



**MASON
ELEMENTARY**

**RESPECTFUL
RESPONSIBLE
READY**

Date: 8/16/2023

In-Person Meeting w/Zoom Option

Time: 9:00AM

Meeting Highlights

Total Attendees: 18 in-person, 11 via Zoom

Mr. Jones Report

- Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is under projection, about 40 off. 20 new students registered last week and this week. He is hopeful to make projection this year.
- Tuesday September 5th School at 9 am Superintendent Dr. Murphy will be at Mason to evaluate STEM.
- Shade structures from 2022/2023 Lion Stomp donations were installed and look great. Picnic tables will be coming soon.
- Mr. Jones will be retiring on November 30th.
- Dr. Hill has accepted a position at Tripp Elementary.
- Welcome new AP Mr. Josh Lipps, he came from Forsyth County Schools and is excited to be part of our Mason community!
- Information for the entire staff should be sent to Ms. Shannon Scott. Ms. Scott is the Faculty/ Staff PTA representative.
- Mr. Jones explained what PBIS is- Positive Behavior Intervention Support, what all the students know as “the Mason way.”
 - Ms. Ferreira is leading this initiative. This is a school wide initiative to promote positive behavior among students.
 - This initiative will help teachers eliminate treasure boxes where they are using their own funds.
 - Students can take the points they earn for positive behavior to the PBIS store and purchase prizes they want.

President’s Report

- Introduction of PTA Board: Jennifer Robinson (President), Laura Buchanan and Avani Patel (Co-VPs), Bonnie Tuggle (Treasurer), and Tara Sarrett and Megan Saxelby (Co-Secretaries).
 - Board’s emails as well as committee chair’s emails can be found on the Mason PTA website.
- Encouraged all members to follow Mason PTA on social media- FB and Instagram. Both platforms will reiterate information from ParentSquare.
 - Committee Chairs can give Laura Buchanan info for social media to circulate to parents.
- Spiritwear open house orders went out yesterday. Can order online or in person. Orders come out every 1.5-2 weeks.

- Calendar is updated on PTA website as well as all board and committee chairs with email addresses.
- Lion Stomp is next month- September 29th. Fundraiser goals include repaving the blacktop by the gym with hopscotch stencils, etc. redoing the Mason lion in the center of the gym floor, redoing the steps going down to the large playground, and a poster making machine to help the teachers.

Vice President's Report

- We have 224 PTA members, including 82 faculty and staff members.
- Goal is 100% membership.
- Blue Tier Membership is at 12 families and Red Tier Membership is at 10 families.
 - Tier Membership requires 2 different email addresses.
 - 100% of tier membership goes directly back into Mason.
- PTA membership costs \$5.00 (\$4 state PTA fee, \$1 school contribution after 250 members threshold met)

Treasurer's Report

- Current account balance is \$3044.49.
- Budget will be presented for approval on curriculum night. Teachers will have ballots for parents to vote on the current year budget.
- Surplus from last year's budget allowed us to also buy picnic tables in addition to the shade structures.
- Committee chairs also have budgets now and can email Treasurer for check requests.
- Ms. Ferreira is leading the PBIS initiative with a budget goal of \$1000.
- We are audited by an outside auditor.

Committee Reports

- **Reflections (update provided by Rasika Wijeratne)**
 - Kickoff for entries will begin this week and entries will be due by mid-September. (Still waiting on the official Area 2 deadline).
 - Students can compete artistically in 6 categories- Film production, music composition, visual arts, dance choreography, literature, and photography.
 - Students can submit for more than 1 category. Entries can be physical or digital, waiting on more information from National Reflections.
 - Hoping for teacher support and encouraging students to participate.
 - More info on the PTA website and questions can be emailed to Rasika at reflections.masonespta@gmail.com.
- **Room Parent Lead (update provided by Lauren Rogers)**
 - Changed the parent communication form to an online excel spreadsheet and she was able to collect all but 2 teachers' parent information via the online form.

- Sending info today to room parents, welcome letter template to send out, as well as teacher's favorite things list.
- **Cultural Arts (update provided by Lauren Rogers)**
 - Budget has increased and able to have 3 performances this school year. The first one is already booked for mid-September.
- **Yearbook (update provided by Tara Carter)**
 - Co-chair/training volunteer Shauna MacFarlane volunteered via Zoom during meeting when Tara was announcing she was looking for a co-chair.
 - Last year did great in sales.
 - Won the grand prize from the yearbook company- a camera for PTA/teachers to use.
 - Send pictures of anything school related (1st day of school pictures most recently) to masonespictures@gmail.com.
- **All Pro Dad (update provided by Mark Carter and Thomas Rogers)**
 - Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month at 6:45AM September-April. Chick-Fil-A breakfast served. Positive character traits are discussed.
 - Many other opportunities for dads to participate (DJ school dances, work in the garden, help with Lion Stomp, school carnival and other events)
 - Questions/RSVPs can be emailed to masones.apd@gmail.com
 - Walk n Roll- Parents walk to school with their students from Bunten Rd. Park on the path to school. One in the fall and spring, 1st one is Oct. 4th at 7:30 am, meeting at Bunten Road Park.
 - Mr. Jones thanked Mark and the APD volunteers for helping direct parking lot traffic on the first day of school.
- **Spirit Night (update provided by Autumn Wilson)**
 - Papa Johns Spirit Week will be once a month for 1 week. They give 20% back to the school when parents use the code (masones) when ordering.
 - A pizza party will be given to the class with the most participation. Parents can send a screenshot of their receipts to teachers.
 - Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night usually will be on a Tues/Thurs. They will be adding a code to use as well, specific times to order for school credit will be 5-8 pm only.
 - A nugget tray will be awarded to the class with the most participation.
 - Also trying to schedule a night at Main Event, hopefully on a Thursday prior to a digital learning day. Working on dates with Mr. Jones currently.
- **International Night (update provided by Bonnie Tuggle via Arwyn Raina)**
 - Currently looking for a co-chair.
 - Estimated International Night date will be March 2024.
 - Discussed reasons for the switch from inside to outside due to past Covid restrictions.
 - Trying to add more performances and a better stage than last year so students can showcase their countries.

- **Duluth Fall Festival (update provided by Kim MacLeod)**
 - Duluth Fall Festival- September 30th at 9 am. Mason will have a decorated truck with a trailer in the parade. Inviting students to ride and parent volunteers to walk alongside.
 - Will be asking for candy donations and a box will be placed near the front office beginning of Sept.

- **STEM Connection and Mason Carnival (update provided by Nikki Simmons)**
 - September 5th is the STEM recertification and ceremony.
 - Mason is submitting application for STEM and computer science.
 - No carnival plans yet.

- **Hospitality (update provided by Christina Volling)**
 - Luncheons for teachers 3 times a year, first one set for Oct. 18th which is an early release day.
 - Jeremiah's Italian Ice donating a free treat for every teacher and staff member.

- **Holiday Shop (update provided by Mansi Thakkar)**
 - We will use the same company as we used last year.
 - For 5 days during December, students can shop a range of gifts and prices for family members and friends.

- **Spooky Dance/Small-N-Tall Ball (update provided by Julie McKeVitt)**
 - Will need a lot of volunteers when sign ups go out to set up- the turnaround between school ending and the dance beginning is about 2 hours.

* Mr. Jones asked any new parents to introduce themselves in the meeting/via Zoom. He thanked the PTA for all of their hard work and his constant appreciation for so many hands to jump in and help at any moment when called to action.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08AM