

PLC AT MDCPS PTA

MINUTES OF October 23, 2013 MEETING

Call to Order: The meeting of the PLC at MDCPS PTA was held in the cafeteria of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools IPrep. Following a meet-and-greet session, President Vivien Nouel called the meeting to order at 4:40pm.

Quorum: A quorum of ten (10) was established. See attached sign in sheet.

Welcome and Introduction: Ms. Nouel welcomed all parents and teachers for attending. She thanked Claudia Reynoso and Denise Fernandez for distributing the PTA membership cards and reminded all members to pick up their card. She then reviewed the agenda for what was expected in the next hour or so.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting were mentioned and Ms. Nouel informed the attendees that there were copies in the back of the cafeteria for review. She explained the minutes had been approved by the Executive Board.

MOTION: The ratification of the minutes were moved, seconded and passed.

Common Core: A video about the common core standards was presented and Nicole Haynes, VP, had a question and answer session. The purpose of common core standards is to create a nationwide assessment so students can be compared to all states and not just Florida. The goal is to have one nationwide test. It is believed that this will be the last year of FCAT and the PARK examine might take its place, however, it is not fully approved. There is a district wide interim assessment called the Fair test for grades K-4th. Teachers are being prepared to teach CCS by attending district wide training and on-going professional development.

PLC Update:

Ms. Alliette Diaz, the PLC's assistant principal, welcomed everyone to the PTA meeting. She mentioned the kick off of Red Ribbon Week which is "healthy me drug free" and announced that tomorrow is "Sock it to Drugs" so students should wear wild and tacky socks.

Black Board Connect: It is now being used to communicate with parents. Telephone are going home so parents should start receiving phone calls once/week around 6pm. Parents should update their number in the office.

Uniforms: She reminded parents that uniforms are mandatory. She asked that all students wear their Monday attire and reminded everyone that girls are to wear navy bottoms with a button down shirt and tie. Boys can wear navy bottoms with a button down shirt and tie. No polo's or jeans are allowed. Ms. Diaz also mentioned that the fashion boots with heels are not appropriate for school. She asked that students wear sneakers or comfortable shoes.

Magnet Application: it is now open for registration for friends, siblings, etc. Parents can drop off their applications in room 237 or register online. The deadline is January 15, 2014.

She announced that the Parent/Student handbooks are posted on the website at PLC@dadeschools.net.

Parking: There is no parking in the staff parking spots during school hours, only after 3pm. Please park in the visitor spots.

Aftercare: it is open until 6pm. Please be sure to pick up your child by 6pm.

School hours: She reminded everyone that school starts at 8:20am for Pre K through 1st and 8:35am for 2nd through 4th grade.

Gifted: Dr. B is going to assist teaching for gifted students until a teacher is assigned. The PLC is currently interviewing candidates for a full time gifted teacher. Many schools have not started the gifted program because they have not found a good match regarding teachers. Gifted starts in Kindergarten. Parents can have private evaluations but it will be reviewed by the staffing specialist. Ms. Diaz announced that the PLC is no losing any funding and that the PLC is not losing services. For now, Dr. B is pulling out students for science and once a teacher is hired, the students will be pulled out for Reading, Language Arts and Science.

Robotics Club: Dr. B along with the Iprep students are starting a club from 3:30-4:30pm for grades 2,3, and 4th. There will be a total of 9 students, 3 2nd graders, 3 3rd graders, 3 4th graders. If interested, fill out the lime green paper that will be going home with your student. It is a first come first serve basis so turn in your application right away. The student must be registered in aftercare because of liability issues and it is open to all students.

Willis McGee Foundation is starting and is \$35/month on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30pm. It is a fitness programs and there will be visits from NFL, NBA players, cheerleaders, etc. It will be starting at the end of the month and students must be in aftercare. Pre K activities will start in January 2014. See Ms. Corujo for registration forms.

Volunteer Hours: parents can log their volunteer hours on the PLCPTA.org website.

AR: Ms. Christine Rosario introduced herself as lead teacher and explained that the PLC is considered a new school and that there is no media center and every year there are changes. AR is supposed to encourage children to read and it is based on their own level. The student reads a story and then takes a short quiz. This is a motivational tool only. It is a school-wide initiative and all teachers are trained on the program. It will be implemented the second 9 weeks of school. What to expect: students will login to the AR site, take the star test and that will provide the student with their individual level. This is teaching independence. The school will be using other digital devices. Books and/or ebooks will be coming home with the students. This is available for grades K-4th. Pre-K has other assessments. Where do books come from? They come from the PTA, parents can donate books and teachers pay for them with their personal money. Parents can reach Ms. Rosario if they would like to donate. Ebooks are Tumble books and Scholastic books. Libraries have books set up at each grade level. Parents can go to AR Book Find to see

the levels. Liaisons will be provided with a list of books and links. They will be posted on the PLC website. AR can be used on the daily reading log. The quiz is based on the entire book, not just a chapter. The expectation of the parent is to see growth in their child's reading level.

Viv thanked Ms. Rosario for a great update and mentioned that the AR program was a major initiative from the PTA last year.

Friday T-shirt contest: Viv showed examples of students art work for the t-shirt contest. The winner is Hannah Schmidt.

There is no update on the change of name for the school.

Treasurer's Report: Ganesh Ranganathan, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. He advised that the PTA had cash on hand. He thanked everyone for participating in PNO and that the PTA raised \$3665. He mentioned that there are 16 teachers who joined the PTA and thanked Ms. Diaz and Ms. Roario. He presented the budget for 2013-2014 and mentioned the allocated expenses. Viv chimed in to say that It is the PTA's goal to help support the school so we will be using approximately \$6500 towards additional devices. The PTA will only purchase the devices from an approved vendor by the school board. There is a new Samsung device that is used for education that the PTA may be able to get at wholesale pricing. Tying into the PLC goes digital theme, Ms. Rosario announced that PLC received access to MDCPS's digital library where there are hundreds of AR books available to students. The option of allocating money originally set apart for AR physical books will go towards additional digital devices for the PLC. Also, the PTA is offering teacher grants on a request basis only. Teachers have been instructed to present their request in a word document and it will be reviewed by the board. Ms. Nobo asked for money to help with her classroom reading club and her grant was approved.

Motion: To authorize the 2013-2014 budget was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Special thanks to Fritelli Milano and Carla from Gastropod for donating food to the PNO and to all others who donated.

Chapman Partnership: Denise Glinn announced that there will be a toiletry donation drive and that the PLC students will have an event to pass out the items to families at Chapman Partnership. Xiomara Napoleon spoke briefly about Chapman Partnership and explained that it is a place for homeless families.

Box Tops: Deb Albo is the chair for the Box Tops committee and encouraged parents to collect the labels that are on everyday items. She showed examples of where to find box tops and labels for education on various products such as: soup cans, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, etc. Target also gives money to schools when you use their debit/credit card. She asked that all parents and family members look for these products and begin collecting them to give to the PLC. She encouraged parents to sign up for the box top committee as well.

Viv Nouel concluded the meeting and thank everyone for attending.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm.

Adopted by the PLC at MDCPS PTA membership on the _____ day of _____, 2013.

Denise Glinn, Recording Secretary

Approved as Presented: _____ Date: _____

Approved as Corrected: _____ Date: _____