

ELIOT-HINE MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Heather Schoell, President | Le'Shawn Weeks, Vice President | Suzanne Wells, Secretary |
Kristina Vidal, Treasurer | Vacant, Teacher Representative | Arnoldo Jimenez, Parliamentarian

Eliot-Hine PTO Meeting Minutes February 8, 2017 | 6 PM | Media Center

The January 2017 PTO minutes were approved.

1. PTO President's Remarks/Request for Information

- PencilGrams will be for sale for \$1. PencilGrams are Valentine cards that students send to their friends.
- Field trip to Sackler - Ms. Vasquez and Ms. Mills took a group of students to the Sackler on a Saturday to extend some of their learning in World Geography and Spanish.
- PTO's e-mail campaign for science supplies to Chancellor Wilson got attention. A \$19K request for science supplies will be submitted to Instructional Superintendent Natalie Gordon.
- Capitol Hill Community Foundation Grants (up to \$2,500) are due Monday, March 27, at 5 pm.
- Grant was submitted to ANC6A for science lab equipment. Since it looks like science supplies will be funded by DCPS, we should consider resubmitting the grant for something like Spanish books.

2. Principal Remarks - Ms. Vargas

Teacher Wish Lists

Ms. Morgan sent the teacher wish list to Joe Weedon in December 2016. Joe will review the wish list to see what Companies for Causes can support. The PTO will review the list to see what it can support. Ms. Vargas will check the school budget, but is not hopeful the school will be able to purchase anything.

7th Grade Spanish

A candidate for the 7th grade Spanish position was offered a position, but the candidate declined. Ms. Vargas plans to begin new interviews.

Chancellor Wilson

Ms. Vargas will reach out to DCPS to see when Chancellor Wilson will visit Eliot-Hine.

Climate and Culture Committee

Ms. Vargas plans to form a Climate and Culture Committee. She would like to get a grant to support climate and culture initiatives.

Maury Renovation

We briefly discussed the plans to renovate Maury, and there were questions about whether the Maury renovation could impact Eliot-Hine's renovation.

Improving Communications

We had a follow up discussion about the January PTO discussion on communications. There is a general feeling that going to paper communications is not the answer. We want to work to improve the electronic Eliot-Hine weekly newsletter that goes out on Wednesdays. We've just started this weekly electronic newsletter, and want to work to make it successful. We know that not all families provided e-mail addresses so we decided to have a sign-up sheet at the Parent Teacher Conferences on March 3 to get additional e-mail addresses from parents.

Ms. Mills suggested posting school-related information at the skating rink (Temple Hill Skate Palace) because many students and their families go there for birthday parties, etc.

Amy Weedon asked teachers to send information about things going on at the school, e.g., Ambassador program, Model UN, Science Olympiad, to eliothinePTO@gmail.com.

Pollinator Garden

A pollinator garden is going to be started along the chain-link fence on the east side of the school. Kristina Vidal suggested inviting feeder schools to help start the garden.

Hidden Figures

The students are going to see Hidden Figures on the same day as an open house. Efforts will be made to do the school tour before the students leave the building.

International World Language Fair

Eliot-Hine is participating in the International World Language Fair. Ms. Vasquez said the students will need to do some type of performance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.