

## **MVP PTA Minutes – Monday, September 10, 2018**

**PTA Executive Board Present:** Robert V. Sofia, President  
Dawn Sparacio, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Daniela Kwiatkowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Annette Mendoza, Treasurer  
Virginia Meller, Recording Secretary

**MVP Administration Present:** Michael Michel, Founder, MVP Board of Trustees  
Nancy Velez, Principal  
Christian Quezada, Director of Operations  
Andrew Burton, Director of Student Services

\*Scheduled but unable to attend, Marcus McIntosh, Director of Media & Technology

**After School Program:** Kim Ponce

The meeting began at 6:34pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Robert Sofia introduced the MVP PTA Executive Board for the 2018-2019 school year and welcomed all who attended the meeting and encouraged all to enjoy the pizza provided.

### **President's Report**

The PTA Dish Newsletter is at every meeting and available on-line. The Mission Statement of the school was read by Robert Sofia. He stated that all who have a positive impact in the student lives are welcome at the PTA meetings which are held the first Monday for each month in the Multi-Purpose Room at 6:30pm. He reminded all that MVP is a technology school and that families will rarely receive paper notices from the school and to regularly check parent emails. Emails sent to PTA will get a response usually within 24 hours.

### **First Speaker, Kim Ponce, After School Program**

Ms. Ponce introduced herself and indicated this is her second year as the Director of the After-School Program. She stated that there are new activities planned for this year such as fashion, art, video game, and theater. It is a rolling application process, and as room allows, students will be able to apply. The After-School program is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, 9/12/18 and that they need to follow staff/student ratios. She had applications available for interested families. Ms. Ponce remained at the meeting and met with parents who had questions.

### **Second Speaker, Andrew Burton, Director of Student Services**

Mr. Burton requested that parents read emails from himself and anyone else from the school. He stated if anyone had any questions they can email him or call him. Mr. Burton stated that 8<sup>th</sup> grade lunch is a 1 o'clock and right now there is not a set time for a snack. Mr. Burton was then told some parents had emailed Ms. Velez about this and had not, as of the meeting, received a response and he was asked to bring this up to Administration. A parent reminded everyone that when the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders were in 6<sup>th</sup> grade there was a snack and this is a long time to go from start of the day until 8<sup>th</sup> grade lunch. A parent asked why there was no notice that there is only one gym period a week as parents spent money on a second gym uniform and is there a way to have a second gym day. A parent asked if there would be a separate 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting to address questions that pertain to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A parent stated

that some of the new teachers are very fast and some children are struggling to keep up. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade start time and later lunch is an area of concern and some parents felt that this year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade is not getting the same upper grade privileges as previous 8<sup>th</sup> grade years. Chromebooks are being worked on for distribution.

### **Third Speaker, Michael Michel, Founder, MVP Board of Trustees (Not on agenda)**

Mr. Michel introduced himself as the founder of MVP and the administrator of the entire CTK campus. He stated the lunch periods had to change because there are 450 MVP students and 700 high school students and that the 450 MVP students were too many so MVP is eating lunch in two sessions. He stated that is the best solution that he must consider everything, including security. The original plan to have 8<sup>th</sup> grade come in later was not done because of extra help necessary due to some students needing more help. They are looking into giving them snack. (Note: the school is not being asked to provide a snack). Mr. Michel stated the PTA does not have a phone number for security reasons. When asked why 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, in 8<sup>th</sup> grade only lunch, are not allowed to eat with friends and must sit with classmates, he stated because that is the policy. Later in the evening, Mr. Michel stated that the cafeteria had too many detentions last year. Mr. Michel continued stating scores went up and a lot of children need extra help. Mr. Michel stated MVP does not know what your child needs before they get to the school and MVP does not pick and choose students. Mr. Michel stated some teachers leave because Board of Ed (BOE) has better employment. MVP is in session 192 days versus 180 day at BOE which works out to 186 versus 176 days. He mentioned that sometimes teachers who leave MVP for the BOE want to come back to MVP. Mr. Michel spoke about how the kids love it here and are here until 6pm. He mentioned the Saturday program of tutoring and sports and that last year there was a 96% attendance rate of students enrolled in the program. Mr. Michel addressed the question regarding the cancellation of several events last year. He shared that sometimes by the time the event comes around the school was not ready and sometimes someone moves ahead with an event and does not check the calendar for the campus. He stated that the CTK campus never cancels anything that if it is cancelled it is because the school didn't follow procedure. Mr. Michel stated security guards are there for all the schools and the campus has a set schedule. He reminded parents to pay attention in the event of snow as to whether their child will be in. He shared that in the event of snow it is his decision whether any of the schools on the campus close. He drives from his home to Francis Lewis Blvd and if he can make it school is open. He stated that if one school is closed it does not mean all of them are. He closes the high school first, then the charter school and last the daycare. CTK HS may be closed but that does not mean that MVP closes. The high school closes first because of public transportation he must consider if the students can get home once they are in school. He makes the decision by 6:00am. Regarding MVP sports, Mr. Michel stated that due the high school getting new athletic lockers through the generosity of LeBron James that MVP students now have the old lockers available when they have games. In response to sports team questions Mr. Michel stated he would make sure Mr. Arbitello will be at the next meeting to address sports team questions. He stated everybody is like a family here. A 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent asked about when it gets hot again what can be done. Mr. Michel explained there is only so much amperage in the building and only so much of that is available for air conditioning. Installing solar panels would reduce the Con Ed load and that new ducts cannot be put in. It is an issue he is actively working on and he is working with engineers to find a solution for the heat. Since the charter school is smaller it may be the first to get air conditioning. He shared that the entire building is now LED. It is not feasible, and it is cost prohibitive to add a new electric pole and they are working through obstacles. Mr. Michelle was

asked how many scholarships CTK offers to incoming freshmen and he stated that CTK gives six full, 6 half and 12 quarter scholarships which are city wide not just MVP students. He also stated the school gives incentives to students from District 24 because of the income received from the charter school and that they (CTK) feel it is the right thing to do give back. He mentioned that the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council works with 3,000+ students in the city. A parent asked about why MVP does not have the free lunch program. Mr. Michel stated that other charter schools are pulling out of the free lunch program and so MVP will not be part of it. He stated that in the free lunch program in middle school charter schools the lunch is not made at the school, it is delivered to the school. He stated that everything MVP does is within the guidelines of the charter and that because of the different requirements of middle versus high school, the high school students have lunch before middle school. After the high school lunches are over the cafeteria must reset for the middle school. A parent asked about the TACHS test prep for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and he stated that the school (CTK) provides it free of charge for MVP students. The program runs for 6 Saturdays 3 hours each week. The program begins in September.

#### **Fourth Speaker, Robert V. Sofia, MVP PTA President**

Fleece jacket samples will be on display on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Maspeth Press is one of the few vendors being considered.

PTA donations can be made to the PTA through cash, check, or online through [Middlevillageprep.org](http://Middlevillageprep.org). There is a 3% credit card fee if credit card is used. If done through a bank account, MVP PTA gets the full amount.

The current PTA balance is \$3,332.12

Upcoming plans include the first ever MVP Talent show, a comic-book super-hero day in May, a Halloween movie night in October where students can dress up in costume while watching a Halloween themed movie and possibly sponsor some type of trips.

#### **Fifth Speaker, Nancy Velez, Principal**

Ms. Velez welcomes all. She indicated she is always available and stop by and say hello. She is more than happy to answer questions. Mr. Quezada reiterated what Ms. Velez stated.

#### **Closure:**

Robert V. Sofia stated we need parent participation for activities. There is an MVP High School Fair on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm for MVP 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. He noted that this was the largest attendance at a meeting with over seventy parents in attendance. He informed all about the upcoming Brooklyn Book Fair. He mentioned that the next day is 9/11 Never Forget and that Primary Day was moved to 9/13 in observance of 9/11. There is a link to primary day on the PTA Dish.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm