HSA General Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2016

Administrator Introductions and Q&A

- Dr. Ciccone

Email communications issues - Dr. Ciccone addressed the issue of maintaining a comprehensive 8th grade list – so that no one is left out - to be used for school-related activities. He offered to review and proof email lists for distribution for school-related activities as contact information is not shared due to security issues. The HSA and Dr. Ciccone to work together to help with any information gaps from 4th to 5th grade. Dr. Ciccone offered to distribute an email once a month for HSA items in the future. Dr. Ciccone can email new parents.

Anti-bulling efforts – Dr. Ciccone gave an overview of anti-bullying programs at MTMS, which are published on the website and through email, and discussed via counselors and guest speakers. Dr. Ciccone will issue watch-outs to parents when the school is made aware of a social media issue. Dr. Constantino and Ms. Kotcho stated that we need to start early, and at home, to teach kindness. Dr. Ciccone will issue a warning to kids about appropriate year book signings.

Music program overview – Dr. Ciccone presented the revised band program (see attached presentation). The opportunities in the band program are in an effort to get kids to play more and improve for the coming years.

- Dr. Constantino

Lunch issues – Dr. Constantino addressed a few complaints regarding lunch issues at the schools (ex. no fruit/veg served, menu-switching, duplicate charges). He will address these issues directly with the food service company and urges parents that have lunch issues to reach out to him directly. Regarding sugar consumption at lunch, Dr. Constantino stated that the current food service company is better than most others; however, parents may opt to limit kids' purchases – this feature is coordinated through the chef.

2016-2017 initiatives and strategic plans – Dr. Constantino and the Board of Education (BOE) are working on a strategic plan ("2025") to identify goals – from taxes to capital improvements. This plan is due out the end of 2016.

The BOE meets every 3rd (work session) and 4th (vote session) Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Parents are welcome to attend.

Teacher retention issues – Dr. Constantino stated that exit interviews are conducted and that Mr. Koroski is working to formalize this process. Salary and administrative opportunities have been factors in retention. The school district is governed by a negotiated contract which dictates salary steps. Dr. Constantino stated that teacher mobility is common, and it is not higher here than other districts. Dr. Contstantino has a goal to identify 3 things to help enhance job satisfaction.

School security – Dr. Constantino covered school security topics. He confirmed that the staff and students do recess safety drills, and that staff and aides are trained in security protocols. Aides are instructed to get teacher or administrator involvement for certain issues. Dr. Constantino is open to parent questions or feedback.

- Ms. Kotcho

New Makerspace classes – 3rd & 4th grades – are being taught by Mr. Gallo and will help students develop "how things work" skills. The students will design, create and prototype creations. The class has 3 units (1- robotics and computer programming, 2- engineering and design process, 3- circuitry). Please email Mr. Gallo if you are someone with professional skills in these areas and would like to contribute. The Makerspace class, along with Technology, and STEM (1st & 2nd grades), helps fill a gap with students not participating in gifted & talented (Quest) programs.

- Mr. Koroski

Special Services updates – special services has had plans in place ahead of the school year for students to ensure a smooth start. Mr. Koroski has an open door policy.

PACSS update and calendar – PACCS meetings are open to all parents regardless of special education needs. The October 20th meeting is planning session for the March "open house" meeting that will feature several guest speakers. The January meeting will feature the school counselors. Upcoming meeting details will be published on the school calendars.

MTMS Band

Three Components:

1. Small Group Lesson – 1x during school day (rotating)
2. Ancillary Opportunities
   - -Regions Workshop – 2x per week period 9
   - -Jazz Band – 2x per week period 9
3. Bands
   - -Blue Band – 2x per week (1- 6th and 1 - zero)
   - -Concert Band Only – 3x per week zero (Thurs Optional)
   - -Wind Ensemble / Concert Band– 3x per week zero

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Concert Band (All 6-8 Band Members)	Wind Ensemble (Audition Only)	Concert Band (All 6-8 Band Members)	Concert Band	Blue Band (Grade 5 Band)
Orchestra Grades 6-8	----------	Orchestra Grades 6-8	Orchestra Grade 5	----------
----------	Chorus Grade 6	Chorus Grade 6	Chorus Grade 7 & 8	Chorus Grade 7 & 8