



General Meeting Agenda

Date/Time: November 10, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

1. Welcome & Housekeeping
 - a. Introductions & Roles (Updates)
 - i. Teacher Liaison: Allison Loiseau
 - ii. President: Garrett Walkup
 - iii. Co-Vice Presidents: Darcy Lockwood, Tikva Rose
 1. Darcy Lockwood: Helping to manage the day to day and Google Drive
 2. Tikva: Helping to manage communications
 - b. Review & Approve [Minutes](#) from October 8, 2020: minutes approved
 - c. Reminder: MES PTO Google Drive
 - i. Each subcommittee has a folder here for sharing and storing information
2. Teacher Report- Mrs. Loiseau
 - a. Wants to help support the PTO vision/mission, and help bridge the gap
 - b. Talked with Mr. Komar about a "1 Book, 1 School" event to build community
 - c. Room parents: some classroom teachers have asked for volunteers
 - i. Ideas to support classes: Help with sharing information from PTO and class, classroom celebrations, supporting activities if remote (Mad Libs, game, read aloud), Amazon Wish List
 - ii. A spreadsheet with room parent emails is being compiled and will be shared
 - iii. How to best communicate events:
 1. Parents seem to be most active with Facebook and email
 2. Remind app as a way for parents to opt in to additional reminders and info from the PTO
 3. Use email blast selectively, only Maryanne can send this
3. Principal Update (see below)

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Exec Board approved the 2020-2021 Budget
- b. The PayPal Direct Donation Button is now available on the website
- c. Committee budgets shared with each committee. Please share larger budget items before spending for approval.
- d. Reimbursement: There is a form on the MES PTO website to complete with attached receipts
- e. Currently have \$18,000 in funds
- f. There is a Teacher Grant Form on the MES PTO website for use.
 - i. Recently got soccer balls for recess
 - ii. Items related to Covid not to be submitted

5. Committee Updates

- a. **Decoration:** Chairs - Megin Nicols, Anne Strzelecki
- b. **Community Building/Family:** Chair-Jen Salisbury
 - i. Veteran's Day video shared with families
 - ii. Thanksgiving: Gratitude-Gram being brainstormed
 - iii. Looking into a holiday activity with the Hidden Acorn and/or Rustic Charm
 - iv. Welcome new families
 - 1. Bags for new students (t-shirt, eagle, book -possibly with Book Fair funds)
 - 2. 5th grade students and Mrs. Loiseau make a video tour of the school
 - 3. Around town guide with places for families to explore
- c. **Staff Appreciation:** Chair-Kelly Macomber
 - i. October Treat Bags
 - ii. November Conference Grab and Go Snacks (Garrett helping)
 - iii. Teacher [Amazon Wish Lists](#)
 - iv. December Bingo - [SignUp Genius](#)
- d. **Fundraising:** Chair- Jessie Lynch, Amy Obolewicz is helping
 - i. 6 Easy Ways to Help the PTO [Flyer](#) (no cost fundraisers)
 - ii. [PayPal](#) Direct Donation Button
 - iii. LaBannes magnet to hold an envelope on the fridge to collect receipts
- e. **Student Enrichment:** Chair- Sarah Spagnola
 - i. Classroom Pack Supplier: Currently looking at 2 possible vendors
 - ii. Spirit Wear: looking to have an online store through Newtown Apparel
 - 1. Need to select items, 6-7 items
 - 2. Could possibly be up the 23rd and will look into how long the window can be open in order to have it shipped in time for the holidays
- f. **Yearbook:** Chair- Heather Weinbrum

- i. Garrett communicated with Dr. O regarding Lifetouch pictures.
- ii. 5th grade is currently voting for the cover through the can drive
- iii. Shutterfly PTO site to share photos

g. **5th Grade Activities:**

- i. Starting to think ahead and communicating with teachers and other parents.
- ii. Should start planning now.
- iii. Some events done with BES, so will need to plan accordingly when possible. Also need to communicate with the WMS administration.

6. Upcoming/Ongoing Events & Business

- a. November 2-15: [Online Book Fair](#)
 - i. Books purchased during these dates will go towards a school credit to be used at Scholastic. This is usually given to the librarian.
- b. December 8th, 7:30pm: Next General PTO Meeting
- c. Holly Rock Game Show Options: full refund, virtual options (classes or families), outside event in May/June
- d. Communicating Info Out:
 - i. Newsletter: please send any info/photos/news to ptomitchellschool@gmail.com to include.
 - ii. Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
 - 1. Need someone to manage this
 - iii. Digital Backpack (email webmaster@ctreg14.org)
 - iv. Sandwich Board at pick-up
 - v. Should share out what the PTO is involved with (i.e. soccer balls for recess)

Mr Komar's Principal Update

1. Full Distance Learning Schedules

In an effort to help everyone prepare for all out distance learning in a consistent and meaningful there will be daily schedules posted by each teacher to parents if we were to go to an all distance learning schedule. We want to have distance learning look as much like in person learning including planned recess, specials and lunch times designated so students and parents can plan around their school day and we can expect full participation with the daily instruction.

2. Food Drive.

Dr. Olzacki has identified a region wide need to help our families to stay healthy and cared for. Thank you to the PTO for fully embracing the Cans for a Cause food drive. As you may have heard that I am fully prepared to take a pie in the face, dress up as Mitch for a day, get duct taped to a wall and even kiss a Pig for the cause. And the Advisors of the Student Council will even sleep on the roof to help us make our full goal of 3000 food items for the cause!

3. New Staff

I would like to have the PTO welcome two new staff members.

The first is Cheyanne Walent who is taking over Ms. Marshal's fourth grade class. She was born and raised in Waterbury and graduated from UCONN with a dual degree in History and Sociology before going on to the University of Bridgeport for her Master's Degree in Elementary Education. She is currently enrolled in a Sixth-Year Program focused on Teacher Leadership. She has spent the past 9 years teaching in the Waterbury Public Schools (three years in 3rd grade, six years in 4th grade). Most recently, she had the pleasure of working in an arts magnet school that allowed her to train with resident teaching artists and become an Arts Integration specialist. When she is not teaching, you can most often find me performing on stage locally and regionally.

The second is a new paraprofessional Amber Fadoir. She has been working with children ranging in ages from newborn through 14 years since 2002. She has worked in childcare for many years, taught pre-kindergarten and preschool classes, was the head teacher for a before and after school program at an elementary school, she also worked as a substitute paraprofessional in districts 6, 14, 10, and Winchester Public Schools, as well as briefly working as a 1:1 paraprofessional for a special needs student at Torrington Public Schools. Additionally, during the 2016-2017 school year, she worked as a substitute paraprofessional, including frequently at Bethlehem Elementary School.

4. Thank you

Thank you to the PTO for holding a Movie Night to give our parents and their children time to just relax and have fun. The pumpkin decorating was a huge success and the students did a

great job decorating their pumpkins as their favorite book characters with the pumpkins donated graciously by the PTO. Thank also to the time and effort which Allison put into creating the fun slide show which is shared on the website. Also once again Mitchell is the pride of Region 14 with the awesome fall decorations all around Mitchell. The entire staff was also thrilled with their treat bags which they received just when they needed it right before Halloween. Everybody benefits when chocolate is involved. The I Spy Mitch the Eagle was a great way to get the families together and get involved in a fun contest which also brought the community together as well. We are looking forward to the BINGO game which will be fun and exciting.

5. Room Parents

We are thrilled to have the support of Room Parents again and thank you to anyone who volunteered to support their child's classroom and teachers at this time. Please let me know how I can help in any way.

6. Veteran's Day

I want to also thank the PTO for helping us to recognize and celebrate Veteran's Day which we would have done in person, but you found a way to do it virtually. I know it's a lot of work but is greatly appreciated by all.

7. Parent/Teacher Conferences

Just a reminder that next week are Parent/Teacher Conferences. They are early dismissal days for students and the following dates and times are set aside to make your appointments.

8. PTO Liaison

I lastly want to thank Allison Loiseau for volunteering to be our liaison to the PTO. Allison has been a wonderful addition to the Mitchell family and is an awesome educator and a very positive and inspiring personality. Please join me in welcoming her to Region 14.

The parent conference dates are as follows:

November 16th 1:15 – 3:15 appointments

November 19th 5:10 – 7:10 appointments

November 20th 1:15 – 3:15 appointments