

McDonogh #35 Parent Teacher Organization Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 5:30 p.m.
McDonogh #35 Library – 4000 Cadillac Street

Attendees: PTO Officers: Lynn Pittman (Vice President), Zanda Dandy (Treasurer), Dave Cash (Recording Secretary), Ronald Magee (Sergeant at Arms); Courtney Taylor (Parent Liaison)

Vice President Lynn Pittman called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

Introductions and Purpose

Those present introduced themselves:

- Timolyn Sams Sumpter, Community Engagement and Impact for InspireNOLA
- Shandrell Briscoe, Communications Manager for InspireNOLA
- Ronald Magee, c/o 1967, Sergeant at Arms
- Zanda Dandy, c/o 1967, Treasurer
- Courtney Jean-Jacques Taylor, Parent Liaison
- Lynn Pittman, Vice President
- Dave Cash, Recording Secretary
- Stephen Goodly, incoming Vice Principal of the Ninth Grade

Ronald Magee moved and Zanda Dandy seconded to waived the reading of the minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting.

Carried

Courtney Taylor moved and Ronald Magee seconded to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting.

Carried unanimously

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Reading of the Financial Report

Zanda Dandy reported that our current account is balance is \$1,809.88, unchanged from her last report.

Courtney Taylor moved and Ronald Magee seconded to accept the financial report.

Carried

Vacancies Update

Vice President Pittman and Mr. Cash reported that the vacancies in Spanish, Special Education, and Social Studies have recently been filled. There are currently no vacancies.

Ms. Sams Sumpter reminded the PTO that Jamar McNeely had asked the PTO to give him a list of teachers it would like to see continue at McDonogh 35.

Mr. Magee said that certified teachers who have stayed here through all the turmoil should be highly considered for retention. He also spoke highly of the teachers who have run our award-winning STEM program.

PTO Initiatives

Vision Essay/Art Contest – VP Pittman reported that our judges (Jerome Manuel, Teesa DeBose, and Tyra Mansion) were given blind copies of the essays and asked to rank them from best to worst, 1 to 8. Then essay ranks were then tallied and the lowest scores won. Third place was Taylor Pittman. Second place was Jaziah Gills. First place was Torrance Taylor. Winners will receive their checks on Friday.

Copies of the essays submitted were provided to Shandrell Briscoe from InspireNOLA.

Car Wash – VP Pittman reported that she picked up the first 100 tickets from Pelican Pointe. She has been distributing them. The following tickets were distributed, but not yet paid for:

- Ms. Dandy took 5.
- Mr. Cash took 10.
- Ms. Trenise Pittman took 10.
- InspireNOLA took 20.

We have to sell our tickets between March 11 and April 12.

College Research Project – Mr. Cash has made sure flyers were put around the building and has been announcing it in his class. Ms. Taylor will remind Ms. Chapman to let all teachers know so they can potentially offer extra credit for it.

Spring Fling – We are still working on hosting the event on April 18.

Appreciations – We have had to move this event from May 10 to May 8, and we are still planning it.

Ms. Dandy would like to see us do an Applebee's fundraiser in the future.

Money from InspireNOLA

InspireNOLA has committed \$1,000 to help with the Spring Fling, the College Research Project awards, and Appreciations.

Open Floor Discussions

Shandrell Briscoe explained that she is tasked with all the marketing and communications for McDonogh 35 at InspireNOLA. They are making recruitment videos for all their schools, including McDonogh 35. She asked the PTO to help identify a diverse mix of four to five outstanding students to be interviewed for 30- to 45-second videos. The shoot at each school will take about four hours during the last week of March. She is still finding out from OPSB if they can come in during school time or if it will have to be after school.

Timolyn Sams Sumpter explained that she is a relatively new hire at InspireNOLA. She represents a new push at InspireNOLA for more community and neighborhood engagement. She provided a list of engagement activities & events from InspireNOLA with McDonogh 35 to date. She doesn't want to revamp or revise anything the PTO is doing, but wants to know how to enhance it. She offered possibly

working with the New Orleans Youth Alliance (NOYA), which is helping work on the city's youth master plan. She is excited to be with InspireNOLA and to work with McDonogh 35.

VP Pittman thanked the guests from InspireNOLA and expressed excitement about working with them.

VP Pittman said that Mr. Clay and Ms. Chapman asked the PTO to help promote the school's March challenge: On Time Every Day. Mr. Cash will add it to the PTO web page.

Ms. Taylor expressed concern that some parents opt out of the school's robocalls.

Mr. Cash reported that InspireNOLA came into classrooms doing observations

Mr. Cash asked if InspireNOLA had enrollment numbers from OneApp. Shandrell Briscoe said they will not get the report from the February 22 round-one deadline until the first week of April.

VP Pittman asked why she receives robocalls about attendance sometimes around 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Dandy asked who will be the superintendent when InspireNOLA takes over. Ms. Sams Sumpter explained that Jamar McNeely will be like the Area Superintendent for all InspireNOLA school, with OPSB being the authorizer for InspireNOLA.

Courtney Taylor moved and Kenneth Taylor seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Carried

Respectfully submitted: Dave Cash, Recording Secretary.