

# MMES School Council Meeting

January 11, 2021

## Agenda

Review November 23, 2020, Minutes

Building improvements  
Vaccinations  
Superintendent/COVID  
Enrollment  
Kindergarten recruitment  
School Council rubric  
Good of the order

Minutes  
Mercury Mine Elementary  
School Council Meeting  
January 11, 2021

### Member Present:

Donna Alley	Principal
James Hayden	Certified Teacher
Erica Hazen	Certified Teacher
Sandy Ditsch	Education Support Professional
Karen Bea	Parent Representative
Heidi MacFarlane	Parent Representative
Keryn Wilson	Parent Representative
Jody Taylor	Community Representative

### Members Absent:

Stephanie Weisgerber	Certified Teacher
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Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Donna Alley.

1. Mrs. Alley welcomed members. Minutes of November 23, 2020 were approved. Karen Bea moved; Jody Taylor seconded.

2. Building Improvements--A contractor was on site all winter break replacing crumbling brick and metal flashing around the roofline. They also caulked and sealed edges to help with drainage, and power washed to blend new and old bricks. They also removed the handicapped lift on the side of the MultiPurpose Room stage to comply with a recent inspection.
3. Vaccinations--A vaccination clinic will be held for PVSchools employees on January 22-24 for first dose and February 12-14 for second dose. Employees are encouraged but not required to receive the vaccination.
4. Superintendent resignation--Dr. Jim Lee will serve as interim Superintendent until a new Superintendent is hired. A Governing Board Study Session will be held Thursday, January 14, to discuss the process to hire.
5. Enrollment--Our current enrollment for K-6 is 481. Last year's enrollment was 530 so there has been a decrease in enrollment of 50 students. Approximately 10 left to enroll in schools that are in-person; the rest moved too far away or out of state. There were approximately 30-35 MMES students attending PVOnline at the beginning of the year.
6. Kindergarten Open House--In place of the usual Kindergarten Open House, multiple smaller events and/or a video open house and tour are being planned. Utilizing social media and word of mouth will be key while school events are limited. There have been approximately 15 students apply for Kindergarten early bird open enrollment. The next open enrollment deadline is January 21.
7. School Council Rubric--members filled out the school council rubric via Google Form.
8. Good of the Order: A discussion of in-person vs. virtual learning experiences for students and teachers was held. A question was asked about the superintendent transition from Dr. Jesse Welsh to interim Superintendent Dr. Jim Lee. A question was asked regarding standardized testing for this school year. Testing in person will be required and will be given in April. Testing dates were extended by 2 weeks to allow more in-person instruction prior to testing. There is also the possibility that the testing company will change again. Gifted testing will be done in March. PTG is compiling video submissions for the Virtual Talent Show and will create a virtual event for families in early February. The Scholastic Book Fair will take place January 18-31 online.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm. The next School Council meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on February 22, 2021. Minutes recorded by Sandy Ditsch.

## MMES School Council Meeting

February 22, 2021

### Agenda

Reopening  
Staffing 2021-2022  
School Council members 2021-2022  
PTG Budget  
Kindergarten Open House  
Tax Credit Fund expenditure requests

### Minutes Mercury Mine Elementary School Council Meeting February 22, 2021

#### Members Present:

Donna Alley	Principal
James Hayden	Certified Teacher
Erica Hazen	Certified Teacher
Stephanie Weisgerber	Certified Teacher
Sandy Ditsch	Education Support Professional
Karen Bea	Parent Representative
Heidi MacFarlane	Parent Representative
Keryn Wilson	Parent Representative
Jody Taylor	Community Representative

#### Members Absent:

Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Principal Donna Alley.

1. Heidi MacFarlane moved the minutes of the January 11, 2021, meeting be accepted; James Hayden seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.
2. MMES staffing for 2021-22 was discussed. Based on current enrollment of 489 with the highest enrollment of 533 last year, staffing is unchanged. All open positions are now

posted and Mrs. Alley will be attending the Principal Meet and Greet on Thursday, February 25, for teachers in PVSchools who are looking for a new position. Current openings are one 2nd grade position; one half time ELL (English Language Learners); and one half time STEM special area position.

3. PTG will be holding two budget committee meetings in the next few weeks. PTG is looking at holding the Fun Run more as a fun activity to encourage exercise and less as a fundraising event.
4. Kindergarten Open House will not be held as it has been in past years but Mrs. Alley plans to schedule small group tours a couple of times per month to accommodate requests. We are still hoping to create a video tour with Kindergarten information that would be posted on the website. There are currently 32 open enrollment plus registered students for Fall 2021 Kindergarten. We have three Kindergarten classrooms with a maximum enrollment of 75 students.
5. Reopening comments were provided by teachers and parents. Students are happy to be back in school according to both parents and teachers. Some families are deciding if they will return in person for the 4th quarter. MMES has 81% of students attending in person with 19% of students remaining on PVConnect. District-wide, students are 75% in person and 25% on PVConnect. AzMERIT testing will be done between April 12 and May 14 and must be done in person. Students on PVConnect will need to take AzMERIT tests at MMES.
6. Tax Credit Funds--two expenditures of tax credit funds were discussed. Beth Wenger made a \$400 tax credit donation on 12/31/2020 and requested that it be used toward the purchase of an instrument for the General Music classroom. Mrs. Wenger has obtained a quote for \$567.10 plus tax to purchase a Xylophone. First grade classrooms have requested History and Geography Core Knowledge class sets of materials in the amount of \$5,910.84 plus tax. There is approximately \$1,900 remaining in our Instructional Aids fund to purchase these materials and the request was to use tax credit funds to pay the remaining balance. Jody Taylor made a motion to spend tax credit funds in the amount of \$615.87 to purchase the Xylophone for General Music and to spend up to \$5,100 toward the cost of Core Knowledge materials for first grade. James Hayden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. School Council members for next year--Heidi MacFarlane and Stephanie Weisgerber will finish their term in May. Each group will be looking for new members to replace them.
8. Good of the Order--Heidi MacFarlane asked about spring gifted testing and expressed concern about the lack of communication to parents about gifted testing schedules going back to last March when testing was cancelled.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm. The next School Council meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on March 29, 2021. Minutes recorded by Sandy Ditsch.

MMES School Council Meeting  
March 29, 2021

**Agenda**

Review minutes of February 22 meeting  
2021-2022 Staffing  
MMES 2020-2021 Capital and Instructional Aid spending  
End of year activities  
District COVID testing  
PTG budget meetings  
STEM class  
2021-2022 School Council members  
Tax Credit Fund approval  
Good of the order

Minutes  
Mercury Mine Elementary  
School Council Meeting  
March 29, 2021

**Members Present:**

Donna Alley	Principal
James Hayden	Certified Teacher
Erica Hazen	Certified Teacher
Stephanie Weisgerber	Certified Teacher
Sandy Ditsch	Education Support Professional
Karen Bea	Parent Representative
Jody Taylor	Community Representative

**Members Absent:**

Heidi MacFarlane	Parent Representative
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Meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Principal Donna Alley.

1. Jody Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. MMES staffing for 2021-22 was discussed. Karen McVey is retiring and Yvonne Pilling is moving from 2nd grade to 6th grade; Emily Alexander will take Yvonne Pilling's 2nd grade class; Rodney Ramos will increase from .5 to 1.0 at Hidden Hills and his ELL position has been filled by Rebecca Hendrickson; .5 STEM special area position has been filled by Robin Zeligman (a former 2nd grade teacher at MMES); one 3 hour per day Duty Aide position is posted but currently unfilled.
3. District is requesting that End of Year Activities follow mitigation procedures. Fun Day events will be spread over 2 days (March 31 and April 1) with 4 activities by grade level spread over the intermediate playground. No parents will be allowed to attend; only a few vaccinated PTG board members will assist. PVConnect students can attend by signing in and out through the basketball court. The format for 6th grade promotion is yet to be determined. There will not be a Volunteer Tea this year. VIP volunteers were vaccinated through the district vaccination clinic. Yearbook signing will be held in homeroom classes.
4. PVSchools is offering COVID-19 testing for students, families, and district staff six days a week (Monday through Saturday) at the district office from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Testing is done without any out-of-pocket cost to families or the district. Tests conducted Monday through Thursday will receive results the following day; tests conducted on Friday and Saturday will receive results on Monday.
5. PTG will hold two budget planning meetings on April 15 at 3:30 p.m. and April 27 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Anyone who is interested in the PTG budget process is encouraged to attend.
6. Our Media Specialist will be replaced with a half-time STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) teacher. Robin Zeligman (previous MM 2nd grade teacher) will design a STEM class to fit our needs. She will attend summer professional development classes and tie instruction to Core Knowledge themes. MMES parent, Natalie Taylor, entered a contest sponsored by Box Tops and won \$25,000. A combination of Box Tops funds and tax credit funds will be used to set up the classroom with needed equipment and materials. A special ad hoc School Council meeting might be necessary to request tax credit funds prior to the district's April 23 deadline for purchasing in this fiscal year.

7. School Council membership for 2021-2022 was discussed. Stephanie Weisgerber (certified staff), Heidi MacFarlane (parent), and Jody Taylor (community member) are completing the second year of their term. Potential replacement members were discussed.
8. Tax Credit Funds that might be spent in the upcoming few months were discussed but no action was taken at this time. STEM purchases mentioned previously and Really Great Reading program that has been requested by Reading Specialist Kara Zenk were discussed.
9. AzMERIT testing must be completed in person including PVConnect students. PVConnect students will test in rooms proctored by Mrs. Pilling, Mrs. Rea, and Mrs. Fallon.
10. Purchases that have been made this year with capital and instructional aids funds were reviewed. Items purchased include classroom and office furniture, curriculum, custodial equipment, instructional aids, library additions and replacements, nurse office equipment, and online educational subscriptions.
11. Good of the Order--Mrs. Alley mentioned that there are three finalists to be named PVSchools Superintendent. Two candidates are internal and one is from Scottsdale Unified School District. A video introduction for each candidate is available until 5 p.m. today on the district website.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm. The next School Council meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on April 26, 2021. Minutes recorded by Sandy Ditsch.

MMES School Council Meeting  
April 26, 2021

Agenda:

Review March 29 and April 22 minutes  
Dr. Troy Bales, Superintendent Elect Meet and Greet  
Membership 2021-2022  
School Opening Fall 2021/Meet the teacher  
Summer School programs  
Possible May 17 School Council meeting  
Good of the Order

Minutes  
Mercury Mine Elementary  
School Council Meeting  
April 26, 2021

**Members Present:**

Donna Alley	Principal
James Hayden	Certified Teacher
Erica Hazen	Certified Teacher
Stephanie Weisgerber	Certified Teacher
Sandy Ditsch	Education Support Professional
Karen Bea	Parent Representative (joined at 4:00 p.m.)
Heidi MacFarlane	Parent Representative
Keryn Wilson	Parent Representative
Jody Taylor	Community Representative (joined at 3:49 p.m.)

**Members Absent:**

none

**Guests Present:**

Dr. Troy Bales	Superintendent-elect (left at 3:45 p.m.)
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Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Donna Alley.

1. Mrs. Alley asked School Council members to introduce themselves to Dr. Troy Bales, who joined the meeting to greet members as the incoming Superintendent of PVSchools. Dr. Bales spoke about his vision and plans for the district as well as the challenges that the district is facing. He mentioned approximately 1,600 Kindergarten students have disappeared from enrollment and may have decided to take the year off. Dr. Bales indicated that there would not be dual modality teaching next year but there will be choices available to families including PVConnect and PVOnline.
2. Minutes of the March 29 and April 22 meetings were reviewed and approved as submitted. Heidi MacFarlane moved to approve the minutes; Donna Alley seconded the motion.
3. Membership for next year was discussed. Jody Taylor, Heidi MacFarlane and Stephanie Weisgerber terms are ending with this meeting. Jody Taylor indicated that she would be willing to serve another term, if needed. We will try to replace Heidi MacFarlane with a K-1 parent to have all grade levels represented by parents. Lisa Ashcraft has offered to fill Stephanie Weisgerber's position.



4. Meet the Teacher/Back to School event will depend on what happens in Arizona over summer with community COVID rates. There has not been a decision made on holding school events or taking out of state field trips in the fall semester. Questions that followed included how quarantined students will be handled; how parents coming onto campus without masks are handled; and how the PVConnect option will work in the fall.
5. Summer School will be held at MMES with Yvonne Pilling as coordinator. The June classes are currently being filled. July will be federally funded remedial classes. We should get AzMERIT results at the beginning of June.
6. Please keep May 17 as a tentative date for a School Council meeting if needed.
7. Good of the Order--6th grade will have a promotion ceremony filmed or live streamed, details are being worked out. The Student Council ordered specially designed hooded sweatshirts for 6th graders since they missed out on Wax Museum, Catalina Island field trip, and other events. STEM class teacher, Robin Zeligman, is looking at 3D printer options. James Hayden requested a work order for a soap dispenser to be installed in his classroom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm. The next School Council meeting will be April 26, 2021.  
Minutes recorded by Sandy Ditsch.

## MMES School Council Meeting September 20, 2021

### Agenda:

Welcome

By Laws

City of Phoenix Area Water Line Project

Fall after school clubs, gardens

Summer parking lot resurfacing

COVID mitigation

Artist in Residence

Good of the Order

## MMES School Council Meeting Minutes - September 20, 2021

### **Members attending:**

Donna Alley - Principal

Lisa Ashcraft - Kindergarten teacher  
James Hayden - 1st Grade teacher  
Erica Hazen - 4th Grade teacher, joined at 4:15pm  
Sandy Ditsch - an education support professional representative  
Crystal Anderson - parent  
Karen Bea - parent  
Keryn Wilson -parent  
Jody Taylor - community representative

### **Welcome**

Meeting started at 3:40. Donna welcomed all and introductions were made. Jody Taylor will miss next meeting on 10/18 as she will be out of town.

### **By Laws**

Please read by laws by next meeting.

April 26 and July 20 as corrected meeting. Motion: Jody Taylor, 2nd was Karen Bea

### **Really Great Reading**

This reading program ended up using ESSER funds instead of Tax Credit money.

### **Gardens**

Jen Borzone is taking over the gardens from Lisa Patchett. She will be working with Robin Zeligman, STEM teacher, and work with grade levels with the gardens during STEM class. They are able to have parent volunteers outside only. Jen will try to add more events and livestream for parents to watch.

Keryn Wilson will check out the Madison School District's DIG gardening plan.

### **Artist in Residence**

Pueblo Grande museum would like to establish an Artist in Residence program.

Mercury Mine will work with them to help create one.

### **Phoenix Water Line Project**

This was reviewed at the PTG meeting. This project may affect the bus pick up area on Northern Ave later on.

### **Summer Projects**

The parking lot was resurfaced over the summer.

### **COVID Mitigation**

There are at least 3 feet between students in the classrooms. We re-did lunch schedule to have one grade level per lunch hour. The students are at least 6 feet apart and there are no more than 2 kids per table to minimize the number of kids having to quarantine if there is a positive Covid case. We are not mixing grade levels during lunch, afternoon recess, etc.

As of right now we have a 10% opt out for the mask policy.

The parking lot has a staggered pickup, 3:10, A-K, 3:15 L-Z

### **Field Trips**

We are still not doing field trips at this time. This is due to the combination of the number of Covid positive cases and bus issues.

### **PTG Events**

Bingo night will be virtual again this year on October 22.

Donna motioned to call the meeting to an end and Jody Taylor second the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29pm

Next Meeting will be on Monday, October 18, 2021.

### **Agenda MMES School Council October 18, 2021**

By Laws

20 iPads for Kindergarten tax credit request

Mrs. Alley goals

Teacher clarity

Little Mermaid November 4

STEM

### **Meeting minutes: School Council, Monday, October 18, 2021**

#### **Members attending:**

Donna Alley

Lisa Ashcraft

James Hayden

Erica Hazen

Crystal Anderson

Karen Bea

Keryn Wilson

**Members absent:**

Sandy Ditsch

Jody Taylor

\*Meeting was called to order at 3:34pm

\*Minutes approved by Erika Hazen and Karen Bea

\*Reviewed meeting minutes from the last meeting (typed by Sandy T.). Reviewed bylaws: dates corrected from last meeting with correction and crossed out parts of the bylaws.

\*Motion to approve bylaws by Lisa Ashcraft and seconded by Crystal Anderson  
Bylaws have been approved.

\*iPads: district has taken all of our iPads due to updates and being outdated. Issues for kindergarten are signing in for computers and iPads. Vote came down to touch screen Chrome books throughout the whole district. Donna received a quote to buy 40 iPads at \$17,000 (roughly). Initial quote was for 20 iPads but we doubled the price roughly during the meeting to get a rough estimate for 40 iPads coming to \$17,000. 3 year Apple warranty included with this price and district will manage the iPads.

\*Donna put a motion to spend up to \$17,500 for these iPads

\*Keryn W. makes a motion for this purchase

\*Erika Hazen seconded this motion

\*Little Mermaid: bus issue (many things our students have not done). No one approved this idea. Unanimous agreement to not go to Little Mermaid.

\*Field Trip to the STEM room

\*Concerns and support for Sandy D.

\*Donna's goals:

**MATH** (all kids need to be progressing in math), bought Reflex math, back to doing Math Magician school-wide - 15 so far. District created B, M and E of school year assessments, that give a lot of data for teachers to dig in deep to help inform instruction. Instructional coach helping teachers with reports for Math/assessments. Most PLC's are for Math.

**PLC** and teacher clarity - the WHY and WHAT teachers do, how they remediate and involve the students in their own learning.

\*Good of the order:

\*String teacher situation - still no applicants - Karen Bea is interested in doing an extra curricular strings group if it can work out

\*Buses, shortage of drivers, tracking issues/concerns, moving barricades, school bus finder website issues/confusion when it comes to time/s when students are actually dropped off - needs updating

\*Job fair

\*Meeting adjourned at 4: 26 pm

Minutes recorded by James Hayden

MMES School Council

November 15, 2021 Agenda:

Artist in Residence

PTG Fun Day

COVID-19 update

ESSER Funds

SEL (Social Emotional Learning)