

Missituk Elementary School PTO Meeting
School Year 2021-2022
Tuesday, February 1, 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Time Item

6:30 Welcome & Board Introductions

Email the PTO if you have any questions about what the PTO does, how you can get involved, etc. MissitukPTO@gmail.com

6:40 Guest Presentation: The Therapeutic Team at the Missituk School

Team:

Angela Lepore Adjustment Counselor

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Kathleen Fader Adjustment Counselor

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Lauren Mahoney School Psychologist

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Elizabeth Anderson BCBA

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Sara Olsen Behavior Specialist

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Angelo Fontana Behavior Specialist

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Link to the Therapeutic Team presentation:

<https://columbuspto.files.wordpress.com/2022/04/pto-meeting-2.1.22-therapeutic-team-.pdf>

Adjustment counselors/school psychologists - meet with teachers/support staff, with parents of kids on caseloads, connect with outside providers. Make referrals for outside services. Work with students in small groups and individually to support them with their social-emotional needs. Some of their students are on 504s or IEPs or work with students through the therapeutic team referral process.

Therapeutic Team referral process: school staff submit a referral when a student is struggling with social-emotional or behavioral concerns. Team meets weekly to review referrals that have been placed and discuss recommendations. 1-2 of the team will follow up with the teacher (and parents, if appropriate). Might recommend accommodations in the classroom. Check-in/check-out program - students check in in the morning, with their teachers throughout the day and then check-out with the team at the end of the day. Help families place referrals for counselors in the community.

Questions from attendees:

- What is the caseload like? Is it overwhelming, or do you have enough staff to support caseload? *Would always argue that they could use more staff because kids could always use more support. With COVID pandemic, seeing that more kids need more support. Seeing a higher number of referrals this year.*
- How does this tie into Nexus? *Nexus is the new curriculum, still figuring out how to best work together with Nexus. Nexus gives students a basis, language around the zones of regulation, etc.*
- Has the Therapeutic Team always been shared with other schools? *Yes, it has been set up this way; has been part of the budget to ask for more support.*
- What is the length of the 504/IEP process? *504 is a fluid document and can start at any time of the school year. Mrs S-H needs a referral either from classroom teacher or a doctor and could be put into place fairly quickly. 504 can be put into place for accommodations for an emergent need (ex: broken arm, etc). IEP is goal-driven.. IEP is a longer process once the team gets referral for testing and then eligibility meeting.*
- What should a parent do if they have concerns about their child? *Team suggests going through the classroom teacher - find out how things are going in the classroom, parent concerns, etc. and then the teacher can submit the therapeutic team referral.*

7:05 Treasurer Update

No updates on spending.

Missituk name update - everything has been filed and waiting to hear back from MA AG's office to confirm that everything is all set and confirmed.

7:10 Events and Enrichment Update

Every grade will have a virtual program with the Museum of Science and one other enrichment activity by the end of the year. Other enrichment:

- 3rd - a visit from Historical New England
- 4th - Industrial Museum, Lowell re: immigration experience that ties into their curriculum
- 1st - Kidstock coming in to do activities and improv.

Starting to book field trips - will do one outdoor field trip per grade. K/1 - Drumlin Farm; 4th - Franklin Park Zoo. Other grades are still being planned.

Events & Clubs - No events/clubs because of COVID - aside from the club that is meeting virtually with Mrs Mazaka to design a mural that will go in the school playground. End of March/beginning of April - will start painting the mural. Will include as many kids as possible in the painting phase. Hoping for in-person outdoor clubs in the spring; COVID-dependent. CCSR - happening now, independent from the PTO. Meeting virtually once per month. Reach out to Mr O'Sullivan for more information.

Recent PTO purchases/requests:

- **math games** for the school library so teachers can check them out and use them in the classroom. [Math games wishlist](#) or **donations welcome:** <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/columbuspto>
- **supplies** requested by the teachers (wipes, sanitizer, etc.) Supply donations can be dropped off at school (or monetary donations accepted here: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/columbuspto>).

Book Fair - March - online fair with Porter Square Books.

7:15 Fundraising Update

Read-A-Thon (formerly known as Whooo's Reading, now known as Read-a-Fun) - taking place Feb 28-March 18. Kids can track their reading online - books, being read to, audiobooks - everything counts. It's a fundraiser, but everyone is welcome and the fundraising is not required - it's really all about participation and reading! Details and login information will be set home when we get closer to the start.

Spirit Wear - holding off for new logo; coming soon

7:25 Other PTO Updates

MANY PTO board positions will be open at the end of the year—we need volunteers!

7:30 Principal Kay's Corner

February 2 - Groundhog Day and C&C luncheon .

February 4 - PBIS store

February 9 - School Council meeting

February 14 - Valentine's Day - if bringing cards, bring one for everyone in the class.

No candy or food.

February 18 - Spirit Day - theme TBD

February 21-25 - School break

February 28 - C&C luncheon for February recipients

PBIS team - decided to wait to start a new plan fresh at the beginning of a new school year (transferring to experiences and classroom rewards vs. individual items).

K parent - teacher conferences - will be offered in person or by Zoom

New school logo has been selected! Will be announced tomorrow at school and then shared more widely.

Breakfast before the bell - checked in with the teachers and Rory, but we don't have the data that Ms. Kay had hoped for (of how many kids are taking breakfast in the mornings). Rory feels that there are not as many breakfasts taken now (vs before the pandemic). Large majority of teachers prefer breakfast before the bell (less disruption, less mess, more time for AM meeting).

COVID - Email from Avery Hines over the past weekend. [Link to register](#) to be part of at-home testing (hard copy is available) . Starting week of February 7, families opt in to be part of at-home testing (rapid antigen tests will be distributed). Consent forms need to be submitted by the Thursday before the week the tests are distributed. Use one test per week. Nurses will still be doing diagnostic testing if kids have symptoms at school. Students and staff should stay home if experiencing symptoms. Last in-school surveillance testing will be at the end of February. Contact tracing will be discontinued when we transition to at-home testing. More information was sent from Mrs Diskin today:

<https://www.mpsadvantage.education/2022/01/28/medford-public-schools-health-se>

[rvices-department-announces-at-home-antigen-testing-for-students-staff/](#).

Vaccinations will be offered in on-going clinics and at Missituk.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 6:30 pm

email: missitukpto@gmail.com

website: <http://missitukpto.wordpress.com/>

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/MissitukPTO>

Facebook Group: @Missituk Families 02155

Instagram: missitukpto