

**Meigs Middle School
PTO Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2009**

Attendance

Leslie DiNella, Nadine Harrer, Bethany Jackson, Mike Hendrix, Catherine Clark, LaRita Grady, Michelle Standridge, Jennifer Neenan, Willie Bell Scott, Kimberly Sammons, Sharon Knight, Rhonda Porter, Kathryn Firsching, Rebecca Breyer, Julia Kaman, Annette Hwang, Tracey Gholson, Cristina O. Allen, Marcie Nash, Kelly Clemons, Linda Russell, Charlish C. Pugh, Valerie G. White, Dana Mennen, Julie Keith, Karen Lawrence, Mary Ellen Pickrell, Norma Hale, Misa Culley, Tomicka Delgado, Tammie Fleming, Alicia Lange, Jon T. Hubble, Connie Taylor, Mrs. Adesinasi, Cori Morris, Laura Rost, Tunja Ashford, Kathy Baker, Becky Harris, Robert Harrer, Greta Requierme

Welcome (Greta Requierme)

Greta called the meeting to order at 8:10 am. Greta explained the questionnaire that was handed out & introduced the Executive Committee, and encouraged attendees to pick up a copy of proposed budget to look over in preparation for discussion.

President's Report (Greta Requierme)

Greta thanked everyone present at the meeting for their enthusiasm this year!

Committee Reports

Hospitality (Julie Keith) – We have tripled hospitality functions this year. First Day Breakfast, Teacher Planning day on 10/16 (Light lunch catered – still needs 2 volunteers), & Parent-Teacher Conferences on 10/30.

Citipass (Debbie Kammerman) – \$5,700 made thus far with the deadline being tomorrow (9/11). Prizes were explained, as well as how much of the proceeds Meigs keeps (½ of everything sold).

SmartCards (Greta for Beth Anderson) - \$4,800 made thus far.

Membership/Kroger Cards (Mary Ellen Pickrell) – 540+ cards have been sold. Only 70 left!!

Invest in Excellence (Jennifer Neenan) – This fund raiser earned \$50,000 last year! Mailers will go out at the end of next week. Jennifer will also talk to Ms. Melton regarding an "Invest" link on the website.

Meigs Mart (Dana Mennen) – Committee is meeting on 9/11 to brainstorm more efficient ways to sell the merchandise. Explanation given regarding little markup on the merchandise. Additional styles are being ordered. There will be a "Logo Design" contest in which the winner will receive a free shirt! Volunteers are still needed.

BoxTops/Tyson (Tracy Gholson) – Tracy presented, with visuals, fund raising tools. Encouraged parents to collect boxtops at work as well, and to shop the website. The Tyson fund raiser was also explained.

Directory (Misa Culley) – Directory is nearing publication and going to print on Monday 9/14. Mr. Hubble suggested that a memo go out to parents regarding how to use the Directory.

Landscaping (Kathryn Firsching) – Displayed the artist rendering of the landscape plans, announced Hands On Nashville Day (9/26) with the Nashville Bar Assoc., directed everyone to website for landscaping items needed for donation, explained that she is researching grant opportunities as well. Bethany Jackson offered to help find grant money, but needs a grant writer. Several names were thrown in the hat for Bethany to contact. Laura Rost stated that she is still in contact with Metro Parks regarding Douglas Park improvements that were promised. A soccer field is on the planning table for this park behind Meigs. This is a "slow" process.

Outreach/Pencil Partner (Bethany Jackson) – Currently researching Pencil Partners to raise awareness of the uniqueness of Meigs. Information will be sent out in Meigs Memos. Trying to find a connection with East Nashville businesses. Also has a "wish list" compiled by Ms. Jackson and Greta.

Magnet Cluster Report (Laura Rost) – She attended the cluster meeting & reported Meigs' success in getting 75 PTO volunteers before the first day of school & through the first week of school, as well as the success of Meigs Mart. She conveyed that Register is a big supporter of Magnet/Theme schools. She stated that anyone is invited to PAC& Cluster meetings at the main school board building on Bransford Avenue. The new "standards" will be explained at the next meeting, as well as a technology update. She said that the cluster's goals are; a) staying top-of-mind regarding school building updates, b) alignment of curriculum to feeder schools, c) teacher continuing education (where can teachers find time for this?), d) PTO improvement. The next cluster meeting is at Rose Parks School on 9/14 at 6:30.

Book Fair (Catherine Clark) – The Book Fair is scheduled for 11/6-13 & will tie in with the Talent Show/Spaghetti Dinner on 11/13. Theme is "Around the world in 80 days". Will be soliciting for "global" decorations for display in the library, and also for foreign language speakers for student announcements throughout the week.

Principal's Report (Jon Hubble)

Mr. Hubble stated that he was impressed with the number of parents participating in this meeting. It is overwhelming to him, and he loves how relaxed everyone is with one another. He also feels that parents are not only concerned with their own children, but for *all* children at Meigs.

This is a "regulation" year regarding school academic standards. Staff was very careful about placing students in "honors" math classes because of these new standards. This gives the students a good foundation so that when they get to Hume Fogg, it's a seamless transition.

TCAP – A 4th category of student scoring has been introduced this year. This will result in fewer kids qualifying for Meigs in the advanced category. Also, fewer 7th graders from Meigs will qualify for Hume Fogg because of this. Mr. Hubble emphasized the importance of parents being invested in their children and paying close attention to their grades. The "Think Link" test that will be administered in November will be a good indicator of how the students are doing.

Math – With these new standards, each child will miss about ½ year of math instruction this year.

Enrollment – Enrollment increase explained because of teacher allocation. Under MNPS budget constraints, in order to retain class offerings & number of faculty, we retained 2 additional teachers to retain the 2 retiring teachers from last year.

Suggested that thank you notes to teachers from parents would be appreciated. Emphasized this *is* a hard job.

Drop-Off time explained & also a heads-up that new apartments will be moved into next week, and that will jam up the drop-off/pick-up.

Mike Hendrix (Stratford Cluster Rep) – Questions regarding the school calendar & parent/teacher conferences specifically... Will there be enough time for all parents to have a conference this year? "No", Mr. Hubble answered & went on to explain, "If your student is doing ok, you'll receive a letter. There just isn't enough time in the day for everyone to meet. I have sent out a proposal to get additional time approved for parent/teacher conferences".

Treasurer's Report (Carolyn Sadler)

Carolyn presented 2 reports (Budget & Teacher Request Summary) that were passed out, and answered a few questions regarding why amounts are different than requests, etc... Stated that some were rounded up, withdrawn, & money was found in other places. We have a "healthy" budget, and we want to support teachers' needs. A suggestion was made that maybe if we didn't "round up", some other needs might be met. Carolyn emphasized the importance of our fund raisers, and that we have a "slush fund" (future grants) for needs that come up throughout the year.

Motion to accept 2009-2010 Budget was made by Laura Rost with a second by Nadine Harrer. Motion was carried...

Greta adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Lange, PTO Secretary