

Math and Science Academy
8430 Woodbury Crossing, Woodbury, MN 55125
Parent Team Committee Meeting - Fall Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
September 23, 2010 7:00 pm

Opening

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Nancy Creeger.
2. There were 29 people in attendance: Three parent team officers, one board of directors liaison, one community member and 24 parents.
3. A brief explanation of the parent team was given by Nancy Creeger. The parent team is a sub-committee of the board of directors. The parent team helps the teachers find volunteers and other resources as they need. We actively support these events. The parent team also provides input from the parents to the board of directors. Everyone is automatically part of the parent team.
4. Introductions were made by the officers: Nancy Creeger, Chairperson; Lori Nixon, Treasurer; Amy Sunderman, Secretary. The Vice Chair/ Volunteer Coordinator position is open.
5. Minutes from the April 15, 2010 Parent Team Meeting were reviewed and one correction was noted.

Board Liaison Update by Julie Runge

1. An overview of the board was explained to the parents.
2. The next board meeting is October 7th. There is a workshop from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.
3. Any fundraising must be approved by the board at the open forum.
4. Budgeting and strategic planning will be on the agenda for the upcoming meeting.
5. Everyone is welcome.

Board Elections Update by Nancy Creeger and Jenny LeMay

1. Two parent positions are up for re-election this year and anyone can run for the positions.
2. Currently three candidates are running for board of directors.
3. The votes are due October 4th and will be counted on November 2nd.
4. Results will be announced at the November 4th board meeting.

Board of Director Candidates

Board of Director Candidates in attendance gave a brief introduction of themselves. The candidates introduced were: Cyndi Bluhm, Craig Creeger and

Sandeep Chandak.

Parent Team Updates by Nancy Creeger

1. Community Building Event for new 6th graders. This will be held on the same evening as Parent Orientation Night which is set for Tuesday, October 5th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
2. Another event will be held for 7th and 8th grade students. The teachers would like the students to get to know each other better and treat each other kindly and work together.
3. School conferences are held on the evening of October 19th and beginning early afternoon October 20th. The parent team will provide an evening meal on October 19th. Nancy has sent out an e-mail to get someone to coordinate. Please let her know if you are interested. There is a budget and a list of volunteers for this event. October 20th is an early release day and a lunch will be provided for the staff. This event also needs a coordinator. Please let Nancy know if you are interested.
4. Pizza days are starting September 24th.
5. October 14th – PSEO and Financing College meeting will be held. This is for grades 10-12.
6. October 8th – Picture retake day.
7. October 16th – Huntington Learning Center will be providing a ACT practice test for 10th & 11th grade students. This is a free event to our students. Please let Mrs. Mooney know if you are interested.

Budget Update by Lori Nixon

1. An overview of the budget and a description of the various activities was given.
2. One parent asked for clarification about Mol day. It was explained that MSA has several fun events for our students where we take a mathematical number (10 to the 23rd power – mol day; PI 3.14 – pi day) and have some fun with it by making a fun treat for the students on that day.
3. There was other discussion on grade level potlucks. Some of the grade level potlucks were poorly attended and others were well attended. They are no longer sponsored by the parent team. However, the school is available for use for this type of event.
4. It was reiterated that the parent team supports the teachers in the events they think will be beneficial, rather than come up with a list of activities that we think should be done.
5. Outside speakers – the budget has \$1,000 retained from prior years for

outside speakers. Any outside speaker would need to be board approved. Considerations need to be made for the wide age range of our students as well as interesting and relevant. There was discussion of the speakers being for teacher needs or parent topics too. Please contact one of the parent team officers and/or board member if you have any speaker recommendations.

6. Extra funds- At the end of the school year a review of extra funds is made. In the event there are extra funds, the teachers are informed and encouraged to submit any requests that they have. We fund all the requests we can under the advisement of Paul Simone.
7. Ms. Erickson's Library – one parent thought many families would love to contribute to Ms. Erickson's library. If there is a "wish list" of books for Ms. Erickson then families could donate gently used (or new if desired) books to the library.
8. One parent asked how long do we keep the expenses open. Lori is working with Julia in the business office on this issue.
9. 6th Grade Orientation – This is now Parent Orientation Night and there will be community building for the 6th graders that evening.
10. Alumni Assembly- Not being funded by the parent team. However, the MSA building is available for use of an alumni assembly. One thought for this event was to build relations between current MSA students and alumni. Unfortunately, the event usually fell over Winter break and the timing for the current students did not work out.
11. Discretionary funding – One parent asked "how do we tap into it?" It is usually teacher initiated rather than initiated by parents. One parent asked if there was a "wish list" for discretionary funds (for example - smart boards, etc..)
12. One parent was interested in seeing on-line grades. Administration has felt the system we have provides a culture of student accountability. MSA does have online accessibility for class assignments (depending upon teacher preference) and Mr. Thielman has podcasting.
13. Feedback from students – complaints of microwave lines being long. One parent asked how many microwaves there were. It was uncertain how many are operational right now but the maximum capacity is six.
14. One possible speaker might be Kevin Kling. One parent heard that Kevin was a good speaker.
15. One parent volunteered to coordinate a communication of summer activities. Mrs. Mooney had done this last spring, but this parent had not been aware of this effort.
16. Parents would LOVE to help in the teachers in any way they would like. Please encourage the teachers to ask for parent help – We would love to help.

17. Communication – One parent requested better communication from MSA in regard to upcoming events. Many times parent's found out about events (school dances) a day or two in advance. This led to discussion of a school calendar. Fright Night Dance is October 16th.
18. One parent expressed concern over event changes and how event changes are determined. Changing one event will impact other activities that are planned for or in the planning process. One example was the school musical moving from spring to winter which will then impact winter sports and activities. The specific reason in this case was to work the MSA play in with Ashland Productions' schedule. Is there a process for changing event dates? Is there a process to identify and address potential conflicts.
19. Technology fund - There was discussion on funding for technology funds and one parent inquired as to who runs the school website.
20. One parent asked about the \$299 credit for landscaping. Lori is working with Julia Douglas on outstanding budget items.

Reminders/ Other Open Discussion Items–

1. ListServ's – If you have not already done so, you can sign up to receive school ListServ announcements.
2. Daily Announcements – The parent team attempted to automatically sign interested parents up for MSA's Daily Announcements, but it is not that simple to do. Unfortunately, the parent team will not be able to automatically sign parents up to receive these important daily announcements.
3. YMCA forms – Parents were encouraged to turn in their YMCA forms, current members will get a credit on their monthly bill.
4. Milk- Milk can be purchased at lunch. Students have been confused as to where to purchase the milk punch cards. The parent team will include instructions in the daily announcements: Where to buy the milk punch cards and who "punches" the card.
5. Computer Crash – One parent asked "What exactly was lost?" Not known for sure...maybe teacher plans... another question – What is being done to prevent this from happening again? Discussion covered the following: Back-ups being done on-line and off site; students should request a transcript for their own records; clearly what was being done was not an adequate back-up strategy and it has been addressed to hopefully prevent something like this from happening again. If interested in helping please contact the technology committee (begin with the board of directors.)

Interested Candidates for Vice Chair/Volunteer coordinator

April Siekmeier

Arthur Von Eschen

Cheryl Cartony

Vicki & Chuck Armstrong

Kathleen Stringfield

Sanjeev & Jasvir Arora

The role of the coordinator is to find volunteers for specific events when requested by teachers. The coordinator will assist as necessary to help get the event coordinated.

Vote was taken for Vice Chair/Volunteer Coordinator position. The results: April Siekmeier and Cheryl Cartony were voted in and will co-chair this position.

The MSA Parent Team has a new e-mail and it is listed on the bottom of your agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.