

# MESPTO Board Meeting Agenda

September 9, 2021



- I. Call to order by Stacee at 6:05pm.
- II. Introductions & Welcome  
Attending Members: Stacee Nishibata, Darlene Mikami, Kelen Moana, Anne Lee, Maiko Taki-Yajima, Jared and Moana Ishikawa, Charis Logan, Robert Taura, Landri Balisican, Audrey Chinen, Dani Muramoto, Lynda Galera, Kristyn Nishimoto, Florence Perez, David Shimoda, Kyle Matsuyama, Jenn Ladao, Grachela Watanabe, Summer Kupau-Odo.
- III. Executive Officer Reports
  - A. President: Orchestra will not take place this year due to covid numbers increasing. It is difficult to transition to virtual learning with new students so it will not be offered this year. A parent asked if the option to resume orchestra classes can be revisited when students are finally vaccinated. Admin replied that the DOE currently has not authorized the use of facilities for extra-curricular activities such as Orchestra, Kumon and Japanese. Once the DOE gives approval to reopen the facility, the idea can be revisited and Mr. Hamano can be asked if he would like to start up a class again.
  - B. Vice Presidents: No Report
  - C. Secretary's Report : August minutes are available for review. Anne made a motion to accept the minutes and Florence seconded the motion.
  - D. Treasurer's Report: August income was \$2,340.63 mainly membership and t-shirt sales. Expenses were \$1,607.64 for t-shirt bulk purchase.
- IV. Administration Report
  - A. Administration Report (Mrs. Galera / David Shimoda/Audrey Chinen) Mr. Shimoda thanked the parents for reminding students to mask up, sanitize and social distance. Dots were added around the cafeteria so that students can have a visual on where they need to stand. The school recently hired an adult supervisor and is looking to hire more people. In addition, they are trying different mitigation strategies and distancing to help keep the covid cases low.

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There have been cases at the school and for those students that have been considered close contacts, their parents are contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. The student/staff will quarantine for 10 days and the district Covid Keiko nurse from the DOE will be in touch. In determining who is a close contact, the school follows the DOE guideline. A close contact is defined as being within 3ft of a covid positive individual for 15 minutes or more. This is determined by the teachers as well as the admin. The teachers use a class-seating chart as well as a lunch seating chart to determine close contacts. During recess, the students are outdoors and therefore will not be examined for potential close contact.

When students are identified as close contacts, they are asked to quarantine and are given schoolwork to be completed at home, while the rest of the students continues with in class learning. If an activity such as ARTIC makes it difficult to identify close contacts, the school will be proactive and quarantine the entire class. If this happens, the class will do distance learning via webex for the duration of the quarantine.

For more information, the COVID Keiki Nurse for the Aiea-Moanalua-Radford can be contacted at 271-9804 from 7:30 am – 2:30pm. You can also call the State Hotline at (844) 436-3888 M –F 8am to 3pm (Weekends 265-3340 from 8am to 10pm)

Below are links giving more information regarding Covid and Isolation:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OtEkOmkTO3kQO3M8vJly6k\\_RTnnC3BCQ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OtEkOmkTO3kQO3M8vJly6k_RTnnC3BCQ/view)

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/08/Isolation-and-Quarantine-072120.pdf>

Admin notes that there are currently 658 students enrolled at Moanalua Elementary and although it is alarming when the covid positive notification goes out, the numbers of cases are relatively small. They expressed their thanks to parents, families and the faculty for helping to keep the students and staff safe. They are doing their best not to miss anything.

### Questions from the Parents to Admin

**Q: If there is a covid positive case in the class, would it be possible for the parents to be notified even if their child was not considered to be a close contact?**

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- A general notification of the positive case at the school is sent out to all parents. However, due to DOE protocol, they are not able to give out any additional information to parents if their child is not considered a close contact.

**Q: If a child is covid positive and there are sibling at the middle and high school, are they notified as well?**

- Yes, if there is a close contact with a covid positive case, the parents are notified.

**Q: With regards to the A+ program, how are students separated? If they are in bubbles, how does it work?**

- Prior to the start of the school year, they have met with A+ multiple times to work out safety protocols. Currently, students are sorted into 2 bubbles; grade level and classroom bubbles. They also use hula hoops to separate the students so that they stay within their bubbles. In the past, admin has raised concerns to A+ with regards to safety protocols and A+ has worked closely with them to correct it. If parents do have concerns or questions, please contact admin and they will work to resolve any issues with A+.

**Q: What does it mean when a student is in quarantine?**

- When a student is in quarantine, it is the same as being absent from school. They will be provided work from their teacher and work independently from home. Teachers are also working to be available for students in quarantine for questions that a student might have. If the whole class is in quarantine, they will be provided a webex link and learn from a distance.

**Q: Is the school library open?**

- Due to the increase in covid numbers, they have decided to keep the library closed. There are online books that students can borrow through the school library. All the teachers have access to it and they can also get students access it. Once the covid numbers go down, they will reopen it.

**Q: Do the classrooms have box exhaust fans that were supplied from the DOE?**

- Fans have been distributed to all the classrooms. However, they may just be boxed fans and not exhaust fans. The exhaust fans distributed by the DOE were for classrooms without A/C. Since all MES classrooms have A/C installed, the DOE provided regular box fans.

**Q: With regards to the Social and Emotional Learning Student Survey, will parents be able to get the results?**

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- Admin expects that results will be made available to parents.

B. Teacher's Report (Dani Muramoto): PTO was thanked for providing a special lunch at the beginning of the year. They also appreciate their support.

### V. Committee Reports for upcoming events & activities

A. Vaccine Information Session (Anne Lee): Q & A vaccine information session is being planned for parents. Kristyn Nishimoto offered to help with the session along with Owen Chan. A date for the event will be determined later when more information is given about vaccine availability for the younger kids.

B. Fundraising- (Pam Adena/Landri Balisacan): The Foodland fundraiser is currently running through the end of September. Habitat Christmas Tree flyers were sent out to the teachers on Friday Sept 10<sup>th</sup> and fundraising will continue through October 22. All orders are to be placed online. The purchaser needs to select the school and type their students name upon checking out so that the student may receive points towards a reward. Regal Fundraiser is scheduled to be a drive through pick up and will coincide with Aloha Aina Day.

C. T-shirts- (Charis Logan) : T-Shirt sales are going great. 241 t-shirts with the new design and 101 t-shirts with the original design have been sold. 152 of the t-shirt orders were placed online and 11 of the order were placed via paper. Two additional orders have been placed with Super Thread, which should start arriving in the coming week. Stacey, Kelen and Tammy helped with the t-shirt pick up and Mrs. Oshiro will deliver those that were not picked up to the teachers. A banner will be ordered to promote t-shirt sale and start (hashtag) #moanaluumonday on social media to encourage school spirit and students can win prizes.

D. Membership - (Tammy Takimoto): There are currently 130 members. During a normal school year, the member count is about 200.

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E. Family Night - (Rachel Balog) Reported by Kelen: Currently planning on purchasing access to a virtual show put on by the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. They recommended two shows. The first recommended is The Carp Who Will Not Quit and the second recommendation is the Duke (Kahanamoku). They are working on securing a date and time.

F. R.A.P. - (Anne Lee): Looking to take RAP online. There will be a virtual bulletin board where parents can submit or share their children's work. There will be a monthly theme. Hopefully the program will be up and running for October.

G. Legislative and Community Relations – (Darlene Mikami): Darlene met with the representatives and they discussed the Safe Access Oahu Program. This program would require proof of vaccination to dine at the restaurants and to participate in indoor recreational activities such as gym and dance. September is a National Preparedness month for families should have a covid plan in place.

H. Health & Fitness - (Joy Yanai): No report

I. Portfolio Cover- (Joy Yanai): No report

J. Apple Giving Tree- (Elsie Lum): No report

K. Aloha Aina Day (Flourence Perez): Flourence will reach out to the Kokua Foundation to see if there are any dates available for this year.

L. Teacher and Staff Appreciation - (Grachela Watanabe) : No report

M. Website – (Kyle Matsuyama) : Online sales of the T-shirt and membership has been smooth with no issues. Kyle will repost a t-shirt sale flyer again on the website so that parents know that shirt sales are ongoing.

He thanked Admin again for their new safety protocols and the time they took to explain how the school operates under covid guidelines. Admin noted that the safety protocols were developed with the input of the teachers so that it is well implemented and thanked the parents and teachers for their continued support.

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VI. Recruitment for Committees – Although all committees can use help, the following committees really need additional members.

- A. S.T.E.M.
- B. T-shirts / School Store
- C. Family Night Events
- D. R.A.P.
- E. Health & Fitness
- F. Campus Beautification
- G. Manpower
- H. School Supply Bundles
- I. Hospitality

There is a list of parents who expressed interest in volunteering at the start of the year. Mrs. Galera will send the list to Stacey. Discussed different options for contacting volunteers such as a phone/ email tree. A suggestion was made to use the Remind App to contact PTO members and send out information. The app may be useful for committees to use and will be considered as well.

### VII. New Business

Stacey discussed the idea of providing a standardized MES name sign for the members. Many of the signs that are posted on the car windows during pick ups are difficult to see. It may be helpful to have a standardized name sign that hangs on the front mirror (put on and removed) for after school pick-ups as well as PTO activity/fundraiser pick-ups. It will be custom made and the minimum order is 400. It will include the MES PTO logo. The cost is a little over a dollar for one. The idea was accepted and will move forward. It will be free for all members and can be purchased via the PTO website for non-members.

Stickers with PTO logos are also being planned. There are currently 2 proposed designs. If you are interested in creating a design, please contact Stacey.

Update from the Amin- MES will be providing covid testing for students, faculty and families. It is a self-administered test and will hire a coordinator to implement the testing. The testing will

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be more of a screening for the school and are currently in the works. The school also hired a half time nurse to be able to follow up with students and families who have tested positive.

VIII. Closing:

- A. Thank you for joining us

Next PTO Meeting scheduled for Thurs, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm.