

School Council 2020-2021 Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2020 Agenda

Welcome

By Laws review

Tax credit funds approval

Summer site improvements

Virtual learning and reopening

Good of the Order

MMES School Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2020

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: none

Meeting was called to order via Google Meet at 3:35 p.m. by Donna Alley.

1. Mrs. Alley welcomed new and returning members.
2. By laws were distributed for member review prior to October meeting.
3. Mrs. Alley explained the use of Tax Credit Funds which primarily fund after school classes and late bus transportation for students enrolled in after school classes as well as scholarships for our Catalina Island field trip and character education programs. Heidi MacFarlane made a motion to direct Mrs. Alley

to utilize tax credit funds for 2020-2021 for after school classes, Catalina scholarships and character education programs. Karen Bea seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Heidi MacFarlane made a motion to have ad hoc School Council meetings as needed to approve additional use of tax credit funds per the expanded use authorized by the Arizona legislature through June 30, 2022. Karen Bea seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

4. Mrs. Alley summarized site improvements that occurred over summer. The intermediate playground received new equipment including a GaGa ball pit purchased by PTG, shade canopies and playground equipment installed by PVUSD. PTG also purchased outdoor musical instruments that were installed on the primary playground. The basketball court was resurfaced with district bond funds. Additionally, during virtual learning in August and September, APS dug up and upgraded the main power line to the school after numerous power outages have occurred over the past several years.
5. A discussion about families and teachers virtual learning experiences and reopening took place. An email from the district office will be sent on Wednesday, September 23, with updated plans for reopening schools. Comments included: student is doing well; kids want to go back to school; focus and keeping energy up is a challenge; IT challenges; rigor is same as it would be in person; Kindergarten online is challenging but the routine is good and families are engaged. Mrs. Alley noted that 80-100 students have not responded to the survey about their intent to return in person. Some families indicated they are awaiting the next district update to decide if they will return to in person classes. Mercury Mine will keep students with their assigned homeroom teacher even if they continue with PVConnect at home. If any student or staff member is asked to quarantine, there would be continuity with their teacher. Lunch tables will look different as all tables will face one direction with students spaced further apart than in previous years. One grade level at a time will be in the cafeteria and enter and exit through designated doors. A handwashing station was installed outside the cafeteria. Masks will be worn during recess; mask breaks will be held outside; masks will only be removed to eat lunch. Playground equipment will be used but will be cleaned between grade levels. Grade level cohorts will be kept together during the school day. Special area classes will be on a 3-day rotation with 35 minute class periods and a 5 minute cleaning period between classes to clean spaces between classes. Classes will attend the same special area class for 3 days in a row then switch to another special area. Drop off and dismissal will be staggered, parents and other visitors on campus will be restricted, masks must be worn everywhere on campus including the parking lots, there will be increased cleaning routines in high touch areas and classrooms.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm. The next School Council meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on October 19, 2020. Minutes recorded by Sandy Ditsch.

MMES School Council Meeting

October 19, 2020 Agenda

Minutes approval

In-person reopening

District metrics

By-Laws review

School Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2020

Members 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

Meeting was called to order via Google Meet at 3:32 p.m. by Donna Alley.

1. Minutes of the September 21, 2020, meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.
2. By-laws were distributed via email for member review prior to this meeting. Posting of meeting agendas and minutes online was discussed. Heidi MacFarlane moved that the by laws be accepted as presented; Jody Taylor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Mrs. Alley discussed the metrics that were established to determine if schools are able to remain open during the coronavirus pandemic. A dashboard is displayed on the district website utilizing red/yellow/green measurements summarizing the entire district. After one week in a red zone for either of the metrics, schools would return to online instruction.
4. Mrs. Alley discussed measures that occurred in October to prepare for return to in-person instruction. A staggered arrival for Kindergarten students was utilized. The first two days were for K-3 students allowing them to get used to new drop off and pick up procedures as well as being at MMES for new students. Drop off and pick ups have been good so far, with families following the new rules and staggered times. Students are remaining almost entirely with their homeroom cohort except for Special Education, Gifted, and Band classes.

Mrs. Alley asked each parent to comment on their personal experience. Comments included:

- appreciation to the staff especially Mrs. Alley for ongoing communication
- students are thrilled to be back at school
- families feel good about the changes put in place for safety
- students on PVConnect need some communication with parents to facilitate their participation
- asynchronous participation for younger students was particularly difficult
- remaining on PVConnect with more than one student after in-person instruction resumed makes scheduling more challenging, i.e., siblings no longer have the same lunchtime
- communication with students should be succinct and they need to know what to do during a break
- specials for PVConnect -- art is easiest at home; music and PE are really hard at home

Mrs. Alley asked each teacher to comment on their experiences. Comments included:

- one teacher has ⅓ of students on PVConnect and ⅔ in person and feels it is going about as well as it could
 - math seemed easier when all students were online
 - younger students have trouble signing in
 - trying to meet the needs of both groups of students is challenging
 - rotations for grades 5 and 6 are more challenging
 - students are doing ok with masks
 - students seem to come into class less sweaty and more calm in the morning without recess prior to the start of school
 - the cafeteria is much more peaceful with only one grade in at a time and students are spaced out more than before; handwashing stations outside the cafeteria are quick and convenient; students each carry their own lunch box to the cafeteria--no lunch tubs
 - no rug time in younger grades
 - seating charts are important if needed for contact tracing
5. Last year MMES bought 8 classroom amplification systems that teachers have been using with success. We hoped to add systems to each classroom to assist in better amplifying the teacher's voice to all students in person and on PVConnect. The systems run about \$1,200 per unit but unfortunately they are backordered until mid-January. Stephanie Weisgerber ordered a \$60 system from Amazon that seems to be helpful so Mrs. Alley will order several of those for teachers who would like one while looking for a supplier that can get them earlier than January.
6. Mrs. Alley mentioned that the Transportation department has a new routing system, new director and assistant director, and many new drivers and fortunately buses have been running on schedule most of the time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m. The next School Council meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on November 23, 2020.

Minutes recorded by Sandy Ditsch

November 23, 2020 Agenda

Dual Instruction – in person and PVConnect

Onsite support

Amplification units

City of Phoenix Pipeline meeting update

Minutes: School Council Meeting November 23, 2020

Members Present:

Donna Alley Principal

James Hayden Certified Teacher (joined at 3:50 pm)

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

Members Absent:

Jody Taylor Community Representative

Meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Donna Alley.

1. Mrs. Alley welcomed members. Minutes of October 19, 2020, meeting were approved as submitted.
2. Mrs. Alley gave an update on voice amplification units that were purchased for all classroom teachers to use during virtual and dual instruction. After purchasing eight more expensive (\$1,200 each) units last spring, those units are now unavailable due to supply chain issues. An inexpensive (\$60 each) option was obtained on Amazon and seems to be working well for the teachers who are using it.
3. Today was the first day back on PVConnect for most students. There are 50 students enrolled to attend school on-site with 44 present today. Our Mascot Manager, mascot staff, 6 duty aides, and a few Transportation department employees are supervising the students from 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. A few challenges that have come up on the first day include Kindergarten students who do not know their passwords, students who came to school without their laptops, missing packets or textbooks, etc.
4. A discussion of the changes that could be made by the district to address the challenges of dual instruction was held (teachers simultaneously teaching students in person along with students who are at home learning virtually). Parents and teachers gave their input as to how it was working for them and their students. Parents and teachers indicated they were not in favor of re-rostering students to balance in-person and remote learners which would require changing teachers mid-year. Students could even be assigned to a different school. Mrs. Alley reminded the group that decisions are ultimately made by the district Governing Board.
5. Mrs. Alley provided an update on the City of Phoenix Pipeline meeting. In the fall of 2021, the pipeline will be constructed through the MMES desert area and they will be using the desert area as a staging point for materials and staff. Keryn Wilson pointed out that the pipeline is badly needed but will mess up the neighborhood with construction and traffic issues for a long time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm. The next School Council meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on January 11, 2021. Minutes recorded by Sandy Ditsch.

Review November 23, 2020, Minutes

Building improvements

Vaccinations

Superintendent/COVID

Enrollment

Kindergarten recruitment

School Council rubric

Good of the order

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

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

Keryn Wilson Parent Representative

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.)

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.