

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Maryvale Elementary School PTA – General Meeting**  
**January 5, 2010**  
**Maryvale E.S. Media Center, 7.00pm**

**PTA Board Members**

Present: Audra Herzog (President), Norma Amado, Mara Lynch, Sanja Modric, Akoss Schuppius, Anne Simcox, Aissa Sires, Jackie Suzich.

Absent: none.

Others Attending: Esther Alessio. Ten adult parents including Krista Bocus, Wilmara Manuel, Carol Sienche, Valerie Levin, Robert Blake, Yvette Yeboah, Duncan Wambogo.

December 2009 minutes were amended and approved via email.

**Main Meeting Topic**

**Third Grade MSA Presentation**

The teachers of the Third Grade Team (Ms. Ford, Mr. Miller, Mme. Sawadogo and Ms. Tillson) discussed preparation for the upcoming MSA Exam for third grade students (reading March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, Math March 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>). Parents are encouraged to help prepare students at home, and special homework packets are sent home a month before the exam for this purpose. French program parents are especially encouraged in this as the testing is in English and will include English grammar and word usage. Points emphasized by the presenters included:

- § Third graders are tested as much on “how to read” (comprehension and in-depth analysis) as on the ability to read and spell.
- § Math will include significant reasoning and problem solving.
- § Writing is emphasized in both the reading and math sections of the exam.
- § Material that is taught in class in French may be tested in English.
- § The MSA tests all material through the end of the academic year, including that which may not be presented in detail until after the exam, although the teachers will attempt to provide some exposure of all material.
- § Each class will take practice tests which include using test-like materials, proctors and time limits to attempt to reduce exam anxiety.
- § Test results are used to assess Maryvale’s progress under NCLB.
- § Test results will be one data point of assessment for student academic placement, but will not be weighted more heavily than classwork.

A copy of the team’s PowerPoint presentation is available electronically.

**Committee Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Dues payments to MdPTA and MCCPTA are up to date. At least two entries in the current Income Statement were doubled by mistake, a correcting entry will be made

this period. Mr. Gale has laid out approximately \$1,200 for various used band instruments, but has yet to submit for reimbursement.

### **Membership Report**

Membership Chair Rick Moser was unavailable to give this report.

### **Programs Report**

The Annual Parent-Teacher Volleyball game is scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 – 8pm. Flyers will be going out in student folders this week.

### **Fundraisers Report**

Position is currently vacant – individual items reported by J. Suzich. Restaurant Nights continue to trend well over estimates, but other fundraisers are trending well below.

### **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

Anne Simcox asks all volunteers to please log all hours served to date, as Maryvale becomes eligible for discounts based on these. Spring Fling volunteers are still needed. The greatest need is a Sponsorship Coordinator to generate funds for popular but high cost attractions such as the petting zoo. Hourly volunteers during the event are also needed.

### **MCCPTA Delegates Report**

MCCPTA is concerned about significant upcoming budget cuts. Dr. Weast used a Budget Meeting at the Carver Building on January 4<sup>th</sup> to outline an additional \$20 million in cuts this academic year, and a potential \$42 million in cuts for next year depending on the resolution of the Maintenance of Effort court case. Detailed notes on this meeting were provided by Aissa Sires and Esther Alessio. Highlights include:

- § All Montgomery County non-school departments have already begun to enforce a 25% functional reduction – schools will be asked to do 22% (the \$20mm mentioned above).
- § A larger proportion of cuts this year will be at the middle school level, to reflect larger cuts to elementary and high schools last year.
- § Proposed transportation cuts would end busing for magnet programs such as immersion. A result to Maryvale would likely be a loss of students from the program. A potential benefit is that more immersion slots would open for local residents.
- § Most classrooms are likely to see an increase of one student. Maryvale may see a cap increase from 15 to 18 students per classroom in the local program.
- § Programs for low income, minorities and special needs students have been placed on a higher priority tier than regular education and other special programs.
- § Immersion Coordinators are likely to see either a reduction in hours or total position elimination.

MCCPTA delegates from Maryvale, Sligo Creek and Rock Creek Forest (all total immersion programs) plan to work together regarding representation at the upcoming budget hearings.

## **Other Topics**

### **Playground Benches**

Awaiting delivery and installation. Final cost was \$1,350, or \$150 less than budgeted. Funds to come from 2008 – 2009 surplus.

### **Maryvale T-shirts**

Shirts have been distributed to all new students, as well as to others who ordered them. Final cost was \$1,151.16, with \$925 (to date) coming from receivables, and \$226.16 from the PDF. Any additional receivables will be returned to the PDF. Approximately 220 shirts remain in stock, including enough to outfit all 2010 kindergarteners without an additional order. We may wish to order next year to provide shirts to CAPP/HeadStart/PreK, as well as to adults wishing to buy the gold shirts.

### **Lice**

Principal Kimber discussed the current lice problem in one Kindergarten class, and the steps taken to eradicate it. Once three cases have been confirmed in a class, a letter will be sent home to that class. While students with lice will be sent home, parents cannot be forced to follow specific treatments.

### **French Immersion Open Houses**

Principal Kimber indicated that the first open house for French Immersion was scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, with two further open houses scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **General Meeting Babysitter**

Continuing need for a babysitter for the children of attendees to the PTA General Meetings. Individual must be at least 18 years of age and preferably known to someone in PTA leadership.

## **Future Meeting Dates**

The next Board Meeting will take place March 2<sup>nd</sup>. General meetings are scheduled February 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9.15pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Mara Lynch.