



Tilden Middle School

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Tilden PTSA General Membership Meeting

Time: Nov 12, 2024, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Tilden Media Center or Zoom

Meeting Called to order at 7:07pm

- Welcome- PTSA President Anne Mandeville, gave a preview of agenda including panel discussion.
 - Tilden Cares fundraising to start- link distributed in chat
- Attendance was recorded via zoom comment section and on sign in sheet. 10 people were in person and 40 were participating online. Principal Hopkins was also in attendance.
- Due to tech issues the minutes from the September 2024 PTSA meeting could not be shared via zoom. Minutes to be approved at January meeting. ***

7:15 PM- 7:25 PM

- Financial Report- Treasurer Eddine Mureke:
 - Account balance is \$21,800, Spirit wear sales met fundraising goal of \$2,400, and there were an additional \$6,500 in memberships and donations.
 - Teacher reimbursements for supplies are still in process. There are currently many teachers that have not submitted for reimbursement, so this portion of the budget is still being reconciled.
- Secretary Report- Jennifer Kwan
 - PTSA Webpage updated for upcoming Dine Outs and events.
- VP Reports Farhan Hameed
 - Any upcoming programs (Book Fair (Nov 18-22 and Skate Night March 24th 2025, 6-8pm)
 - Robotics team was successfully launched with 10 participants. Competition is on Jan 12th. In the future they would like to accommodate more teams.
- MCCPTA updates- Mickie Chandra
 - Ready for Schools Initiative. Upon enrollment in this program, new and participating FARMS students can receive a \$50 voucher for school supplies and some other perks such as vouchers for county recreational programs. Residence status does not matter. <https://www.readyforschoolinitiative.org>

Approved at March 11, 2025 meeting.

- Dr. Evertt Davis from MCPS Office of Well-Being and Student Services gave a presentation to PTAs on their work to develop a Guide to School Discipline for Students, Parents, and Caregivers. This guide informs parents and caregivers about the student discipline process as well as other resources such as support services. They have asked PTAs to distribute a survey to our communities to gauge what parents already know about student discipline. The results of the survey will help inform the contents of the guide..
 - [Student Discipline Survey Questions](#)
 - [Student and Parent Guide to Student Discipline - Google Slides](#)
- Reflections- Rachel Lanman and Mickie Chandra
 - Reflections – currently the first year offering the program at Tilden. Please encourage students to submit their projects. The theme this year is “Accepting Imperfections”.
 - No Place for Hate- this is also the first year of this program at Tilden. There are currently 30 students and 4 caregivers participating, Ms. Wang is the facilitator. The meetings are monthly during AST and the students have chosen two projects- a mural and a PSA with posters and videos about a safe and tolerant community. They had a great time doing door decoration.
- Cluster Representative Report- Jennifer and Karen Foxman
 - There was a cluster coordinator and MCPS Capital Investment Plan meeting to discuss the big construction projects. The Cluster Coordinators urged MCPS to maintain the funding so that the high schools are on track for a Fall 2027 opening.
 - The boundary study should be complete in Spring to determine which high schools’ kids will go to.
 - Woodward is planned as a performing arts magnet.
 - It is unclear what the impact of school choice will be on the final enrollment.
 - Request for parents- please engage as opportunities are announced to send letters and make sure that the parent perspectives are heard in this process.

7:25 PM- 7:35 PM

- Principal’s Update- Sapna Hopkins
 - An anonymous tip was made today from a parent whose child saw a bullet in a kid’s backpack. The bullet was found, and the school let the police take the lead in investigation. There was a sweep of lockers in the gym. Students were asked individually whether any threats were made, and none were reported. The central office support was swift. Parents are urged to be vigilant and check their children’s backpacks. A staff huddle is planned for tomorrow morning and listening session. If any students are in distress the councilors are on alert.
 - Ms. Sapna responded to a question from the chat- about whether the incident was similar to the one in May last year. In the last incident the bullet was found on the floor outside the boy’s locker room, and it was unclear who brought it. In this case the bullet was in a backpack.
 - Hiring- Tilden received resources for 2 additional hires. One position has been filled and they are continuing to look for additional candidates to fill the 7th grade global humanities position. The position will be opened in the next week.
 - Parent and Caregiver Workgroup met today and the topics are driven by parents. This meeting was focused on two topics: Hate Bias and Bullying and creating an inclusive environment at Tilden. The next meeting will be virtual on Dec 10th at 7 pm.

- o There were successful fall No Place for Hate events: door decorating and a bead rock paper scissors competition.
- o Look for an invitation in December for the Course Curriculum Night, which will allow students and families to ask questions about class options.

7:40 PM Smart Phones and Middle Schoolers Panel

- Our first speaker was Amanda Johnson, a family nurse practitioner in a DC public school, with firsthand perspective on the challenges facing today's youth. With smartphones becoming nearly ubiquitous, many parents are now asking: When is the right time for a child to have a smartphone in middle school? It's an important question, especially as new research highlights concerns about smartphones' effects on youth mental health. Drawing on the surgeon general's recent advisory on social media, she will explore why some parents are choosing to delay smartphone use and offer valuable resources to help families navigate the complexities of the digital world. Slides from this presentation are linked to the meeting on the PTSA website.
- Presentation by Principal Hopkins on the Personal Mobile Device (PMD) policy at Tilden MS, the staff experience in enforcing the policy, and how parents can help reinforce some of the rules and expectations. So far this year there have been 3 discipline reports due to devices, and only one for a smartphone- this is a drastic drop from last year. Principal Hopkins has a PMD bucket and is noticing that students are checking themselves and friends as she is walking in the halls, so they are aware of the policy. Staff are indicating that there is a decrease in issues related to phones and many have implemented bins or envelopes to hold devices until their work is completed. There have been less cyberbullying reports. In the event of someone violating the new PMD policy teachers can call admin staff to come and take the phone and store it for the remainder of the day- students get it back at the end of the day.
- The final speaker was Mickie Chandra, MCCPTA rep, who provided a short update on the MCPS Away All-Day pilot initiative. The pilot is in 11 schools, one is a high school and there are no personal devices, even at lunch times. The definition of a device is up to the school. There were concerns about the lack of communication about appropriate allowances for health accommodation or special circumstances. The evaluation period is this month to the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

***Action Item

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM