



Newport Mill Middle School PTSA
11311 Newport Mill Road
Kensington, MD 20895

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NMMS PTSA General Membership Meeting

April 14, 2021

Agenda

Welcome - Rebekah Kuschmider

Call for Nominations - Lois Kent

Upcoming Fundraisers - Kirstin Goldston

Call for Volunteers for MYP Evaluation - Rebekah Kuschmider

Update on New Principal Search - Rebekah Kuschmider

Updates - Ms. Tsonis, Ms. Butler, Mr. Glaspie

8th Grade Promotion - Gloria Carpenter

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Call for Nominations - Lois Kent

If anyone is interested, we are looking for nominations for all positions. Many members of this year's board are interested in returning. The President, 3 VP's, Treasurer and Recording Secretary are elected positions and we are required to have these filled.

We also need volunteers. See the list sent for positions. Fundraising, dance committees, communications secretary, Tiger Run...

This year has been different as the PTSA was not able to be very active. The more volunteers we get, the easier the return to 'normal' will be next year. Send Lois Kent an email (landckent@verizon.net) to let her know that you are interested.

We may need creativity next year as we slowly return to whatever the new normal is going to be.

Upcoming Fundraisers - Kirstin Goldston

Restaurant nights and a fabric drive is held once a year that get donated to Unique Thrift, who pay us for it by weight. This year's collection is April 30 - May 8. We need a couple of parents to be a drop off location. Also we'll be collecting at the Newport parking lot May 8th at 1:30. Last year we raised about \$300. We urgently need a fundraising chair for next year.

8th Grade Promotion - Gloria Carpenter

The PTSA is eager to contribute and make this a memorable time for students and teachers. The PTSA has some ideas on how we'd like to be involved. All we have at this point are ideas as the school will need to let us know what will be permitted and if there are any plans.

Ms Tsonis: A Directors' meeting was held today and at the Elementary and Middle school level everything will be virtual. An email will go to parents at the elementary and middle school level. Last year we had a car parade and virtual promotion taking ideas from what the traditional in person program was. The focus so far has been on bringing back the students. The school would love to see ideas. The virtual promotion is June 15, 9am with a pre-recorded link that can be watched and sent to family. The 8th grade team has started to consider ideas, including a yearbook.

Call for Volunteers for MYP Evaluation

Mr Lagarretta needs some parent volunteers to discuss the MYP program on a call 10:30 - 11:30 am Wednesday April 2. Contact Mr Lagarretta to participate.

"I am in need of parent volunteers to participate in a brief interview session on Zoom with International Baccalaureate representatives on Wednesday, April 21, from 10:30 - 11:30 am. This session is part of our evaluation process (which happens every five years) and is meant to gather information about the MYP at Newport. Participating parents would just need to attend to answer some questions about our Middle Years Programme, so that we can improve the program going forward. "

Update on New Principal Search

The panel met some of the candidates about a week ago. Rebekah, Lois and Kirstin participated. There were 8 terrific candidates. We will know by the May 12 Meeting.

Updates - Ms Tsonis, Mr Glasbie, Ms Butler

We had 85 6th grades and 12 LFI students in the building over the last week. So far so good. The students are generally happy to be back in the building. Some hiccups with lunches sorted out. It has been a very healthy experience for students and staff. 7th and 8th graders next Monday. 7th graders will enter through the media center. 8th graders via the flagpole entrance. Hallways are configured to keep students separated. Crossing guards for NMMS have adjusted their schedules to match the school. They are scheduled from 755am - 825am at Veirs Mill Rd, 800 - 830 at the school. 245pm - 315pm at Veirs Mill Rd, 240pm - 310pm at the NMMS Crosswalk.

MYP evaluation is next week. Happens every 5 years. Seeking volunteers from 1030 - 1130. This is a great opportunity for parents. The evaluators will be flexible. Please contact Mr. Lagarretta.

Summer school information will be sent soon. We are getting a security vestibule built in front of the front office so we don't know if we can run our local summer school. If we can't we will work with Odessa Shannon Middle School (Former Col. E. Brooke Lee MS).

MCPS is beginning the process of developing the schedule next year. Not sure if there will be a 5 day schedule and whether there still will be anything virtual? So this is in process.

Virtual Outdoor Ed will be at the beginning of June. There will not be make-up outdoor ed for last year's 6th graders.

Staffing updates: Ms Tsonis retiring, as well as Mr Turverey and Ms Abioudin. Ms Sachs was promoted to High School. Newport has an 0.8 open in ESL, 1.0 in World Languages (hired today) and 1.0 counselor. We did have some reductions in Special Education but we have made a request to MCPS that that come back. Hopefully that will be restored.

Q&A

Any plans for music, choral performances? Not at this point.

Sports: Spring cross-country is starting. Contact Ms. Fean.

Will someone from NMMS go to the elementary school to talk to the elementary students? Ms Tsonis may set up a Zoom to let them talk to the counseling team.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

