

2/1 PTA Meeting Notes

School Updates - Mr. Jackson

- Transition to holding center is going well
 - Building layout is much more student friendly
 - Proper bus loop has improved drop-off/pick-up at arrival and dismissal
 - Classrooms are all setup and ready by teachers
 - Cafeteria is smaller, so making it work especially with covid protocols are most challenging: 18 staff members needed to supervising eating and recess
 - There was an issue with heating in some classrooms (some were running hot), but there were trucks out to address the issue today. MCPS has been responsive to concerns raised by school.
 - Safety drills will be held next couple of weeks. (weather, lock-down, etc).
 - Covid pool testing still being done on Tuesdays, skipped today due to no school. Numbers have gone down, last positive case was 1/20, so no student should be in quarantine as of today.
- MAP testing season
 - Families who have been keeping students home have till 25th to get tests taken on-site. Testing is not mandatory, but something Woodlin is conducting to all students to gauge covid impact and support targeted learning based on data.
- Today (2/1) was teacher planning day.
 - Parents have not had access to building and teachers, so school is focusing on preparing venues to connect with families and improve communication regarding learning.

Q: Is there a way to share with parents pictures inside the new school? Maybe a virtual tour?
Since we can't visit, it seems so disconnected

- Was holding off on that thinking that this PTA mtg would be held on site, but will talk with Ms. Cramer now to find ways to do this.

Q: Is there going to be a future opportunity for parents to visit the school? What is the criteria for that?

- When covid safety guidelines are loosened to allow for more people to gather in school buildings, will coordinate with PTA for an opportunity

Q: Is there a bus schedule for departure - which buses are dismissed in what order? My son has been getting home anywhere from 4:30 to 5:15.

- Majority of buses are there at dismissal.
- LFI buses are typically let out first at 3:50 since they serve a wider geographic population.
- It takes time to safely let kids on to the bus loop driveway and load buses. Staff are getting better at it, so may see improvements.
- If there is a bus route consistently running late, can consult with transportation contact person to see if there are issues that can be resolved.

Q: There's been some confusion about car drop-off arrival times. Due to traffic, I arrived last Friday at 8:25, along with numerous other families. We were told by a staffer at the side door that we would not be allowed in and had to walk to the main office. I had thought, I guess mistakenly, that school arrival time was 9-9:30. There were other parents in the same situation.

- Doors open at 9:05, staff member is there till 9:30.
- Kids come off buses and get out of cars during same time. Even if bus arrives earlier, kids stay on buses until then.
- 9:25 is start of instructional day, but since school site is farther from neighborhoods there will be someone at the door till 9:30. Will clarify with staff for similar situations going forward.

Q: Due to the assigned seating situation in the cafeteria, kids are shouting and screaming across table to be able to talk to friends that are not seated nearby. Could they be allowed to sit next to friends?

- For Covid contact tracing purposes, seating charts are necessary. Kids shouldn't be yelling from table to table, but it is also the time where they get to let off a little steam. Would be nice to be able to have a more normalized lunch where kids can sit wherever, but the school also has to honor parents and families expecting the school to prioritize covid protocols.

Q: Is there any conversation around showing the students on a regular basis the progress of the new woodlin on Luzerne?

- May have regular meetings with construction team in next couple weeks, and will share meetings are held.

Q: Do you know approximately how many families are continuing to stay virtual/at home due to Covid concerns?

- Do not have a calculated percentage, and not every family is communicating with the school, but a rough guestimate would be probably around 3-4%.
- Families that had decided to stay at home are starting to return, and school expects to see more of them coming back.

PTA Updates

- Woodlin Auction Prep Kick-Off
 - Will be held virtually 4/23-5/7
 - Prep work is kicking off, and team is seeking volunteers
- Skate Night (2/25) @Rockville Ice Arena, 6-8pm
 - Mr. Danny will DJ
 - PTA will pay for Woodlin students and teachers
 - \$10 for family and friends at the door, includes skate rental.
 - Wear mask and come skate!
- Black History Month events
 - Zoom storytime during February on Sundays at 5pm

- Family field trip @Underground Railroad Experience Trail (16501 Norwood Rd. Sandy Spring MD) 2/19, 10-1pm.
- Would love to have similar celebration for AAPI month in May, PTA is seeking volunteer to coordinate events
- Spring Fair & Int'l Day @ Grosvenor
 - 5/14 at noon
- STEM Day (hopeful)
 - Sligo MS is booked to hold the event
 - PTA is looking for coordinator
- Hoping to have presentation on social-emotional learning in May PTA meeting.
- Thank you to room parents for helping support Valentine's party supplies (party in a box) for classroom celebrations.