

MESPTO Board Meeting Agenda

March 10, 2022



I. Call to order by Stacee at 6:01 pm

II. Introductions & Welcome

Attending members: Stacee Nishibata, Anne Lee, Curtis Kawamura, Audrey Chinen, Darlene Mikami, Holly Pontes, Moana Ishikawa, Leo, Robert Taura, David Shimoda, Maiko Taki-Yajima, Summer Kuapu-Odo, Dani Morimoto, Joy Yanai, Charis Logan, Kelen Moana, Lynda Galera.

III. Executive Officer Reports

A. President – PTO will be looking to fill some vacant positions on the board. Please think about filling the position or if you know someone who is interested, please let Stacee or the board members know. We will hold the election in August.

B. Vice Presidents – Nothing to report.

C. Secretary's Report – February minutes have been posted on the PTO website. Kelen made a motion to accept the minutes, Curtis seconded.

D. Treasurer's Report – Income for the past month was \$36.65, expenses were \$747.64. Majority of the expenses are from the teachers' reimbursements. As of 3/9 the Regal Fundraiser purchases were \$608. The fundraiser just launched so we expect more purchases in the coming weeks. There was a question regarding how to file for the reimbursement. On the PTO website, there is a request form which can be printed out, it would then need to be approved by the grade level chair. After it is approved, please scan or take a picture with the receipt and email to the treasurer. Reimbursement limit is \$20 per student per grade. Holly will remind the teachers that reimbursement is available.

IV. Administration Report

A. Administration Report (Mrs. Galera / David Shimoda/Audrey Chinen) David reported on the update from the questions admin received in the last PTO meeting. Aloha Run packet was received and the date is schedule for April 13 – 14. The Rainbow Run recommendation would be in May, but it would be up to the PTO to select the date. The planner covers have been decided and aiming for the early deadline date of April 1st. Admin will let PTO know of the final portfolio.

6th Grade promotion date is set for May 24th, Tuesday. The teachers are still talking about how to plan the event, and will let the PTO know when ideas are set, it is mostly still in discussion.

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Question from a parent: Their child came home from school stating they no longer needed to wear masks during recess. Was there an announcement made by the school in regards to the new protocol?

Response by Admin (Mrs. Galera): There was no announcement made because the media news released came unexpectedly. The only guideline that was stated was outdoor mask was now going to be optional, and the admins were trying to get more information by using the DOH guidance. The school did not send out anything to the families because they were not sure. Mrs. Galera apologized for not informing the families, however the school did not get any detailed information to be able to relay to the families. There was a WebEx meeting with the DOH and they shared their guidance, however the DOE will make a layered strategy, but nothing specific as of yet is what was reported by Dr. Kemble, State Epidemiologist. Currently the school is waiting for the information. Changes in protocols are good, but this was very last minute and the school was not able to work through it efficiently.

Dr. Kristyn Nishimoto explained that it is important for individual families to consider their situation. If they have a child under 2, family member that is immunocompromised, it is better to stay masked to protect them. Anytime you are going to be in close quarters or a place with less ventilation it becomes a higher risk so if people want to continue masking when in those situations, it would be great.

Question from a parent: What is the message from the school to the students in terms of peer pressure for students at the primary level. If the student is pressured into taking their mask off by another student, what is acceptable?

Response from Admin (Mrs. Galera): The school always practices inclusiveness and would expect the teachers to continue to allow the students individual choices.

Response from the teachers: None of the students have asked about the mask, and the change happened so quickly we didn't have time to think about how to tell the students regarding the change. Most of the students are lower grade and they are younger so they want to comply with the rules and hope that after spring break more information will be referenced. The teacher didn't make any announcement regarding the mask being optional during recess and she noted all of her students continued to keep their masks on. It was requested by the teacher that when the decision is made by the school

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to announce the new mask protocol, to have it be one message that is given to all the students to reduce any confusion. Possibly do an online broadcast and announce it in the morning where the students are hearing the same message from one person, rather than it being defined differently by the teachers.

Admin added that once they have clarity, they can communicate it in writing and until the new guidelines are formed, they will be asking student to mask up if they are talking and encouraging them to stay safe. Currently what the school is doing in terms of outdoor masking is looking for information through the DOH guidelines from Feb 1 and March 8th from the DOH. Right now, anyplace that is crowded and the students cannot maintain a 3ft distance, they are required to wear a mask, so for pick up and drop off, they are still wearing their masks. The school is waiting for the DOE up to update their guideline that is tentative for this Friday (March 11th). The school is also waiting for a letter from the superintendent to distribute to the parents. The admin thanked the parents for their patience and asking students and staff to keep safe and hoping that parents will encourage their child/ren to keep wearing a mask. There was also a discussion on if the school has leeway on school protocol after the DOE guidance is announced. The response was that the school does not have any leeway, and all the schools in the DOE are expected to follow the guidance. The school does not have any flexibility to not follow the guideline especially when it comes to safety. Admin also noted that the school does not have the option to have a stricter guidance because it is worded that the individual makes the choice.

PTO Thanked the admins for sharing all the information, which helps ease the parents' anxieties.

B. Teacher's Report (Dani Muramoto / Holly Pontes) Discussed with the students on why masking is important and the students understands it is necessary for safety.

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V. Committee Reports

- A. Fundraising- (Pam Adena/Landri Balisacan) Reported by Stacee: Regal Fundraiser is currently live on the website. The initial thought was to have the families' parents come for the pick-up to reduce traffic, but given to the way things are going, that will be changed to where people are able to come and get their own orders. An updated information will be sent out, but please share this information with friends and family.
- B. Family Night Events – Cooking Event – (Kristyn Nishimoto/Lauren Tamamoto) Kyle has posted the information on the website, currently we have 19 families signed up and it is open for 40 families so people can still sign up for the event. Drive through pick up for the non-perishable supplies is March 5th, and looking for volunteers. The event will be the following afternoon.
- C. STEM – I Am A Scientist (Kristyn Nishimoto) The event is scheduled for April 6th and the information will be sent out after spring break as it gets closer to the date. It will be a session on Chromatography with Chaminade University.
- D. R.A.P. - (Anne Lee) Now there is a drop box in the office for students who turns in their RAP for, to their teachers. Anne will pick up the forms at the end of the month as well the beginning of the month. This month's theme is award winning book and poetry.
- E. T-shirts / School Store – (Charis Logan) Nothing to report.
- F. Teacher Appreciation - (Grachela Watanabe) It is still being planned for the 1st week of May. Darelen is able to help.
- G. Health & Fitness - (Joy Yanai) May 1st-7th is the week for Keiki Rainbow Wellness Challenge. Students will receive a score card with 12 activities which upon turning it in they will get a certificate as well as headband. The challenges are not too difficult, they will be given a week to finish the activities. The score card will be distributed by the teachers. Joy will work with Stacee and Admin to send out the flyer. There was a discussion on if the PTO should provide more prizes such as MES lanyards. There is still time so we will continue to discuss this matter.
- H. Legislative and Community Relations – (Darlene Mikami) There was a newsletter by Rep. Ichiyama with resources to different organizations related to long care. If anyone is interested in the information please email Darlene.mikami@gmail.com

Below is a link to the newsletter:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1947Jfb9z_oaAyzn-xaruRjflAgpij7DW/view

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VI. New Business: Reminding everyone that there will be vacant spots on the Board and we will need to be filling the positions. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please email the board members.

VII. Closing:

A. Thank you for joining us

Next PTO Meeting scheduled for Thurs, April 14th at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.