

**Mars Elementary PTO
September Meeting
9/6/22 @ 9:30 AM
Centennial Building Room 212**

During the PTO Summer Meeting held on August 8, 2022 at the Treesdale Community Center, the 2022-23 PTO Budget was approved on Motion by Julie Vukovich, seconded by Crystal Ranson and passed.

Attendance: Lexie Northrop, Jennifer Logan, Rebecca Arnold, Chrisi Harrison, Lindsay Kelley, Mrs. Kiley Shine, Jen Lyker, Megan Lenz, Rebecca Baker, Jen Chomicki, Julia Vuckovich, Janelle Emanuele, Keri Mudalgikar, Krissy DiGioia, Megan McGivern, Monique Mayes, Carly Bartle, Toni Bleibtrey, Nicole Kredel, Julie Stewart, Sara Bergman, Emily Wiley, Bree Braunstein, Crystal Ranson, Doreen Paese, Misty Cope, Marisah Turner, Nicole Schwartz, Kelly Wojcik, Pamela Kleba, Jan Vermilya, Jenn Leapline, Sara Meisel, Lacey Beyer, Heather Raybold, Nicole McGettigan, Mr. Kostewicz, Mr. Lape, Mrs. Semler

President's Report Jennifer Logan - Important Dates

- Rebecca Arnold discussed Picture Dates: MAE 9/7; Centennial 9/9; PC 9/13
- March 4 Mars (M4M): Counting Days, Prize Sorting 10/11; PC 10/12; MAE 10/13; Cent 10/14
- Book Fairs: Cent 9/26-9/29; MAE 10/17-10/21
- Welcome, many new faces. Sign in to receive more information.
- Thank yous to PTO members who worked over the summer, and principals and staff.
- Reminders -
 - Independent clearances - submit asap
 - PTO Facebook page posts - please share, especially with your "class of" pages
 - Field Trip Chaperone requirements for clearances are changing
 - We are guests in the building - don't roam halls or try to have a teacher conference.

Approval of May 2022 Meeting Minutes

Lexie Northrop: Meeting minutes were sent out previously, no corrections were sent in.
Motion to approve May meeting minutes by Rebecca Arnold
Motion seconded by Jen Chomicki

Jennifer Logan: Changes to board (additions from May meeting)
Motion to approve by Rebecca Arnold
Motion seconded by Lexie Northrop

Treasurer's Report : Jen Chomicki - discussed budget, previously approved at summer meeting.
Budget is available for

- M4M fundraiser is used for Field Trip money - tshirts, other expenses

- Shout out to Megan Lenz - bringing in the most money from Corporate Sponsors in PTO history
- Discussion of Carryover on the budget - the last few years had a substantial carryover, gave substantial donations to the three schools. We don't want to dip in to carryover, shouldn't have to dip in with Megan's M4M efforts.
- Motion to approve using Faith Morrison as accountant by Jen Chomicki
- Motion seconded by Lexie Northrop

Principal's Reports

- Mr. Lape
 - Thank you all for coming
 - Picture day tomorrow
 - MAE needs a day lead time to send out information
 - Good start to the school year
- Mrs. Semler
 - Thank you for first day of school signs
 - looking forward to working together
- Mr. Kostewicz
 - Thank you to PTO
 - his door is always open

Teacher's Liaison - Mrs. Shine - Looking forward to working with PTO

- Sara Coon requests new recess toys, balls
- Is there money in the budget for a microwave at PC?
- 1st grade team looking to positive reinforcement with planet tickets,
 - Would PTO be interesting in running "end of month store" for prizes
 - She will be in contact with more information
- Discussion on language for Field Trip Chaperones. The change is big. Teachers are concerned about the new process. Questions on how to respond to parents. Mr Kostewicz suggested sending questions to principals. PTO will work with principals for communications.
- Lexie Northrop noted the previous way took too many man hours from building secretaries, and parents were not understanding the process.
- Jennifer Logan noted there were 30+ parents that did not complete clearances.
- Mr. Kostewicz noted lack of communication and the three buildings were not on the same page last year.
- Crystal Ranson noted she just reapplied for her clearances and the process was very easy, taking only 15 minutes for fingerprinting and a new location for Identigo opened in Wexford.
- Discussion to continue on the best way to proceed and push information to parents.

Contact Parents - Deadline for submission form Sept 9 end of day

- Sara Meisel discussed changes in the selection process from previous years.

- Only one contact parent as primary lead per class.
- Still 9 volunteers for parties.
- PTO will handle all selection randomly - welcomes questions re the process.
- To date 572 submissions for contact parents.

M4M Updates -

- Misty Cope
 - All prizes ordered
 - prize sorting Oct 11
 - terrible towels, and mars sunglasses new additions
- Megan Lenz
 - outpouring of support from local businesses
 - PTO has a good history, easy for businesses to say they want to donate
 - Dr. Stephanie Rhoads donated the bags
 - Banners and TShirts will be ordered Sept 17 - cut off date for Corp sponsors.
 - Signed jerseys to raffle off, Bednar (Pirates) and Geno (Penguins)
 - Jennifer Logan - PTO will deliver prizes on Oct 11 after sorting.

Spirit Wear Sale

Lacey Beyer:

- Total sales so far over \$14K
- Inventory is done
- Sale ends 9/18

Yearbook

- Rebecca Arnold will be liaison with Lifetouch and yearbook committee
- Nicole McGettigan - for spirit weeks, would appreciate volunteers to take pictures
- Rebecca Arnold - Thursday at 1 PM yearbook meeting @ Breakneck for anyone interested.

Field Trips

Crystal Ranson

- Getting started - will be reaching out to principals soon for dates.
- Deposit down for pirates game - new contact from the Mars area for Pirates game
 - 5th and 6th grade - (Jennifer Logan notes change from last year to add 5th grade.)
 - Parents can go buy a separate ticket and go, but not chaperone.

Mr. Kostewicz

- Last year was a blast, first time in the lower section under cover - great seats, leftover tickets, turned in vouchers and got 3 authentic jerseys and raffled off to students.

Mrs. Shine

- 1st grade wants to keep field trip at Keystone Safari, push back dates to May, include a tour, and open jump houses

Mr. Lape noted spirit weeks will try to keep the same theme days for K-6.

Book Fair MAE

Emily Wiley

- spoke with scholastic rep to get a date for set up; she assured she would increase the number for promoted titles and could contact her directly for restocks throughout the week.
- \$75 fuel charge to deliver books
- EW will meet with Mrs. Kolson this week
 - Mrs. Kolson used scholastic dollars (approx \$1600) to restock some books, classroom sets, and nordic rocking chair for library
- In the past asked Dr. Rhoads for bags // Megan Lenz will reach out.
- Signups will come out for volunteers to shop with kids and PTO Board for registers.

Chrisi Harrison

- Talked to Mr. Churilla, waiting for teacher names, to send out sign up
- Will need help with Registers.
- Megan Lenz noted issues with kids not having enough money, should we let parents shop?
- Mr. Kostewicz will talk to Mr. Churilla.

Emily Wiley

- Scholastic has an ewallet, parents can load money for kids to shop.
- Maybe more PTO volunteers for floating at Centennial to help kids with budgeting and restock.

Mrs. Shine

- Can PTO hand out vouchers at PC?
- PTO will contact Mrs. Vandevort and look at the process.

Open Forum

- Jennifer Logan - thank you for attending, PTO Board/Committee members stay after for group picture.
- Jen Lyker - thank you for responding quickly for website // volunteer forms will be sent out after the end of the month, use the first wave of volunteers, then push the sign up list publicly.
 - If anything to update, send to Jen Lyker
- Rebecca Arnold - picture orders with Lifetouch every \$65 gets 10% off for pictures and can order yearbooks early

Meeting adjourned by Jennifer Logan at 10:24am