

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) of  
Milwaukee School of Languages



Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting

5:30-6:30 p.m. in School Library

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Snacks-At our meeting, we had 16 individuals participate: 13 parents, 2 staff members, and 1 student! Spanish, French, and German languages were represented! Thanks to **Lori Banks** for refreshments.
2. Membership Report-28 to date. Our group will continue to encourage more parents and students to join MSL's PTSA. PTSA table with membership forms planned to be staffed at various events throughout the school year including PTSA meetings, Parent Teacher Conferences in Fall and Spring, and Festival of Nations. PTSA table with membership forms was staffed at Sixth Grade Orientation and Fall Open House/Food Truck Night.
3. Treasurer's Report-Our current Treasurer, **Pam Gende** was not able to be present, but provided a budget spreadsheet. Handouts were available to all present. Our Expenses were estimated and Income from last year was documented.
4. Review of PTSA Food Truck/Open House event (Wednesday, 08/28/2019)-At our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event, we had five food trucks and vendors, one of which provided desserts and the rest sold dinners/meals. We had fewer vendors this year, but not for lack of reaching out to a large number of businesses. Food trucks are getting more popular and seem to get booked quite far in advance. Also, it can be noted that there is now a food truck park at 6<sup>th</sup> and National and on Wednesday nights throughout the summer, Washington Park has a concert and food truck night (the night of our Open House.) Weather and turn-out were good for the event. For our next Open House, we would like to schedule and solicit vendors farther in advance if possible. This may be difficult due to waiting for MPS to finalize the school calendar. We do not know the amount earned by fundraiser yet. All vendors are to donate between 15-20% of their profits from the evening. This year PTSA did not sell soda and water, but allowed food trucks to sell their own beverages. Thanks to **Amanda Gilman, Pam Gende, Rae Ann Barwick, Lori Banks, Magda Franco Banaszak (Ms. M), and Sarah Harris** for their work on this event.
5. President and Treasurer Vacancies  
**Lori Banks** volunteered to change her position from Vice President to President for this school year. **Joshua Parish** stepped up to be our new Vice President. **Janet Friestad** agreed to fill the Treasurer Position. **Pam Gende**, our current Treasurer, will train/transition **Janet Friestad** in the next few months. Thanks to **Amanda Gilman** and **Pam Gende** for their service. Thank you to **Joshua Parish** and **Janet Friestad** for joining our team. Thank you to **Lori Banks** for becoming our new lead person.
6. Grant Application Process-**Ms. M (Magda Franco Banaszak)**, our Parent Coordinator, indicated that **Pam Gende** will be getting her the Grant Application to share with all MSL staff. **Sarah Harris** shared that no changes seem to be needed for the application. It was revised last year. First deadline is Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. **Ms. M.** plans to get applications out to staff in near future. Applications will be reviewed by officers prior to the Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> PTSA meeting and the first grant recipient will be announced on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The grant applicants who are not chosen will have their programs' applications remain in the running for the other selection dates, which are December 1<sup>st</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Grant awards are \$200.
7. Other projects for the year

- Parent Education Nights-**Ms. M.** has some plans already in the works for this school year. Bravo, **Ms. M!**
    - \*On Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, a representative from Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin will be speaking about how to become a foster parent. Time to be determined (5:30 p.m.-ish is likely).
    - \***Ms. M.** is working with a representative from the Parenting Network to have a parent education night focusing on sex education and parents engaging their adolescents in conversations about sexual activity and relationships. This workshop will be in October.
    - \*Interest in the following topics for parent education was expressed: Student Safety/Crisis Plans at MSL, Anti-Bullying, Cyber Bullying, and Safety with Social Media.
  - Staff Appreciation Efforts-Staff appreciation activities our group has focused on in recent years were outlined: funding dinner for one of the two Fall Parent Teacher Conference Nights for staff (we have done pizza and Cousin Subs in the past, for example), Staff Appreciation Breakfast in May, and prizes for Staff Raffle in May. A few years ago our group refreshed and restocked our MSL staff lounge at the request of MSL staff. Parent **Elizabeth Schmid** asked if this would be something the PTSA would like to focus on again. **Ms. M.** plans to reach out to staff to see what they would like to see in terms of upgrades to the staff lounge. This information will be brought to the October PTSA meeting.
8. Other (Questions/Concerns/Ideas)
- \*Student Sophia Parish would like to see a Family Movie Night. PTSA to explore this idea at our next meeting.
  - \*Student Survey to get student input on what they would like PTSA to do in support of students to be pursued.
  - \*Student designed t-shirts (final design to be determined by a student vote) as a PTSA fundraiser was proposed.
  - \*Interest was expressed in a second food truck night during a single school year.
  - \*PTSA adding several committees to get more work accomplished was an idea that was introduced. Foci for different PTSA committees could include: Events & Fundraising, Membership, and Staff Support.
  - \*Parents are invited to a *Listening Session* at Milwaukee School of Languages, hosted by **Dr. Báez**, MSL Principal, and **Erika Siemen**, District 2 School Board Representative. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Agenda includes overview of school (highlights and benefits of language programs at MSL), school culture, transitions for students into MSL, parent engagement opportunities, and Q & A.
  - \*Our next PTSA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the school library. Our meetings are generally on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m, with the rare exception.

09/04/2019 PTSA Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by:

*Sarah Edmonds Harris, Milwaukee School of Languages PTSA Secretary, 09/05/2019*