

MCDONOGH

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Middle School Parent Association Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2017

Welcome to MSPA September Meeting (Elise Kurlander)

35 in attendance

Head Master Charlie Britton:

He has 2 years left at McDonogh. He invited parents to come in and meet with him or call anytime.

*Chapel Hill Building Project:

Underway. 38 Farmhouse-motif houses are being constructed made possible by a \$6M donation from an alum.

*Fader Innovation Center:

Construction will start in November. It will be near the duck pond. It may be the first facility of its kind in the independent schools. Not sure about all the programming yet. The center will house Engineering and Robotics programs, and will involve middle schoolers as well.

*History House project:

Fundraising efforts underway.

*Middle School Construction:

We are at the beginning of Capital Campaign for Middle School and other projects. The buildings will be traditional on the outside and modern inside.

*Roots Farm:

A new second barn should be finished soon. New Chicken coup is finished.

Guest Speakers: Mary Beth Todd and Brandon Quaranta, co-chairs of MS Athletics

Mary Beth Todd: 5th yr at McD. Coaches Varsity Soccer, JV Lacrosse

Brandon Quaranta: 12th yr at McD.

MBT: Looking to make changes.

1. New opportunities such as rock climbing, Spring dance team. MS is growing. 75 kids in basketball program. Too many for 6 teams. Getting idea of interests from kids. Intramural Program. In the past, if a student couldn't make A or B teams, they ended up in C. Trying to see if they can staff too.

BQ: We are new to job. Trying to bring new energy. We have diverse student population with diverse interests. Want to meet more kids' needs. Next year there will be more programs to enjoy. We want kids out there in these programs because they enjoy it.

2. Improve Communication w ad-min and coaches.

Elise: explained that 5th and 6th graders had PE while 7th and 8th graders have school sports teams.

MBT: basketball will have try-outs for 7th and 8th grade teams. A team will be made up of 8th graders. B team will be 7th graders. C team would be 7th and 8th mixed and will play full schedule of 10 games too. 2 courts everyday. 40 students. After that, students can go into intramural or swimming or squash.

Question: Will there be a MS Golf team? Not enough players right now. It is for 7th and 8th graders only. 5th and 6th graders are still in class.

Winter is season where they have the most kids not involved.

Q: is there stretching program?

Trying to standardize process. Trying to put together ACL prevention for female athletes especially in light of 12 female US athletes tearing their ACLs.

Sports schedule on website. Bused to and from games.

Question: why can't MSers ride the late bus.

They drop at central location such as Towson mall. 7th graders too young to be left there for their own safety.

Middle School Update: Darren Ford

- **Announced Middle Schoolers are off to a great start. Thank you for being here but ask husbands to come too. Excited for year.**
- **Major change: MS is occupying Keelty(7th and 8th graders). It's more relaxed this way and better for 5th graders who are not in Keelty. And they're loving life and walking on their own. Independence!**
- **Concerned about 5th and 6th graders making the bus in the afternoon because the snack bar is popular. Suggested parents have conversation w kids about this. Tell them at 3:57, kids should run to the bus. Buses need to run on time.**
- **McDonogh responds as soon as there is crisis. Hurricane Harvey. Irma. Collected money for Red Cross for both hurricanes. School will be doing more.**
- **8th grade leadership just forming. Essay dues tomorrow.**
- **Move to Keelty good but backpacks are too heavy. Need to have a Backpack weed out. Calm in locker rooms is great. But that's bc they're carrying everything in their backpacks! New Finny is coming on the horizon.**
- **Every Faculty member has a room now. Ken Waller puts together kids schedules every year. Amazing.**

- Students may be in trailers in future while the construction is happening. Some planning has started. New building will not be as extravagant as St. John's Center. Will be useful for Life Ready.
- Next week is last of bonding activities in advisory groups. 5th grade hike will be within their advisory group. 6th bonding day. Community Time on Fridays within grades e.g. 7th graders will build geodesic domes. 8th grade does Life Ready activities like changing a tire or investment lessons.
- 8th grade bay trip. Chesapeake Bay Foundation has 5 sites. We have used all 5. But this year, they are down to 3. So had to split into alternate day trips. It's Sunday - Tuesday trip. Struggling to finish to get 60. Middle of next week will say when the trips are going. And then 2 science teachers will organize as to what gear to have. They'll be muddy and wet. Vacation for 3 days. Kids love it.
- When MPA takes care of faculty- they really appreciate it. Thank you for what you do above and beyond supporting your children.

TGIThursdays: Karima Carrington

Kids enjoy breakfast and looking forward to it. Looking for volunteers. End of September had all signed up to June. Emails w google doc will come out. First one will be next MPA meeting day - Oct 12, 2017.

Bring easy meals - baked goods, fruit, coffee, juice. Once a month. Bring enough for 45 staff members.

Karima is also MS Parent Ambassador for those who may need to speak with her.

Elise: sign up going around but also look at the online site to sign up. Through advisory emails and Parent News.

MPA President Randi Hyatt

Spoke of the pleasure of working with so many parents. Beginning of 2nd year as MPA President. It's a 2 yr commitment. Encouraged parents to get as involved as possible whether it be in a role or showing up at meetings like these. We (McDonogh) are an anomaly among Independent Schools in that the Head Master and Heads of departments come to talk to us(MPA). We have dedicated time to hear from them and have their ear.

We have lots of great opportunities. Honey of a Jam Fest. Roots Farm is a fantastic place that the MPA helped to start. Thriving Farm. Sharon Hood does wonderful things. Honey of a Jam Fest is opportunity to meet other families.

I'm available as are Elise and Sharon to answer questions.

MS Vice Chair, Sharon Ahn: Honey of a Jam Fest - Friday, September 22. 3:30-5:30 at Roots Farm; 5:30-9 at Rosenberg Campus Green. Corn Maze, farm animals to pet. Farm games. Fresh pressed apple cider, make your own Salas from the garden. Fresh cut flowers and McDonogh honey harvested at school to purchase. We need volunteers. It's a great opportunity to meet other

families. There's a link in the Agenda. Sign up to volunteer for the event and for dinner provided by McDonogh.

Courney Gonzales: honey soap and candles available for purchase too.

5th and 6th grade events:

Elise: 5th and 6th grade events got separate chairs bc we may have separate events this year. Budget may be limiting though. In past did Drop In at Gym with Games, ice cream social. Soliciting ideas for a different event for the kids.

Jamie Seward: Last year's co-chair: We need a lot of volunteers. It's parent driven.

Elise: other schools do Mixers with other schools. Darren resistant to this. But we could organize it and show him it can be done. Elise talked to him about roller skating event off campus. Friday night at school. Takes some creativity. Anyone have a suggestion? Corn maze was 7th grade event outside in Spring last year. Rained out 3 times. Another idea is to go to Roots Farm and watch a movie on a big screen.

Parents comments: last year, one student felt the team building at 5th/6th grade event was like being in school and didn't like it.

5th graders had better time. 6th graders had their phones and were on them most of the night.

Some 6th graders ended up not coming because there were 5th graders at the event.

Jamie Seward: Debriefed after event with Darren Ford. Mr. Ford discouraged organizers from taking phones away bc kids feel safe with them. Kids felt they could go home when they wanted bc they had their phones. If kids knew no phone use would be allowed, they won't go.

Felt it was failure after event. Other parents encouraged her that kids are fickle and when most have fun, it's a success. There was small group that didn't participate. Those who did had fun.

More ideas: Reisterstown sports plex? Ice skating and soccer? Perhaps not night but day event?

Co chair of event last year, Archana Rami: some parents rsvp'd the day before and we didn't have enough volunteers. Parents just dropped off kids. Kids need to be contained at event.

Bake Sales Chair: Kristin McCarthy.

Twice a year. Parents send in baked goods - drop off at Ms. Schmeltz's office. Couple of parents help sell. It's after lunch. Kids come and purchase 2 items for a dollar. Money goes to Darren Ford (back to the students).

Kids like chocolate covered pretzels. Popcorn in baggies. Donuts. No IOUs. Need volunteers. Will send out email. Meet at 10:30 and get items bring them over. 11:30 is lunch. Nut free/Glucose/Lactose free items are available separately, and marked appropriately. All items are sold for \$.50. Any leftover baked goods are donated to local food banks/organizations. Emails will be sent out to advisories to remind parents of the sale and to send the child with \$1 to purchase items.

School wide events:

Parent Get-Togethers

5th:	October 6th at Merritt and Adam Miller's
6th:	October 20th at Sarah and Anand Murthi's
7th:	September 16th at Stacey and Jeff Irrgang's
8th:	October 13th at Philippa and Russell Shiels'

Parenting Education: Judy Yu (Elise spoke for her)

Showed postcard of Parenting Education schedule for the year. Next one is **Tues, September 26, 7pm in the Klein Kyceum. "Concussion 101: What Students and Parents need to know Now and for the Future."**

Should have gotten postcard. If you have ideas for speakers specific for MS let us know.

NY Trip: Shaenae Walker (Elise spoke for her)

Wednesday, November 15 Buses depart from Woods Lot at 6:30 am sharp. Make sure to make out checks to McD and no cash.

Charlestown Wrap: Stacey Mannes (Elise spoke for her)

Only school wide fundraiser. Send check to address listed for Stacey Mannes and make check out to McD.

8th Grade Bay Trip: Courtney Gonzales

Changing menu to improve. If you have allergy concerns - there will be a peanut free island. Concerns taken seriously.

Faculty Free Friday: not this year. Faculty was always there anyway and we don't need to push for more volunteers.

Comment: Kids don't want parents there anyway.

Miscellaneous:

Comments: Robotics competition in RL Center - US team has a great robot. Saturday Sept 23. Battle of Baltimore. Students from Md, Pa, and Va are competing.

Elise: Shout out to Joan Royals who coordinates the teacher appreciation events. Amazing conference day dinners. They have quick meal before meeting parents. Asks for volunteers to provide a food item. Decorates Mullan board room and provides healthy meals for teachers.

Thank you.

Adjournment

Dates from Meeting Agenda not presented separately:

Rosh Hashanah (no classes)	Thursday, September 21
MS Parent-Teacher conferences classes)	Thursday, October 12 evening - October 13 day (no
Professional Development (2 hr delay)	Wednesday, November 1
McDonogh/Gilman 102nd Game	Saturday, November 4th 5pm kick off @ home
MS 7/8 Grades Winter Athletic Sign-Ups	Monday, November 6

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