

## Monroe Elementary PTO Parent Meeting

Tuesday November 16th, 2021--- 7:00pm

- I. Call to Order via Zoom
  - A. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87286813395>
  - B. Attendance: Nancy Dunn, Amy Dreibelbis, Christine Bertsch, Christina Wevodau, Steph Gettys, Carin Carl, Stefanie Dye, Sherisa Nailor, Sara Socks, Meredith Noel, Amy Loffredo, Kristin Bangs, Dr. David Christopher and Dr. Megan Ward
- II. Guest Speaker- Dr. Christopher
  - A. Continuing to keep school open; off to a rocky start, but lots of excitement. Managing quarantines. Looking forward to not having to talk about COVID
  - B. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade building has opened (CV9)
  - C. Challenge this year is lack of bus drivers (not COVID related) Also short of custodial/food services. Will be looking into initiatives for recruitment of these things as well as doing surveys for staff in order to retain and recruit people
  - D. Eagle View renovation is to start in the next 18 months. Renovations include: the ability to add 500 students, larger gym and cafeteria, and adding new wings out the back of the school (about 16 classrooms)
  - E. The high school renovation is scheduled for 2026/2027 timeframe
  - F. Redistribution will happen at some point in the next 2-3 years
  - G. Mental health issues are high this year (many students aren't engaged in learning) as well as the most homelessness that we have seen in a

long time. There's also been an uptick in unaccompanied minors to support

- H. Whole child survey had excellent results. Kids say they feel really safe and engaged. Higher levels than anticipated, even more than 2019
- I. CV is the fastest growing school district in Pennsylvania- Lots of movement and growth and it's not slowing down
- J. New reading curriculum- A science-based reading approach
- K. Strategic Planning- working on an outline of a CV graduate and what are the habits, skills, and expectations we have of them and then using that for future graduates
- L. Will continue Cumberland Perry Area Career and Tech Center for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- M. About 800-1000 new students a year (350 new to the district each year)
- N. Concerns from parents about long lunch lines
  - 1. Students who need lunch may not be getting it.
  - 2. Dr. Christopher is going to look into this to make sure every kid has a chance to get lunch regardless if it's at the school or VoTech.
- O. Parents comments on transportation and how the notices come in.
  - 1. It would be helpful to know which building these notices are coming from as parents have children in many buildings.
  - 2. Dr. Christopher comments that we might change the bus numbering system so we can figure this out and make it easier for everyone
- P. Summer building construction
  - 1. Is it going to go during the year so that students are having to deal with it in middle school and then high school?

2. Dr. Christopher states that they are looking into their options, but are hoping to have the majority of the work done over the summer. We may have one disrupted year, but we're hoping it's only one year at the Middle School.
3. Highschool staging should be easier because it's so big and classroom areas will be less likely to be impacted

### III. Secretary Report

- A. Tara posted the September meeting minutes to the website and is continuing to update the website as needed

### IV. Principal Report

- A. Tomorrow is Sandlot day- students can wear Jerseys
- B. There is no school 11/24-11/29; students will return on the 30<sup>th</sup>
- C. New music teacher, Kristen Wilson, was hired and is to start ASAP.
  1. The winter concert will be cancelled because she won't be here long enough to facilitate that.
  2. We will be having a Spring concert
- D. The Giving Tree has been completely fulfilled.
  1. All family needs have been met for the holiday season.
  2. Gift cards are not needed but are sometimes requested by families and can be sent into the office addressed to Dr. Ward- Please label them "to a family in need."
- E. Title 1 school- We receive federal funding due to a percentage of low-income families.
  1. We will need to have a school compact that promises our values as staff.
  2. Parents can also look over it as well and make recommendations.

- F. Parent teacher conferences are happening now with progress reports being released over the next few months.
  - 1. Progress reports are just an overall snapshot, and the percentages on them only represent how much information has been mastered by the students at that point in the school year.
- G. Reading levels for students will not be assigned anymore
  - 1. A new science of reading is being implemented
  - 2. Kids will be given specific skills to work/focus on instead
- V. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Walk for Monroe goal has been met
  - B. Currently standing at 25,278 with a few donations to still be counted
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. Walk for Monroe update
    - 1. Gift cards/stamps drawing to be done this week
    - 2. Prizes for 20 flyer families will come home before Thanksgiving
    - 3. Will have more info. On school reward in December
  - B. Feedback on Holiday Parties
    - 1. Miss Loffredo says it was a blessing to have something planned
    - 2. Was wonderful to have room parent reach out to the teachers
    - 3. One craft and one game will be enough.
    - 4. Too many crafts planned. Less is more
    - 5. Food allergies were well addressed, and prepackaged food is good
    - 6. 5<sup>th</sup> grade may be able to be a group-party, but we will have to wait and see.

**Upcoming PTO meetings and guest speakers:**

January 18<sup>th</sup>- Alyson Borden from “Ready for School, Ready to Succeed”

March 15<sup>th</sup>- Valley Counseling Center to discuss mental health

**Next Parent Board Meeting will be January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00PM**