



MES PTO Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2025

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting to called order by Kristyn Nishimoto at 6:07pm.
  - b. Minutes dated 1/9/25 was approved.
- II. Welcome & Introductions
- III. Executive Officer Reports
  - a. President: Kristyn Nishimoto – Nothing to report.
  - b. Vice President: Kelen Moana – Nothing to report.
  - c. Secretary: Darlene Mikami – Nothing to report.
  - d. Treasurer: Jodi Inoue
    - i. Income: \$3,121.58
    - ii. Expense: \$4,658.76
    - iii. There are still Fun Fair clearing out expenses. PTO also funded the Winter Family Night for MES families and also funded the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip to the Zoo and the Kindergarten field trip to the Honolulu Theatre for Youth.
- IV. Administration Reports
  - a. Administration – Principal Lynda Galera / Mr. Thien Ho
    - i. Campus Beautification: 120 volunteers participated. Maki and Jeremy co-chaired the event. They came the night before, to power wash and prep for the day of. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.
    - ii. Visit from the Superintendent: The visit incorporated all different grades. Pre-K did the greeting, Grade 4 did the opening Oli and the student council escorted him as they walked in. He was impressed with our school. Principal Galera shared how the test scores at MES are higher than most in the state and in our are complex. They balance academics with well rounded concepts i.e. critical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills.
    - iii. Monthly Newsletter: Grade levels are trying to figure out what would be of value to add into the newsletter. If parents have any suggestions, please let them know.
    - iv. Teacher Institute Day: Feb 14<sup>th</sup> No School
    - v. Multi-Purpose Innovation Center: Funds were approved/raised however the construction costs have gone up and therefore had to cut the plans. They have asked the Legislature to consider more money to allow us to keep the original plans.
  - b. Teachers – Monica Armstrong & Charisse Suehiro
    - i. The teachers want to thank everyone for their time to help with campus beautification.
    - ii. Aloha Run (April 5<sup>th</sup>): Kylee Oshiro, PE Teacher, is chairing the event. They are asking for donations from businesses for prizes. They are also asking MES ohana if anyone would like to donate Otter Pops (about 700) and prizes such as sports balls or gently used bicycle. Also looking for a motivational speaker who can speak at this event. Will also be looking for parent volunteers. More communication to follow.

- iii. The teachers also want to thank you for the Apple Giving Tree.
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Membership – Shauna Ichinotsubo & Kathy Lam
    - i. Current Membership: 194 Members
    - ii. Total Dues Collected: \$6,370.00
    - iii. Total Donations Collected: \$2,655.00
    - iv. Raffle Giveaway
      - 1. Received additional leftover Silent Auction gift cards that can be used for future raffles
      - 2. Will use 1-2 for Volunteer Pledge Card at end of year
      - 3. Membership is already high so may either use for next year's incentives or for current year's call for event volunteers
    - v. Social Media
      - 1. Will be doing a callout for spring activities, including the Family Painting Night
    - vi. Membership Committee
      - 1. Looking for folks interested in serving on our committee for next school year
  - b. Garden Club – Stephanie Srun & Kevin Miyahira
    - i. Thank you to those who helped with campus beautification and the garden.
    - ii. Submitted a grant proposal and waiting to hear back which may be in June.
    - iii. Kumu made a donation for Lo'i. Would like to schedule an event on March 15<sup>th</sup> to celebrate.
  - c. RAP – Anne Lee & Elaine Treutlein
    - i. There were more than 300 participants last month. Last month's theme was science and this month's theme is non-fiction. They gave gummy bear erasers for prizes.
  - d. Health and Fitness – Melissa Harnsberger
    - i. Keiki Great Aloha Run: Last Saturday, 17 people participated in event and raised a total of \$255. The children who participated earned a golden toe token and gave out Surfriders Run temporary tattoos.
    - ii. Keiki Rainbow Run: Event will take place on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration is now open and parents should have received the flyer. Early registration prices are in effect until March 15<sup>th</sup>. Kids are \$20 and \$10 will go back to the school. Adult entry fees are \$10. Last year there were 97 participants. It's a 1.4 mile run in Kakaako. It will be lot's of fun and will raise a lot of money for the school. Participants will also get free entry to the Children's Discovery Center.
    - iii. Moanalua Moves: Overall participation has dropped. Heard that toe tokens are not what students want get based on feedback so will look to change that in the next year. For those who submitted 4 or more, they will get a golden toe token and a grand prize raffle drawing. If you post a video online doing a demonstration of Moanalua Moves and add #moanaluumoves, there will be a monthly drawing for a raffle. Suggestion was to add an extra 10-15 minutes to recess for certain grades to do some of the Moanalua moves at school. Melissa has been at the school on Fridays with the necessary equipment to complete some activities as there were a few comments regarding not having equipment.
  - e. T-shirts – Charis Logan

- i. They are looking at the portfolio entries for possible t-shirt designs. Close to phasing out the big M shirts.
  - f. Website – Kyle Matsuyama & Russell Kaya
    - i. The PTO website has gotten more usage. For example, during Fun Fair, the website had 8,000 visits last year and this year was 10,000.
  - g. Family Night – Kristyn
    - i. Thank you to all the families who volunteered and participated in the Winter Family Movie Night.
  - h. Campus Beautification – Maki Takenouchi & Jeremy Matsui
    - i. Thank you to Maki and Jeremy and the co-chairs who helped coordinate and execute this event in addition to a thank you to all of the 120 volunteers, admin, faculty and staff.
  - i. Apple Giving Tree – Stephanie Srun & Nisara Granado-Wagner
    - i. Thank you to the teachers for filling out the wish list spreadsheet. General comments that the spreadsheet was helpful for parents to figure out what to purchase for teachers. For next year, some teachers to add more than one item on the wish list.
  - j. Portfolio Art Contest – Annie Lee
    - i. Drawings have been submitted, and voting is online tonight. All art contest participants will receive rainbow pencils, grade level winner will receive the MES Eden in Love pencil case in addition to the rainbow pencil and the overall winner will win a cat light art kit in addition to the Eden in Love pencil case and rainbow pencil.
  - k. Fundraising – Kristen Tanaka
    - i. For the spring fundraiser in April, which would include Jamba Juice cards, Barnes and Nobles and possible car wash fundraisers.
- VI. New Business
  - a. Family Painting Night on 3/4/25: RSVP by 2/26/25 and there are only 4 spots left. 36 students have signed up. Courtney Tokuda, a pre-school teacher and author, will be reading her book, Malie the Mano. The students will learn how to paint a tiger shark with guest artists. There will be books that will be raffled off at the event.
  - b. Aloha Aina Day on 4/26/25: Recycling drive in partnership with Kokua Foundation. The event will take place at MES parking lot. They will be able to take in scrap metals, electronics, document shredding, household goods, cooking oils and aluminum cans and plastics. Will also be holding the Keiki Swap Meet at the MES cafeteria. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be raising for the Big Island trip next year.
  - c. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week from 5/2/25 to 5/9/25: Tentative schedule of events (pending approval from admin) includes coffee, pastries and fruit for Monday, students pick up card kits, snacks for Tuesday, potluck and lei for Wednesday, massage with ice tea, lemonade and juice bar for Thursday, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream for Friday.
  - d. PTO Engagement
- VII. Announcements
  - a. Next PTO Meeting on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>
- VIII. Adjournment
  - a. Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.



Darlene Mikami  
MES PTO Secretary