

PTA Advisory Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Michael Wasko

Mrs. Denise Brennan

Mr. Aaron Wasserman

Mr. Darrin Stark

Mr. Evan Markensohn

Mrs. Carmen Camean

Dr. Maria Carrell

Mr. Roberto Camean

Mrs. Lisa Bomemgo

Mr. Greg Margolis

Mr. George Dakak

Mr. Michael Anderson

1. Opening

- Teacher of the Year recognitions and Excellence in Service awards were presented at BOE meeting on 5/16
- Faculty and Friends concert was a success, sold out, raised over \$4,000 for Moser Music Endowment Fund
- 8th grade volley ball game, raised funds. Participants from all schools

2. District

- No change in enrollment from April board meeting budget presentation
- 326 for BMS (+7)
- 269 for MTV (+7)
- 235 for SDS (+2)
- ~830 total for elementary (+28)
- 440 for MJS (-25)
- 1,270 (in district total enrollment)
- Property redevelopment: Hanover Mills (Corporate Mailings) and 34 Eden Lane (River Park). No impact to 22-23 school year. COs expected to be issued in June. Projecting 20 students in K-5 (+8), 7 in 6-8. 34 Eden, COs expected in September. Projecting 12 (K-5), 6 (6-8)
- 3 tenure track teaching positions available beginning September 1st as well as long term sub positions and bus driver openings (4)

3. Recreation Update

- Bee Meadow Pool: Pool is set up as a utility, no taxes support the pool. Only supported by membership fees. Salaries and wages (9.5->15.50 for life guards), membership fees up 10%, party fees went up. Anticipate small increase for 23-24, but not as much as this year. Start planning pool parties in February (doesn't no staffing in January). Next year, pool parties will be applied to recreation via facility use form rather than just communicate with Eddie.

- June 3, get hooked on fishing, not drugs in association with NJ wild life division and substance awareness council. Open to resident children up to 16
- June 16 summer concert series kicks off with Parrot Beach at Bee Meadow Pool, and Monday concerts
- June 30 fireworks (rd 7/1), bussing provided by BOE
- Drive in movie, Silent dance, chalk in the summer
- Traveling teens sold out, regional BOE supports with bussing
- Wrestling, volleyball, basketball camps
- Mayor's wellness campaign, Mayor G participates in various activities. To schedule a "walking school bus" for September to walk in with kids

4. Curriculum Updates

- Congratulations to all PTAs on their contributions
- Final iXL benchmarks and fontas and penel benchmarks are occurring now
- MJS is finishing mathematics coaching by 5/19
- New iMacs going to all computer labs this summer
- 3d printers are in all schools

5. Testing Update

- Ended NJSLA last week, performing makeups

6a. High School

- Harlem event review
- Testing completes (March, April, May) state and AP tests
- Senior prom 6/1
- Under and upper classmen awarded
- 6/15, move up day for MJS 8th graders
- Final exams weeks of 6.12
- Last day 6/19, graduation on 6/23
- Referendum had passed, phase 1 begins end of June (roof over gym) and vestibule roof outside gym
- Staffing, 4 leave replacements. HS has teacher shortages, especially in niche areas. Tenure track has 2 positions open. Bus driver openings.

6b. SDS

- Build a bear event
- Teacher appreciation week, made teachers feel special. Different themes (wear teacher's favorite color, bring their favorite flower, etc.)
- Talent show coming in June
- Fun day coming up, "if you had fun, you won". Supported by parent volunteers

- Celebrate 5th graders – pool parties, kickball game, yearbook activities, and clap out on final day
- Recognize PTA effort to build outdoor classroom, enhancements pending

6c. BMS

- Grade level shows coming, excited that BMS is first grade level shows in 1-4 in ~20 years (in addition to K superkids and 5th grade ceremony)
- Had BMS grade level concert at MJS
- BMS had 5th grade kickball game on 5/12. First year that the staff lost, 11-10
- Read-a-thon
- STEM Night
- Buzz Book
- Author Visit - Laurie Wallmark
- Marking period hospitality – complaints
- Spring book fair - scholastic issues
- Spring Spiritwear
- Spring Luncheon
- Assembly - Joe Romano
- Talent Show - Jess O'Dwyer and Mark Juliano
- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, Principal's day, Nurse's day
- School supply kits
- Field day prep - shirts and pizza
- Movie night – cancelled until we get a chair
- Field trips
- Grade level shows – decorations
- Tricky tray – To benefit outdoor classroom
- Election - Linda Oakes as President and Karolyn Montesano as Vice President
- Community feedback that we focus too much on teachers, but doesn't understand all that we do for students.

6d. MTV

- Reviewing coordinated services and 3rd->4th grade students and pact and accelerated math programs
- Classroom spelling bees -> school spelling bee -> district spelling bee
- Activities with Whippany Park and Hanover Park, HS students worked with teachers (foreign language and art)
- Arty party 5/17, after school led by teachers
- Family movie night
- Talent show
- Number drummer assembly (marriage of music and math, hands on).
- TAW was wonderful, spoiled

- Field day shirts and Kona Ice truck
- 6/5 evening pool party
- 5/19 food truck festival

6e. MJS

- 8th grade vs. faculty volley ball tournament (not run during covid), exciting to be back. 150/159 students participated. All four school faculties had teams. Fundraise for the modgie movement that provides biosand filters for communities (Tanzania and Africa) where fresh drinking water is scarce. Raised \$1,500 to purchase 15 filters. MJS won 5 years in a row.
- Always had a technology club, and participated in junior solar sprints. Joined Technology student association, lead them participate in state level competitions. On 4/26 at TCNJ, MJS students participated in statewide conference. 3 state winners, 2 will go to national competition.
- 6/2 is 8th grade trip to Frogbridge day camp
- 8th grade dance 6/9 at the Legion
- 6/14 is 8th grade awards during the school day
- 6/15 is 8th grade move up day in the afternoon
- Future Vikings night is 6/7
- 8/30 open house for incoming 6th graders
- PTA provided SAW support and hospitality
- PTA sponsored 8th grade graduation lawn signs
- PTA sponsored graduation awards
- PTA is working on year end celebration for 8th grade (year book social)
- HS Interact club to support MJS homework club in 23-24 (returning tradition)

6f. Special services

- Special services gearing up extended school year program. A program required by law for those that need it.
- Every few years, required survey – 108 districts selected in NJ this year, 11 in Morris County- soliciting satisfaction for special service programs. Surveys to go out June/July, NJ DoE sends to families directly.
- Special education parent advisory group, has program on 5/31 to present different reading interventions
- As district crisis management coordinator, review and updating plans, last updated 3 years ago.

7. Other

- Richard Grip, demographer, will be back on 6/13 BOE Meeting to present study from March 2023
- Will present technology winners
- Spelling Bee

- Student council recognition
- School climate survey coming out via Swift end of May or beginning of June
- Last two days of school 6/19 and 6/20, both early dismissals
- HTSACC to start opening at 7am starting next year.

8. Close

- Thanks to all the PTAs for everything they do

Respectfully Submitted by Evan Markensohn, Bee Meadow School PTA President