

McDonogh #35 Parent Teacher Organization Meeting

Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 5:30 p.m.
McDonogh #35 Library – 4000 Cadillac Street

Attendees: PTO Officers: Lynn Pittman (Vice President), Dave Cash (Recording Secretary), Ronald Magee (Sergeant at Arms); Trenise Pittman (Courtney Taylor (Parent Liaison); Catalia Colbert (parent), Monroe Coleman (alumnus), Bobby Curtis (parent)

Vice President Lynn Pittman called the meeting to order at 5:39 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

Discussion of Agenda Items

Vice President of the read the agenda items for the evening.

Ronald Magee moved and Trenise Pittman seconded to waive the reading of the minutes of the March 13, 2019 meeting.

Carried unanimously

Courtney Taylor moved and Monroe Coleman seconded to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2019 meeting as written.

Carried unanimously

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Reading of the Financial Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Vice President Pittman reported that our current balance is \$1,109.88.

Ronald Magee moved Trenise Pittman seconded to accept the financial report.

Carried

Vacancies Update

Courtney Taylor reported that we currently have one vacancy. James Davis' last day was Friday. He was a social studies teacher and a master teacher. He took a job at International High School.

A report was also given that InspireNOLA notified staff that their current enrollment projection for next year is 360. InspireNOLA has said they will make their first round of employment offers by Friday, April 5.

Teesa DeBose wanted to know if we can request that any long-term sub brought in to replace Mr. Davis be certified.

Three more attendees introduced themselves: Lorena Lewis, Alicia Glapion, and Teesa DeBose

PTO Initiatives

Car Wash – VP Pittman reported that she picked up the second 100 tickets from Pelican Pointe after we sold the first 100 tickets. She has been distributing them. She encouraged those in attendance to buy tickets and sell them to those they know.

- Ronald Magee paid the \$100 he owed for the second 10 tickets he took
- InspireNOLA took 20 tickets, but only sold 9; they gave us \$90 and returned 11 tickets

We have to sell our tickets by April 5. Ronald Magee suggested that the PTO bought all unsold tickets to be sold at a later date.

College Research Project – VP Pittman reported that only one student submitted an entry, Brajanae Henderson. She won first prize and received \$100. Ronald Magee reported that Brajanae didn't have a tri-fold poster, but improvised one from a cardboard box.

Spring Fling – The event will be held in the gym on April 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Trenise Pittman has secured a DJ. Tessa DeBose, Catalian Colbert, Lynn Pittman, and Trenise Pittman volunteered to help. We will serve cheese and chips, hot dogs, sodas, candy, juice, chili, buns, ketchup, mustard, relish, napkins, and water. Others offered to donate items. Courtney Taylor suggested talking to Coach Kevin Sanders, who just purchased a new nachos machine and a popcorn machine. Our budget for the food is \$275.

Appreciations – VP Pittman reported that our event will be held on May 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium, and we are still planning it. We still need a format. We set April 16 at 5:30 p.m. as the time we will be planning our event.

Dave Cash suggested doing something to honor teachers and faculty who won't be coming back next year. We talked about reviving the video idea. Steveland Williams was volunteered. Henry Winins was suggested by Trenise Pittman. Dave Cash will seek out other students to participate.

Charminetta Alexander (parent), Michelle White (parent), Joyce Roussell (grandparent), Kenneth Taylor (parent), Chiquila Nero (New Beginnings), Timolynn Sams-Sumpter (InspireNOLA) introduced themselves.

Open Floor Discussions

Chiquila Nero from New Beginnings Behavioral & Family Services introduced herself and explained her organization's services. She distributed flyers to everyone that listed their services. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of their services and to refer anyone they thought might be able to benefit from them.

Timolyn Sams-Sumpter from InspireNOLA provided a written update from Jamar McNeely. She explained that InspireNOLA is excited about the numbers they hope to see from Round 2 of the OneApp. They are engaging fully in Round 2 with a well-developed recruitment campaign. She reported that 80% of the staff here have applied to work at McDonogh 35 next year. All of the staff who applied have been observed or asked to complete a performance task.

Teesa DeBose asked what the student-to-teacher ratio would be under InspireNOLA. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter said she did not know.

Dave Cash asked how current employees at McDonogh 35 will be considered against teachers being recruited at job fairs and people who currently work for InspireNOLA who have applied to work at McDonogh 35. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter said that many indicators will be used to determine where people are placed.

Joyce Roussell asked if all the staffing would be in place for the fall. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter said yes and reported that InspireNOLA recently received a \$450,000 grant to grow McDonogh 35 as a transformation charter school.

Charminetta Alexander asked why tenth graders won't be able to come to McDonogh 35 next year. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter said that McDonogh 35 will be a transformation charter. Culture, she explained, is a big part of that. She explained that the culture will change a lot next year and that it will change for the entire school population: ninth, eleventh, and twelfth grades.

Teesa DeBose asked if a teacher's status as a veteran vs. being a TFA or other short-term commitment will be considered in hiring. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter said that certification will be the top priority.

Trenise Pittman asked if it was premature to make offers to staff this Friday, given that enrollment will go up and some staff who don't get offers may seek employment elsewhere. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter said that they wanted to let staff know as soon as possible.

Dave Cash asked for clarification on what "certification" meant, in terms of making it a priority for hiring. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter said her understanding from parents was that they wanted teachers who were traditionally certified, as opposed to shorter-term certifications offered through programs like TFA.

Monroe Coleman encouraged the PTO to offer bricks to be laid in the courtyard with the names of graduates engraved. He said the bricks will cost \$25 (for the engraved brick and a filler brick) per person. VP Pittman asked if we would include it in the senior budget. Courtney Taylor said

Ronald Magee moved Alicia Glapion seconded to table further discussion of the brick project to a future meeting.

Carried

Trenise Pittman asked other parents how they felt about the notice they received yesterday about the confrontation that happened after school yesterday involving a gun by the buses. Dave Cash said teachers have still not been notified about the incident. He has only heard about it third-hand from students. Parents were upset to be notified a day later. VP Pittman asked Courtney Taylor to ask Ms. Chapman to call her to discuss this. A parent complained that when she dropped her child off this morning, there was no police presence, which she found unacceptable.

Several parents complained about the fact that snacks are taken when students arrive and that the cafeteria runs out of food. Courtney Taylor explained that some students wait to eat, while others eat more than

once, which means that some items have run out, but they always have food for everyone. She also said that our cafeteria always feeds children when they come, even if it's not during the breakfast or lunch time. A parent complained that children who bring their own lunch are having their lunches confiscated. Someone noted that this is illegal, because children are allowed to bring their own lunch. VP Pittman said she would follow up on this issue with administration. Timolyn Sams-Sumpter encouraged the PTO to think about policies, related to food, crisis procedure, etc. that we can lean on, rather than just emotion.

Monroe Coleman moved and Trenise Pittman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Carried

Respectfully submitted: Dave Cash, Recording Secretary.