

▼ PTO Board Meeting March 13

▼ PEG updates:

▼ Latino update:

- Latino PEG meeting had a low turnout at our last meeting (unheard of!) due to the bad weather. There was an ice/rain mix. Many were afraid to drive. They hosted an immigration lawyer who answer questions re: immigration concerns (work visa, deportation, marriage and citizenship, etc). Many shared their fears and the lawyer echoed their uncertainties with the general uncertainties of new laws/policies under current administration. For Ellen really highlighted the unease/fear many of our Latino families live with every day.
- They completed several surveys, most importantly being the PTO parking survey. All 17 participants voted to keep full funds at Franklin/Randal. They mentioned that they sometimes feel like their kids (often poor) are all a disadvantage because they attend a wealthy school. Many of the services/opportunities that relatives receive at their mmsd schools (with higher poverty) aren't offered or available to their kids because they attend our school. They believe that the PTO makes up for some of this inequality especially through the funding of the Latino parent group. They all felt that if they didn't have the PEG meetings they wouldn't feel connected or in some cases supported by their school. They also mentioned again that they would like to help with a parking Saturday if schedules allow.

▼ Hmong update:

- Hmong PEG Meeting is tomorrow. Next year, they say they would like to plan to have meetings before the Board meetings so they have updates!
- They had great success with our prizes and homework initiative. Biggest turnout in years!
- Eggroll making was delightful and we sold out. Talk of getting parents to run the selling booth next year, but we will see. That's a long day if you are there at 7am rolling eggrolls.
- At tomorrow's meeting, the district is presenting at our meeting for the Hmong bilingual school. They presented last year and the interest was low because of no transportation to the school. Will hand out next batch of homework. Parents really liked it last time and felt were more invested in our tips for helping your student at home.
- At this meeting they will also hand out the surveys on wellness and also about parking.

▼ School Safety Walkout:

▼ Sylla:

- Gotten 5-7 emails thanking her for both keeping business as usual going as well as respecting families that want to mark the walkout day
- If students had come to staff to make plans for a larger event, this might have been a more structured thing; but that wasn't the conversation that came from them naturally.

▼ John:

- Challenge was how to draft a letter that provided accommodation while being neutral, i.e. without appearing to promote the event.
- Kids who want to walk through the halls may; they can't leave the building.
- 17 minutes at 10 a.m.; teachers are already planning to have the classes doing independent work.

▼ West Side PTO Alliance

▼ Update from Erin:

- Despite not being there, I wanted to share a Westside PTO update with the group. This team continues to meet monthly, and shift priority depending on what's happening with local parents, staff and students. In Feb., we discussed the School Board Wellness Policy changes and the hot topic of safety in our schools. Moms Demand Action joined our meeting and discussed how to hold gun safety/awareness sessions for families (not activism focused, but rather "if you have guns in your home, be sure you're storing them safely," don't forget to ask about guns in homes when you're scheduling playdates, etc.). I'm not sure if we're interested in doing anything like this in our community, but would love it if the group could discuss it... There was also a lot of discussion about what we could control as PTOs to keep our kids safe - which ultimately led the group to draft a letter to the School Board supporting internal locks for all schools within MMSD. I've linked a copy of the letter below for reference.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gzuec_NT1FGBgblDytEi0WWSEUHLTNf2iRFGI8YeEy8/edit?usp=sharing

For Wellness, the School Board is currently drafting a new policy and held community listening sessions in Feb. I attended one, and was one of 4 parents there total. If you are interested in wellness in our schools, I would encourage you to attend further listening sessions or engage with the Board when it is covered in their meetings. There will be committees created by MMSD, so keep your ears open for opportunities to engage.

▼ John:

- Randall classroom doors can lock, though it's slightly awkward from the inside. Could use an adjustment to allow locking from the inside

▼ Sylla:

- Franklin doors also lock, but it's a problem with substitute teachers, because the doors will lock them out if closed inadvertently.
- Experimenting with a physical fabric lock preventer, seems to be an okay short term fix

▼ April Membership Meeting

- Anti-bullying program called "Welcoming Schools"
- Q: Could/Should we include Second Step, Zones of Regulation, and contributions by social workers to put Welcoming Schools into larger context?
- Q: Could we include resources for parents to have in their quiver around topics of inclusion and diversity?
- Also had said previously that we'd use part of the April meeting to highlight PTO grants recipients.

▼ Observations that parents from other schools have asked people about whether our schools were Welcoming Schools

- It's a thing!

▼ Operating Budget review

- Highlights: for Carnival and Glo-Ball, we're a little low on revenues but also low on expenses, so net-net we're fine
- Over budget on food/sitters for PTO membership meetings

▼ We are very committed to doing a deep hard look around restructuring next year's budget, given the conversations this year.

- Priority is to solicit additional needs that may not have previously surfaced
- Capital budget review next meeting

▼ Amanda update:

- - I am in touch with Chloe Lauer about settling on a date for the Spring Re-sale/Rummage Sale; I will promote via F-R PTO newsletter, email, social media and list servs. Hope for a great outcome!
- - A few family-run businesses have expressed interest in a Community Days fundraising effort as we discussed at the last meeting. I have collected details and can propose some dates via email. I built a template that I think works well for both the families and the local businesses. If not this spring, I think this could be a solid annual event for our community.

- - I will be interested to hear what the PTO's involvement with the Flash Dash can be this year. I have talked to a few neighbors and know that there is a lot of interest in supporting this and also significant enthusiasm for this being a fundraising event as families can interact and participate with their kiddos in such a healthy way!

▼ Parking Survey Results

- 58/42 percent in favor of the "Focus & Give" option
- 57/43 percent in favor of giving 2 parking days to MMSD to coordinate

▼ Question about whether we should publicize results of survey

- Discussion comes around to suggesting we put a small blurb in the PTO newsletter
- Adam will write a short document to keep in PTO records to summarize our conversations and process around coming to this outcome, for institutional memory

▼ Need to decide which two games will be the MMSD games

- not the first two, not the last two...
- Also need to determine how much F/R staffing/training will be needed

▼ Summer Social Event Proposal

- Idea would be to reserve Goodman Pool for two hours
- Parent bonding, kid bonding
- PTO cost would be \$740
- F/R families free, but donations accepting

▼ Activities

- Karaoke?
- Food
- Music
- Entirely possible anxious principals might need to wear blinders so as not to see children near water

▼ New Board memberships

- All officers appear to be returning

▼ Need for three at-large positions

- Idea to have several of them to specifically support particular roles on the PTO so that they could have a smooth transition into the full role
- No cap on at-large members, so having some board members who don't have a looming responsibility over their head is still possible (and sometimes makes it easier to recruit)

