



General Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 7, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Location: MES MPR

Attendees: Shannon Lavertue, Ashley Kenney, Tori Losh, Sean Gildea of APEX, members of the MES PTO community

1. Welcome
2. Housekeeping and Events Recap
 - Digital Backpack Reminders
 - i. Flyers need to be sent to Shannon, Maryanne, and Central Office for approval.
 - Student Directory that Shannon set up last year is not available this year due to language framing and concerns raised by the Central Office. We will need to address again for next year if we want it back up.
3. Committee Reports
 - Yearbook Committee
 - i. Shannon is looking for someone to take over her duties and someone will also need to help Alionka.
 - ii. Sales will start in February.
4. New Business
 - Talent Show – Finalizing date tomorrow, likely in March. Will split in-house assembly into two groups by grade level so it's not too long, but this requires approval.
 - Read Across America – Will take place in March.
 - I Love Mitchell Night
 - i. Will take place 2/13 at Woodbury Brewing Company (adults only).
 - ii. Some discussion of how to use the funds raised.
 - a. Barbara suggested creation of a track around the field out back, though this may belong to the Town. Shannon will look into it.
 - b. Ashley will be putting together a questionnaire for the teachers (Shannon will need to review first), but we should also reach out to parents and the Student Council.
 - iii. Next committee meeting will be 1/9 at 7:30 at the Woodbury Public Library.
 - iv. Nicole Perez is making flyers for Digital Backpack.
 - Paint Night – Will take place 2/21. Flyer has been submitted for approval. Will need to keep an eye out for sales at Michael's to replenish canvases.
 - Other Community Building Event ideas were discussed
 - i. Mother-Son Dodgeball Game – One night, in-door event where mothers/parents play the kids. Nominal entry fee charged.
 - ii. Olympics – Potential event with "Minute to Win It" type games. Tori to look into it.
 - Healthy Food Policy
 - i. The question was raised as to whether the MES PTO has any involvement with setting the Region's Healthy Food Policy. The answer is no. That is directed by a Board of Education committee.
 - ii. On 1/10, Ashley will be meeting with Dr. O to discuss his announcement about all produce coming from local sources and the UCONN program that helps schools get on the right track of using local farms, healthy food, etc.
5. The PTO welcomed Sean Gildea from APEX, located in Farmington

- APEX is a fundraising company that helps schools put on service and activity-based fundraisers
 - i. Instead of product-based fundraisers, these are events such as fun-runs, walk-a-thons, and dance-a-thons. Events are kicked off with a pep rally.
 - ii. They also incorporate inspirational messaging such as how to be a go-getter, etc. with classroom learning each day during the week leading up to the event. Classroom involvement is about 6-8 minutes per day and would be scheduled individually with each class.
 - iii. APEX covers all the up-front costs and receives a percentage of the funds raised. Typically, 50% with a sliding scale.
 - iv. Cheshire, Avon, and Goshen can be contacted for references.
- Shannon will be doing follow-up to get more information as teachers expressed a preference for a dance-a-thon instead of a walk-a-thon prior to the 2019 Walk-a-Thon.

6. Adjourn