

McDonogh #35 Parent Teacher Organization Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 5:30 pm
McDonogh #35 Library – 4000 Cadillac Street

Attendees: PTO Officers: Treschere Washington (president), Lynn Pittman (vice president), Zanda Dandy (treasurer), Dave Cash (recording secretary), Trenise Pittman (corresponding secretary), Ronald Magee (sergeant at arms); parents: TBA

Vice President Lynn Pittman called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

All those present introduced themselves.

Reading of the Minutes. Dave Cash read the minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting.

Ronald Magee moved and Lynn Pittman seconded to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting.

Carried

President Washington arrived and introduced herself. She spoke about the importance of getting ten times the number of parents in attendance at this meeting. Seven parents or guardians who are not officers of the PTO board were present.

Reading of the Financial Report. Treasurer Zanda Dandy said the PTO balance as of the May statement was \$1,914.71. An expenditure of \$104.83 was made for food for our June workshop, which means our current balance should be \$1,809.88. She suggested that we be careful about spending the money, since we haven't been having any fundraisers.

Ronald Magee moved and Alisha Glapion seconded to accept the financial report.

Carried

School Administrator Report. No administrator was invited to report at this meeting.

Listening to Parents and Guardians. We asked parents to share their concerns, share what is working, and what their vision for the school is.

Tamara Wroten expressed concern that the yearbook class does not have batteries for the cameras. Mr. Cash said he has cameras in his classroom with batteries that he offered to share with Ms. Blouin. Ms. Wroten wants her son to have a great senior year. She said she will try to be here as much as possible.

Joyce Roussell expressed concern about how late the bus for her grandchild is arriving. The routes have also changed several times. Today the bus picked her grandchild up at 8:19 a.m. Several parents reported that robocalls have been made regarding Durham, however Ms. Roussell did not receive it. Alisha Glapion reported that the new bus schedule is available on the school website. Ms. Roussell said the S. Claiborne and Gen. Taylor bus stop is an issue. Trenise Pittman will communicate with Ms. Pichon to follow up on this issue.

Devonne Bibbins was told that she could not pick her son up at 2:58 p.m. for a doctor's appointment. Vice President Lynn Pittman said that she believes OPSB has a cut-off of 2:45 p.m. for early checkout. Ms. Bibbins said that the pick-up policy is not currently posted in the office. Ms. Wroten expressed her opinion that Ms. Bertrand is very rude at the front desk and has talked to her in a very demeaning way. Ms. Bibbins said that Ms. Bertrand was not rude to her, but that she didn't explain the policy to her very well.

President Washington said that the best way to note when something is wrong is in writing. She also suggested always putting it in writing to more than one person.

Valeta Bethune has been here since Kerlerec. Her daughter is in special education. She believes that Ms. Bertrand does not represent the school well. She said that Ms. Courtney does a good job of documenting parent concerns and directing them to the appropriate person. She said that administration does not respond to e-mails, so she always puts things in writing. She said the new special education coordinator was able to resolve her issue.

President Washington requested in writing to meet with Harold Clay, the Executive Director of McDonogh 35. She said he told her he was in charge, but when she went to meet him, Mr. Ross, the AP Fellow, was there to meet her instead. She said this was unacceptable. She wanted to know if he could provide her with an organizational chart of the new leaders.

Ronald Magee moved and Zanda Dandy seconded to direct the secretary of the PTO request in writing to the school to receive the most current organizational chart.

Ms. Bethune said she was told that Mr. Clay and Ms. Chapman were running the school.

Carried

Several parents felt the Open House in August was poorly organized and tacky.

Alisha Glapion expressed her concern about the single lunch and wants to see the school go back to two lunches. Her daughter has told her that lunch is too short for all the students to eat. Ms. Glapion is also concerned that the cafeteria offer options for Muslim students every day, since her daughter is a Muslim. Her daughter participates in extracurricular activities and if they school does not provide her with food, she goes nearly twelve hours without eating, which isn't healthy.

President Washington said she wants to know the process or procedure to meet with Mr. Clay.

Ms. Bethune said that Courtney Taylor does a great job of documenting parent concerns and suggested that parents bring their concerns to her.

Amani Pittman said that they may not bring food to campus, but that students can buy from the vending machines and Ms. Allen.

Ms. Bethune said that by law, the school is required to feed children.

Open Discussion. Mr. Cash announced that the PTO has a page on the school web site. He also announced a Remind channel for the PTO. Several parents signed up. He said he would put a link to join on the PTO page of the school website and also a form where parents can share concerns.

Lynn Pittman moved and Alisha Glapion seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dave Cash, Recording Secretary.