



September 14, 2022

PTA Meeting Minutes

Board in attendance: Chris Smith, Michelle Sveum, Sam Jonsson, Joy Curzio, and Julia Lopez Divack

Chris Smith PTA President called the meeting to order at 7:07p.m.

Chris kicked off introduction of the PTA board members & thanked our sponsors of the month ML Real Estate Group and the Damon Sells Homes Team.

After welcoming and thanking first time attendees for joining, he introduced Principal Scott Hawke, AP Ms. Skerker and AP Ms. Long. .

Principal's Report

Mr. Hawke thanked the PTA for providing popsicles for the "Popsicles with the Principals", Staff breakfast for first day of school and Staff pizza dinner for Back-to-School night.

Despite the teacher shortage, UMES is fully staffed. They are focused on retaining teachers and engaging students in learning. UMES will continue to use the RULER program this year.

Asst. Principal Ms. Skerker shared county initiatives to give teachers more planning time. UMES has hired monitors for lunch and recess to give the teachers an extra hour a week. If any parents are interested in volunteering for cafeteria monitor, please contact the school front office.

UMES has kicked off testing and assessments. 3rd – 6th grade will do VA growth assessments. SOLs will be this Spring. Teachers will share assessments and testing schedules.

Asst. Principal Ms. Long talked about the VKR program, (VA Kinder Readiness) This provides teachers a baseline of the kindergartners reading ability. 1st – 6th will have iredy testing as well as assessments.

The floor was opened for parents to ask questions of the principals. What is the policy of parents in school this year? There are options for parents who want to participate; Friday Folders, read a book to the class, please reach out to your students' teacher. The principals will be discussing the DOGS program soon, please check the parent newsletter for updates.

UMES Staff Prize

As a thank you to teachers who have joined the PTA, there was a drawing for five \$25 gift cards. The winners drawn were:

- Lynn Jimmo 6th grade
- Yoni Lee 3rd grade
- Kasey Bisson 4th grade
- Stephanie Proctor
- Sarah Domnarski 3rd grade

Teacher Liaison Report

Marissa Snider 3rd grade introduced herself.

Librarian, Ms. Schroder – in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month the library would recommend books that showcase Hispanic cultures. She thanked the PTA for supporting author visits and talked about the few she already had scheduled.

PTA Annual Plans Discussions – Volunteers & Budget

Chris discussed PTA objectives. Membership is open to all families, staff members and UMES community. Our main objective is to bring the community together to support UMES students and faculty. We hope to achieve this goal by raising needed funds and organizing volunteers. We currently have 279 PTA members of which 57 are staff.

The PTA helps support UMES programs like after school clubs/enrichment opportunities, community events, Author visits, field trips, school supplies, staff appreciation and so much more.

We are looking for PTA committee and 'drop in' volunteers to help throughout the year, see Michelle Sveum if you are interested or want to learn more. If you are passionate about an event or cause; join the committee to make that event spectacular. Our 'drop in' volunteers allow us to have successful events that everyone can enjoy.

We intended to vote on the 2022-2023 budget this meeting, however the budget audit was delayed. We are presenting the Draft Budget which allows you to review and ask questions before we finalize and vote on the budget at our October meeting.

Chris reviewed the proposed total budget of \$52,560.00 our proposed fundraising initiatives total \$ 25,750: to bridge the gap we'll have either a 'no frills' fundraiser/donations or booster-thon.

We are asking for parents to become a PTA member, donate if you can and get involved.

Some of the proposed events this year are Bingo night, Spring Color Run, ice cream social during the book fair, multicultural night, feed the need, Spring Fling (Steam Fair), Spelling Bee and the Learning Garden.

There are also after school activities like: Girls on the Run, Running with the Stars, Chess club and Math Olympiad.

Our next upcoming event is Glow Fest on 10/28, there will a box maze, games, glowsticks and so much more. We are currently recruiting volunteers for this event.

Parents asked if there was a calendar of events, Joy will post scheduled meetings and events on the PTA website. Parents asked about new ideas for events/fundraising; the PTA would love to hear your suggestions please email us at pta@unionmillpta.org . The question was raised if the Great Art program would make a comeback, as it's a scheduling issue during regular classes it was suggested to possibly offer it as an after-school enrichment program.

Several of the committee chairs were in attendance and offered parents the opportunity to ask questions about these events.

Chris reminded members of the upcoming events (see below)

Upcoming Events

September

18th: Spirit wear Order Deadline

October

6th: Panera Spirit Night - Panera 5774 Union Mill Road - 4:00pm - 8:00pm

12th: General Membership Meeting – UMES 7:00pm - 9:00pm

28th: Glow-fest - UMES 6:30pm - 9:00pm

November

8th: Chipotle Spirit Night (4pm-9pm)

9th: General Membership Meeting

December

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January

11th: General Membership Meeting

Chris thanked everyone for attending; the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

UMES PTA Recording Secretary

Julia Lopez Divack