No report.

Recording Secretary – Amy Crawford

No report.

Treasurer – Jayne Miller

Jayne reported that we had to tighten our budget this year. She passed out the budget for the year.

There was a discussion about how to use the surplus funds in the treasury. One thought is to use the funds for a lighted sign at the entrance of Frederick Road. Mr. Weisner reported that there is an ordinance which restricts the number of signs on Frederick Road, so we can only have one sign. We already have a brick sign at the entrance, so the lighted sign would have to be farther down the school's driveway. Jane Jones originally researched sign proposals. Discussion next turned to whether we should update the school's website rather than spend approximately \$6,000 for the lighted sign. The website needs to be updated because it was last updated in 2005. Mr. Weisner said that he would not like to spend funds on the website but rather have a staff person volunteer their time to update the website. There is a new technology teacher and perhaps she will be able to volunteer for this project because she has the expertise. We conducted a straw poll to determine if we should go forward with the sign in the driveway, and more people were in favor with going forward with it. A decision was made to leave the sign funds in the surplus of the budget. Adrienne Taylor motioned to approve the budget, and Mrs. Thomas seconded the motion.

Audit report – need info on this (ask Angel)

PTA Council Delegate – Marc Norman

Nothing to report.

President – Angel Bivens

Every three years, the PTA must examine the by-laws and re-approve them. A motion was made to approve the by-laws. Jane Jones made the motion and Richard Brame seconded the motion.

Angel discussed two open positions which we are currently seeking to fill: PTA Council Delegate and Citizen's Advisory Council.

Angel reminded committee chairs to check their mail in the hanging folders in the PTA office.

She thanked Mr. Weisner for notifying the parents via Eschool newsletter in a timely manner about the fire alarms on the second day of school.

Principal- Jim Weisner

Mr. Weisner reported a terrific start to the school year. Back to school nights were well attended.

Carol Hahn had surgery and developed a blood clot post surgery. She is recovering at home and is due back to MWES in early to middle October.

Mr. Weisner reported that the School Board is redoing the athletic fields at MWES because they were not graded properly when they were originally installed. Drainage pipes are being added, and the fields will be regraded and reseeded.

The School Improvement Team (SIT) will meet tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. Anyone is invited to attend.

Progress reports will go home on Oct. 5, 2007.

On Oct. 23, 2007 there will be a Math and Language Arts night.

Mr. Weisner reported that MWES enrollment numbers are down due to a large fifth grade class graduating last year and a smaller Kindergarten class this year. There are currently 601 students enrolled.

Eschool newsletter will go out every Friday and also on Tuesdays as needed.

There are no major issues with the buses. Mr. Weisner urged everyone to not park in the fire lane of the drop-off area in front of the school.

Parent-teacher conferences are approaching in November, and evening appointments will be offered.

Committee Reports

Fall Book Fair – Karen Chase

Karen was not able to attend the meeting, but Angel read her notes. The Fair will be held at Barnes and Noble on Monday, Nov. 5, 2007. MWES will receive a percentage of all sales made on that day (not just during the evening). MWES families are urged to attend and they must bring the flyer with them in order for us to receive credit.

Cultural Arts – Gina Brown

Co-chairing with Susan _____. On November 1, 2007, Marian Brown (actress, dancer, storyteller) will discuss drummer education. She will present two programs, one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 10:00 a.m.

Gina commented that programming is very expensive. She has found that it is best to work with an entertainment company, not with the artist directly.

Sally Foster Giftwrap – Paula ____ and Kim _____

Orders are due by September 28, 2007. Contests are currently going on. Everyone is encouraged to order online because items are then shipped directly to people's homes, not to the school.

Membership – Jennifer Peffel

160 members joined the PTA during the first week. Our goal is to have 425 members. There was confusion with the form this year because the membership form and info about the PTA were copied on 2 separate blue sheets instead of a double-sided copy. The form will be sent out again in order to attract more members. Only PTA members will get directories this year. Next year we should consider raising PTA dues to \$10 rather than \$7.

Reading Campaign – Adrienne Taylor

The theme this year will be Read Across America. Due to budget restrictions, no weekly prizes will be given out.

Reflections - _____

The theme this year will be "I can make a difference by"

89 students participated in the poster contest last year. The deadline for submitting posters will be the first week of November.

SIT – Linda Spano

Linda was not present, but there will be a meeting tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

Basket Bingo – Adrienne Taylor

We held our first Basket Bingo last spring. This year Basket Bingo will be on Friday, April 4, 2008. School closes three hours early that day, so there will be time for setup. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and Bingo will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers – Lynne McClean

No report.

After School Programs – Cheryl Brown

There has been a good response to the After School programs being offered this year. Three are already filled, including Magic and Mad Science. Programs start next week. Parent volunteers are needed to assist with each class.

During the spring, the following programs may be offered: Chess club, drama, yoga, Chinese, French.

Giant/Safeway Cards: Amy DeGeorge

Nothing to report.

Variety Show – Maralee Henderson

Forms came home today informing parents of the Variety Show to be held on Friday, November 9, 2007. There will be a mandatory dress rehearsal on Nov. 7. There will be tryouts on _____.

Walking Program – Jane Jones

The walking program will begin on September 27th and will continue every Thursday year round. There will be a participation competition among classes in each grade, the winning class will receive a “golden shoe.” Students who participate will receive a plastic toe for every 5 miles they walk. There will be a Family Fun Walk/Run at MWES on October 1, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Students will receive zipper pulls for participating.

Bulleting Boards – Gina McIntyre

The front bulletin boards are currently advertising the band and orchestra. Gina will soon be posting information about upcoming PTA events on the bulletin board.

Copy Coordinator - Gail _____

Any PTA committee needing copies made can notify Gail.

DuckTales – Francine Bennett

Articles are needed from committee chairs. Ducktales is published five times per year. Francine passed out the production schedule for the year.

Hospitality – Marcia Ravasio

The Back to School Breakfast was successful. Volunteers will be needed for individual events in the future so that the same people are not constantly volunteering. Other upcoming events include: Bus Driver Lunch, Custodian Brunch, and the Holiday Lunch for teachers.

Recess Equipment

No report.

Room Parents – Dawn Harvey

Room parents are currently being selected by teachers. Dawn is updating the Room Parent handbook to reflect the new nutritional guidelines.

Blood Drive – Renee _____

Renee was not present, but she reported via email that the Blood Drive will be November 27, 2007.

Community Services – Ingrid _____

During the Fall, there will be a collection of winter items (coats, hats, and mittens). During the Spring, there will be the Prepare for Success backpack program, and families can donate school supplies for needy children.

Historian – _____

We now have a historian who will maintain a scrapbook of PTA activities. She will take photos of PTA events.

Lost and Found

No report.

Directory – Alicia _____

Alicia is currently working on the directory and coordinating information with Membership Chair, Jennifer Peffel.

New Business – Angel Bivens

2 items will be moved to the next meeting.