

Morris County School of Technology

PTO Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023 - 7pm via Zoom

President – Lisa Tubbs

Vice President/Membership Chair - Jen Vnencak

Secretary – Amy Ghelli (absent)

Treasurer – Katia Yousuf

Hospitality Co-Chairs - Anisha Patoir (absent) & Natalie Vacca

Scholarship Chair - Kathy Felch

Fundraising Chair - Debbie Arntzen

Apparel Chair - Tracy Granata (absent)

Call to Order: 7:02PM

Note: Secretary Amy Ghelli was unable to attend the meeting. Lisa Tubbs recorded minutes.

Principal Lynne Jackson's Message (given by Lisa Tubbs):

-Junior/Senior Prom is Fri. June 9 6-10PM at The Meadow Wood in Randolph. Tickets are on sale via MySchoolBucks for \$115/person. Students & Parents should review email from Ms. Shane for forms to complete.

- Full-time Academy Graduation is on Wed. June 21 at 3PM. Location is Mennen Arena in Morristown. A letter will be mailed to families on 4/3 with tickets. Rehearsals will be at MCST on Mon. June 19 and Tues. June 20. Times TBA. Last rehearsal is Wed. 6/21 at Mennen Arena 8:30-10:30AM.

- Share-time Students Completer's Ceremony is on Fri. June 9.

- Incoming Freshman, the Class of 2027, Welcome event is scheduled for Wed. April 19 6:30-7:30PM. Thank you to the PTO for providing T-shirts.

- Staff will be participating in a NJ Sharing Network 5K to raise awareness of organ/tissue donation in honor former Chemistry Teacher Andy Latincsics who suddenly passed away in 2016. Mr. Latincsics was an organ donor. April is National Organ/Tissue Donation Month. For more information visit <https://www.njsharingnetwork.org/events/new-providence-2023/>

- Spring Break is Fri. April 7 – Sun. April 16

President's Report (Lisa Tubbs):

- Yearbooks for sale- \$55 each.

- Senior Celebrations- Continue a tradition of two post-rehearsal parties at Denville Campus Mon. and Tues.

- Class of 2023 Lawn Signs are for sale through Mon. May 1. So far 38 have been sold. This is comparable to sales last year for same duration (41). Total of 129 were sold last year.

- Request from administration to help fund speaker for two assemblies for all students this spring with Mykee Fowlin. Mykee's program covers racism, sexism, gender identity, bullying-

cyber and otherwise, and current issues facing teens. There is a focus on suggestions and solutions, laws, and student rights. PTO has proposed covering half cost at \$1,750 if the assembly does take place.

- Sat. April 22 is the 9th annual Hackathon 8AM-9PM. PTO will be covering cost of custodians and nurse. Open to grades 7-12. Register at <https://hackmcst.dev/>

Vice President's/Membership Report (given by Lisa Tubbs):

- 254 PTO members + 58 staff (overall. 312). Up 1 family from last PTO meeting.
- 2023-2024 memberships are available in Membership Toolkit, primarily to collect T-shirt information from incoming freshmen families.

Treasurer's Report (Katia Yousuf):

- Board met on Sat. March 4 to review current budget.
- Teacher grants (\$200 each) are under budget. Currently have issued 13 grants for approx. \$2,800. The PTO identified those staff members that have not yet submitted for a grant, and we will reach out to make sure they are aware of its availability.

Hospitality Co-Chair Report (Natalie Vacca):

- CTE month celebration Churro bar was a success on Tues. 2/14.
- Teacher appreciation luncheon is scheduled for Fri. May 12. We are planning a Mexican theme.
- Waiting for a date for Alumni Student Panel in late May/early June (for Junior class).

Apparel Chair Report (given by Lisa Tubbs):

- PTO will be ordering Class of 2027 T-shirts from Madison Avenue Promotions.
- Future apparel sales will be in partnership with Athletics Boosters via SquadLocker for year-round sales.

Fundraising Chair Report (Debbie Arntzen):

- Spring Bingo+ Night. Is Fri., April 28. We have sold 97 tickets to date.
- Started reaching out to request donations from area businesses for baskets.
- Due to NJ Gaming laws, we are not able to pre-sell basket tickets. Bingo is a separate license.

Scholarship Chair Report (Kathy Felch):

- Everyone who volunteered to be on the evaluation committee has been notified.
- Have volunteer to chair next year, Emily Bohn (current freshman parent)

Open Discussion:

Lively discussion related to Class of 2023 graduation celebrations. Class of 2023 celebrations committee met twice since last general PTO meeting. Committee met with Board on Mon. February 13. After a comprehensive discussion, the Board agreed during the February 13 meeting to allocate the full 2022-2023 \$9,000 budget for senior celebrations to graduation rehearsal parties for Class of 2023. To remove financial risk for the PTO, a proposal was reintroduced for parents interested in pursuing Project Graduation to form a separate non-profit organization with the sole purpose of producing Project Graduation events. For perspective, the annual PTO budget is approx. \$35,000 and broadly serves approx. 800 students and 100+ teachers and staff. The minimum estimate for a Project Graduation is \$30,000. (approx. 120 students). Project Graduation models in many other districts are stand-alone entities. Concern was voiced that forming a separate entity would delay progress towards a Class of 2024 event. Discussion continued with the proposal to open a separate PTO bank account to hold any funds raised specifically for a Project Graduation while the new non-profit entity is formed. Funds would then transfer to the newly formed non-profit. A request for a vote was voiced. Decision was made to wait until proper notification can be given to general membership and allow interested members to attend a vote. A special general membership meeting will be investigated for April.

Kathy Felch reported the good news that the district has extended its contract with Challenge Success for the 2023-2024 school year.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:08PM