

Missituk Elementary School PTO Meeting
School Year 2021-2022
Tuesday, October 5th, 6:30 pm

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Welcome & Introductions (Breakout Rooms)

School Nurses Presentation

- Letter was sent home to K today with details; will be sent out to entire school
- Any symptoms (even runny nose), contact the nurse (call or email; hours are 8am-3pm - kroberto@medford.k12.ma.us or lborriello@medford.k12.ma.us or 781-393-2175) before sending kids to school and a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis. Most times, the student will need a negative COVID test (must be a PCR test, not a rapid test) to be able to return to school. Kids do not need a doctor's note (in addition to the COVID test).
- Children who have been home 1-3 days sick, don't just send them back to school when feeling better. If they have been kept home, call and talk to the nursing office for details of when to return to school.
- With the Delta variant - sometimes a runny nose is the only symptom in kids.

Questions

- *Best place to get a PCR test?* Stop the Spread; Chelsea/Lynn/Everett sites
- *If one kid is sick, do siblings need to stay home from school?* No, unless a sibling tests positive for COVID.
- *How long does it take for the school to get COVID results?* It depends. Sometimes they are getting results first thing in the morning, but sometimes not until the end of the next day. Pool testing is being done

once per week (on Thursdays) and parents are only notified if there is a positive result in the pool.

- *If a sample comes back with a positive, what happens next?* There are 10 tests in a pool. If there is a positive out of the 10 tests, those 10 will be tested with a rapid test and an individual PCR test. Sometimes a pool test will come back invalid and then the pool will be retested.
- *Can you explain the timing of what happens when the pool turns up a positive? When do close contacts get notified? What is the definition of a close contact?* Contact tracing begins when we have isolated the positive case within the pool. If the rapid test is positive, we will know immediately; sometimes we need to wait for individual PCR results to come back to find the positive case and we would contact trace.
- *Percentage of students consenting to pool testing?* At least 90% (and maybe higher at this point).
- *If someone tests positive outside of school, is the same process followed?* Yes, if they were in school during their infectious period.
- *If a child is absent or misses pool testing, are they tracked and then tested?* Yes - they are tracking and making sure kids are tested. Nurses are keeping track on lists and making sure they are tested. If a kid is absent and misses pool testing, a parent is called and told they need to test before coming back.
- *Does our testing have to be on Thursday (hard not to know results all weekend)?* Central administration decided the day of the week, Board of Health would reach out to nurses over the weekend for contact tracing.
- *Are all classmates considered close contacts? Would it be possible to be notified if a classmate DOES test positive?* Not necessarily; would need to fall into the 6ft/15m range. The policy changed - a letter used to be sent out with positive cases within a class, but the district changed that policy. K has been asked to “pod/group” kids (kids they’d sit near during lunch/specials) to reduce the number of close contacts - trying to avoid needing to quarantine an entire classroom and could instead quarantine the “pod/group.”
- *What kind of remote option/academic support is there while the child is out of*

school? No remote option. District has said we are not doing that. If a kid is home, teachers would send work home for the kid to work on. Some materials might be posted online or sent in email.

Treasurer Update

- Budgeting using the figures from the past pre-COVID time; in good shape financially.
- Still legally the Columbus PTO; any checks for the PTO need to be made out to the Columbus PTO.
- In the process of legally changing the name of the PTO.

General Updates

- Welcome back breakfast for teachers/staff
- Supplies for teachers
- Scholastic News for all of the teachers
- Teacher reimbursement program - increased this year to \$200/staff member
- Jen Kerwood purchased some box fans and MERV filters and made air filters for the school (2 to the gym/cafeteria)
- We're looking for PTO Board members and for volunteers to get involved in small ways
- Class Reps/Room Parents (link between parents and classroom teacher, attend PTO meetings to help spread information to families in the class) -thank you to everyone who has volunteered! We still have a few classrooms who need Class Reps, if interested, let us know!

Enrichment Update

- Not as much going on, but we ARE now able to have visitors come into the school for enrichment as long as they follow COVID protocols.
- Any ideas for enrichment, please email the PTO!
- **Book Fair - Scholastic - October 18-22.** Kids will visit one time during

their library special. PTO goal is to get one book per child using Scholastic Dollars and possibly PTO funds. We will ask for donations to fill teacher and library wishlists. More information to come!

- No after school clubs this fall, but planning ahead for winter/spring for if/when we start doing clubs.

Fundraising Update

- Panera - Saturday, October 16 - open to close; you order food either in person or online and a portion of the amount comes back to the PTO.
- Spirit Wear
- Direct Donation letter coming soon

Principal Kay's Corner

- October 11 - Indigenous People's Day holiday - no school
- October 14 - Condon Shell music event
- October 16 - Harvest Your Energy - Riverbend Park
- Read for the Record - guests coming in to read "Amy Woo and the Patchwork Dragon"
- October 29 - Conduct & Citizenship Spirit Day - movie day
- November 2 - No school - election day
- November 9 - Photo make-up day and need to take 5th grade group photo
- Visitors are welcome to act as volunteers in classrooms but need to follow all protocols. Masks required, no symptoms, vaccination preferred, distant from kids.
- Assemblies - can be held, outdoors preferred. If indoors, need to be smaller groups/by grade level.
- Field trips - district is saying field trips CAN happen, but ideally we would wait until the spring or go somewhere where kids could be outside for the duration of the visit.
- Dental forms - forms went home, good for kids to get a quick look by dental hygienists and can get sealants (all with permission)

- Family directory - coming soon; need families to opt in if they would like to be included.
- MAP Growth assessment - reading, math, science - the areas where kids will eventually take MCAS. All kids will take MAP Growth (beginning, middle, end of year); results will be sent home.

Questions

- *Why do visitors not have to be vaccinated? Could require for outside enrichment companies, but school can't require parents/family members to be vaccinated. PTO will try to require any outside enrichment companies to be vaccinated.*
- *Only time for mask breaks is during snacks, recess? Does school have a priority for every class to go outside once/day? Are classes eating snack outside? It is not mandated, but is recommended that if teachers are doing activities that could be done outside that they do (ex. Reading a book to a class, science projects). Several classes are eating snack outside.*
- *Is gym class being held outside when the weather allows? Can they use the fields/courts in Columbus Park? Gym does take place outside as much as possible. Yes, they can use the park.*

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 3, 2021, 6:30 pm

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