

**Mabry Elementary - General Membership Meeting
Meeting Minutes for August 25, 2016**

A General Membership Meeting was held on Thursday, August 25, 2016, commencing at 6:04 PM at Mabry Elementary School, Cafeteria Room, in Tampa, Florida. The following PTA Officers and Board Members were present.

Principal	Sherri Frick
President	Melissa MacKinnon
2nd VP Volunteers & Membership	Brandi Whitney
3rd VP Ways & Means	Cristina Blunt
Treasurer	Christine Miller
Corresponding Secretary	Nikki Armstrong
Recording Secretary	Melissa Carlson
Assistant Treasurer	Jennifer Chan
Dolphin Depot	Aned Baerga-Richter
Hospitality	Courtney Gilner
Volunteer Coordinator	Kellie Haber
Auction	Kelly Hageman
WalkAthon	Nelson Bosque, Cristina Blunt
Advocacy	Joni Higgins
After School Enrichment	Jessica Costello, Beata Browne, Tanya Owens
Awards & Recognition	Lisl Unterholzner
Student Activities	Arianne Corbett
School Services	Peggy Walker
Curriculum Enhancement	Heather DePalma

I. Welcome / Call to Order

The President welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending the meeting.

II. Flag Ceremony

Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PTA GMM Business Partner

Jim Cornwell, from State Farm, who is an alumnus of Mabry spoke. He thanked the members for volunteering, and giving of their time and hard work to the school. Jim recalled each teacher's name he had while he was a student at Mabry. Jim Cornwell is a General Membership Meeting business sponsor.

Presidents report

- A. The President stated the main focus this year is to streamline our communication. She thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. In an effort to streamline, members can now join PTA online and sign up for the directory online at

www.myschoolanywhere.com. The President said we are aiming to make things simpler for Mabry families.

- B. The President acknowledged the chairs for the various PTA committees. She stated the PTA's role is to serve our children, our teachers and our school. The President encouraged members to contact her via e-mail and stated her e-mail address is: **mabryptapresident@gmail.com**. The Presidents said that together we are a team, and she thanked attendees for being a part of the Mabry PTA team.

IV. Items for Approval

- A. The Minutes from the General Membership Meetings (GMM) are posted on the Mabry Elementary Website. The May 12, 2016 GMM Minutes were approved as written.

V. Treasurer's Report

- A. Treasurer, Christine Miller thanked attendees for coming to the meeting. She acknowledged the great turn-out of members present. Christine spent the summer working through the budget. She requested a motion for approval of the budget. The budget was unanimously approved.

V. Committee Reports

- A. VP of Programs & Services

Jessica Costello and Beata Browne from ASE addressed the members. Beata stated that ASE is now offered 4 days a week, now available on Tuesdays, and it will be three weeks longer than previous sessions. We have new class offerings and a new website for registration and payment. She thanked Draughon Silcox for his hard work on the improvements to the ASE Website.

Jessica stated registration opens at 9:00 p.m. tonight. She went over the registration process by showing a screen shot from the Website. Jessica stated parents must register each child individually, not by family. Jessica explained how the registration process works by showing a screen shot from the Website. She said there is a new option for ASE dismissal this year. Parents can park on Estrella and walk up to pick up at the front gate near the 1st grade wing.

- B. The President acknowledged Draughon's work again on transforming the PTA Website, including designing the ASE registration process online.
- C. Art teacher, Ms. Daily introduced the Reflections Program which is sponsored by the PTA. The Reflections Program is a national PTA sponsored event. Students who participate and win are eligible to attend the District competition. If they win the district competition, they can go on to compete at the State level. Ms. Daily said there are several categories for participating including painting, sculpting, photography and writing. Entries are due late October. Participant forms and guidelines are available at school.
- D. The President thanked the chairs for this year's 5th Grade Celebration, Joni Higgins and Linda Cheong. The President introduced a new program we are implementing

this year as a way to streamline fundraising for the 5th grade celebration. The program is called Got Sneakers. The President shared that she learned about this fundraising opportunity at the State PTA conference over the summer. The President highlighted the benefits of Got Sneakers, including the hands-on opportunity it provides our 5th grade students. 5th grade students are responsible for gathering, sorting and bagging used sneakers. Students are encouraged to ask friends, neighbors and family members to donate their used sneakers to this program. Parents can now see their children actively involved in this community project. For each pair of used sneakers donated, Got Sneakers will give our school \$1.00. We are empowering our 5th graders to assist with the program. Got Sneakers sends these sneakers all over the world to people in need.

The President stated there is a meeting Friday, 9/23 for 5th grade parents who are interested in volunteering to help with 5th grade celebration.

- E. The President thanked the VP of Volunteers & Membership, Brandi Whitney and the head of Volunteer Coordination, Kellie Haber.
- F. The President announced the Grandparents Day Breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 15 for students with last names ending in A-L. Students with last names ending in M-Z will have their Grandparents Day Breakfast on Friday, September 16. The Breakfast will be held at 7a.m. in the school cafeteria on those dates.
- G. The President stated for anyone interested in volunteering to go to **www.myschoolanywhere.com** where there is a list of volunteer opportunities. She spotlighted some of these volunteer opportunities including: Reading Buddies where Stephanie Thomas is the coordinator; Grandparents Day Breakfast; Walkathon; and 5th Grade Celebration. These are some committees who could use volunteer help.
- H. Anyone interested in volunteering this year must go online and fill out the Serve Form, which is located on our Website. There is a Volunteer Tab that, once opened, links to volunteer opportunities. Each new school year volunteers have to register on the Serve Form. This is a district-wide security measure. The district screens volunteers.
- I. The Presidents discussed Peach Jar, which is the district's new way to send us flyers in an effort to go green and save the environment.
- J. Ms. McClelland addressed members about the upcoming Book Fair. There are two Book Fairs at our school each year. The Book Fair is an opportunity for our school to raise money to support our media center which provides for various resources including online subscriptions and books, as well as new technology. This year the media center is purchasing a new media system to improve the technology of the school's morning show. Ms. McClelland requested volunteers to assist in the library with check out. She also requested volunteers to help with the Book Fair taking place the week of August 29- September 2.
- K. Kelly Hageman, Auction Chair, and Nikki Armstrong promoted this year's spring auction fundraiser and introduced the event's theme: Rock of Ages. They advertised the event by hosting a game called Hair Band. The spring auction will be held, February 25, 2017 at Christ the King School Church.
- L. Nelson Bosque and Cristina Blunt are chairs of Walkathon. Nelson explained that our school has two fundraisers; the Walkathon in the fall and the auction in the spring. He said the Walkathon is a family friendly, community event. Nelson listed

- the myriad ways PTA funds programs for our school and its students. In order to pay for the many programs, PTA hosts these two big fundraisers. The Walkathon will be held on October 15. Donations are due by October 6, and the kick-off is September 9.
- M. Cristina Blunt introduced the various ways in which businesses can partner with Mabry. She said business sponsorship money goes directly back to our school. New this year is a school-wide business directory. She quoted the slogan “Think local, act local” to encourage Mabry families to advertise their businesses in our school directory, that way the school community can use Mabry family business services instead of looking outside our community for the same service. Listing your business in the directory is free.
 - N. Another way Mabry families can actively help fundraise for the school is through Amazon Smile. Cristina encouraged parents, who shop on Amazon.com to use the Smile.Amazon.com link. Mabry receives .5% on every Amazon Smile purchase. There is also a link to sign up for this program at mabrypta.org.
 - O. Another way families can support our school is to attend school spirit nights. Local restaurants give Mabry a percentage of sales on designated school spirit nights. She encouraged parents to bring their families and have dinner at the restaurants shoe are participating.
 - P. Cristina reminded parents to contact their company’s human resource department to see if their company will do a corporate match.
 - Q. Cristina said there are sponsorship opportunities at both the Walkathon and the Auction. In return your business will receive market exposure. You can choose which demographic you want to target. The Walkathon demographic is families and the Auction is adults only.

VI. Administrative Report

- A. Principal, Sherri Frick thanked parents for being there and said the success of our school is a team effort between the teachers, staff and parents. Ms. Frick acknowledged teachers and staff present in the audience. This year is particularly special to her. She has been principal since these 5th graders were kindergartners.
- B. Ms. Frick stated the importance of reading the Student Handbook which is available online. She asked parents to read it because it has all the information they need to know about Mabry’s policies and procedures. Ms. Frick highlighted three policies featured in the handbook. The first is Civility. She asked parents to always role model civil behavior at school, and discussed the importance of following school drop-off and dismissal procedures to ensure the safety of our students. Next she addressed Bullying. Bullying is defined as repeated, severe behavior. She stated that if your child is being targeted, she needs to know about it ASAP, and to contact her personally. Ms. Frick said bullying most often occurs on school playgrounds or in lunchrooms. She said that cyber bullying is a big problem too, and stressed the importance of monitoring your child on their devices. Last, Ms. Frick discussed the school’s homework policy. The Homework policy outlines how much average time a student should dedicate to their homework each night by grade level. If you feel your child is spending more time on homework than is indicated in the handbook, please

discuss this with their teacher. Ms. Frick encouraged student reading in bed at night in addition to homework. The President stated Mabry is an A school again this year.

VII. New Business

- A. Nikki Armstrong told attendees the school calendar is on the PTA Website, and you can sync your phone to the calendar which is a new feature this year. Nikki is updating the calendar on a continual basis.

VIII. Adjourn

The General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7: 05P.M.

/MC

Melissa Carlson, Recording Secretary

Approved As:

Date: _____

Read: _____

Corrected: _____