

MTP Board in Attendance: 2nd Vice President: Michelle Krikau **Treasurer:** Renee Postel **Recording Secretary:** Lisa DelBorrello
Corresponding Secretary: Kristi Bellissimo **Council Delegate:** Kristy D'Errico

Minutes: Minutes from November 2019 were approved. **Correspondence:** Mrs. Campisi's 1st grade class sent individual letters of thanks for the PTA's recent donation of indoor recess supplies. Among their favorite items were Paint Dots, Jenga and Hungry, Hungry Hippos games The front office thanked the PTA for the Margaritas holiday gift card. Third grade teachers Mrs. Schneck and Mrs. Crespo also thanked the PTA for the indoor recess funds saying the children are thrilled with the new goodies added to their toy collection. A card of thanks from third grade teachers Mrs. Rapp, Mrs. Clarkson and Mrs. Dunleavy was also read. **Treasurer's Report:** Opening Balance 11/13/19: \$43,638.72 Closing Balance 1/07/20: \$45,703.59

Board Reports Mrs. D'Errico reported from the Council Delegate Meeting that: the district's Wellness Committee is expanding; Anthony's Hope and the Smithtown Children's Foundation are having a suicide awareness benefit at Croxley's in Smithtown on 1/19/20; it is important children dress in layers in cold weather as outdoor recess occurs when the temperature has a real feel of 32 degrees or higher; the search for a new superintendent is ongoing and you are encouraged to vote; info is on the district website under "athletics" regarding subscribing to live streaming of Smithtown high schools' sports events via "turf" cameras. Due to the distractions they cause, the district asked that elementary school children do not bring any electronic devices to school. Mrs. Krikau shared information from the PTA Presidents/Superintendent's Meeting including: the next Family Connect Night (no assigned homework) is 1/29; the 42nd Annual Gala Concert will be held 3/28 at HSW and 4/4 at HSE (tix available in February), HSW's fashion show is 3/18, Grades K and 1 will learn Spanish in class come this September. High school has added Mandarin and American Sign Language courses. Twenty-five teachers are up for tenure this year and for the first time principals will be able to go before the board to defend those positions. The 20-21 school calendar has been drafted. The next BOE meeting is 1/14/20 at Mills Pond. Septa is 1/13/20.

Principal's Report: Mr. Ierano welcomed everyone back after the holiday break saying everything is back in full swing and all are looking forward to a great second half of the school year. He also mentioned children will have outdoor recess when the "Accuweather real feel" temperature is 32 degrees or above. Because we like to get them outdoors whenever possible, students should be prepared for this especially if they like to brave it with shorts. In the past, children without jackets were not required to go outdoors, but that has changed. If the fields are wet, they would stay on the black top areas only. A notice with more information will be sent home. The NWEA assessments will soon be given to students in grades 2 – 5. The computer-based tests help gain useful statistical information in regard to reading and math skills. Mr. Ierano asked that children refrain from bringing any electronic devices to school including smart watches, Fitbits and cell phones. If parents require their children carry such or other items, we ask they are turned off and kept in their backpacks during school hours. There was an incident of pranks to Dunkin' Donuts on the bus using a cell phone. In addition, we would not want to see these items get damaged, misplaced or lost. Kindergarten registration is now open. If you know anyone with kindergarten age children, bring them our way. In order to safe guard against the trend of the hacking of school computer software and information, a new two-step verification process will be put into place for our faculty. Our new full time building social worker Mr. Heedles attends the district wellness meetings and is working on creating an SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) room at MTP. It will be an area where children, who at times might find themselves anxious, under stress or upset, may go to calm themselves with the help of a guidance counselor. It will be a comfort place for students, equipped with bean bag chairs and opportunities to take a break, practice mindful breathing and more.

Committees Reports: **PTA Membership** We could use a bit of a boost. Class parents please communicate with your classes and share the information learned at these PTA meetings. Some class parents still need to send in their registration. **Arts in Education:** January 14th - Author Brian Heinz will visit our 3rd graders with his interesting stories and writer workshops. **The MTP Blood Drive** takes place Tuesday, January 21st from 3:45 to 8:15 pm. Please bring your donor card if you have one and your license. Please make an appointment to get in and out faster. All donors (not just MTP's) will be entered in a NYBC raffle to win a trip to Cancun. A representative from the NY Blood Center spoke saying that our school's annual blood drive saves the lives of 165 people each year. Shelf life for blood is 42 days. Just to serve Long Island, we need 700 donations every day. **Housing Committee:** Mr. Collins reported that a lot of information is available on the district's website regarding potential school building closures, diversity at the secondary school level and removal of some courses. Anyone can attend the Housing meetings. The audience may not ask the committee questions, but if you have any, you may let Mr. Collins know, and he will follow up. **PARP** flyers were sent home with the packet forthcoming. New this year is a reading log on line where every student can win one ticket to Great Adventure. Children will play Bingo for books in school. Barnes and Noble, CPK night is on January 22nd. **Box Tops** for Education should be turned in tonight. The top three classes will win a delicious pancake breakfast cooked by Mr. Ierano. **Fifth Grade:** Please remit the \$35 donation which goes to lots of great activities, if you have not yet done so. The Talent Show 5th Grade Finale permission slip is due by this Friday.

Teacher representative Mrs. Phillips gave a summary as to what all the grades have been up to including Kindergartners' study of winter animals and the human body. 1st will be celebrating the 100th day of school and looking at animal habitats and non-fiction books. 2nd graders will soon be learning cursive writing, are vertically adding numbers, doing word problems in math, studying property and matter and are writing amazing winter poems. 3rd grade is learning about simple machines, American culture and just enjoyed Family History Day. Energy and collision, Native and Colonial America and the Age of Exploration is what the 4th graders are looking at. For the 5th grade it was infection detection, early people of America, novel reading, climate and weather and a 3 month study of fractions began. Across all the grades they each learned about the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr.