

MIMS PTO General Meeting

10/4/19 / 8:45 AM / MIMS Cafeteria

Agenda

- [Welcome - Kelly Opot](#)
- [School Admin Updates - Mr. Ying](#)
- [Bylaws vote - Derek Sirmans](#)
- [Festivals & Fundraising](#)
 - Fall Festival (Oct. 11) - Nissa Simpson
 - Sociables - Lisa Barrow
 - Boosterthon
 - Spirit Dining Update
- [Magnet Tours - Nissa Simpson](#)
- [PTO Committees - Reports & Volunteers](#)
 - MIMS Directory
 - Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Yearbook
- [Clubs - Reports & Volunteers](#)

Upcoming Dates

Subscribe to the MIMS PTO Calendar by going to <http://mimspto.org/calendar>.

October

10/7-11 - Yearbook cover contest voting

10/8 - Spirit Day with Coffee-Q (truck at MIMS, 7-10 am)

10/9 - Fall holiday (no school)

10/11 - **Fall Festival & MIMS Got Talent Show & Sociables Auction**

10/15 - Fall Picture Day

10/18 - Early Dismissal

10/25 - Fú Fri-Yay

10/25 - Grandparents' Lunch

10/25-27 - Spirit Weekend at Vietopia (5176 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, TX 77005)

November

11/6 - PTO General Meeting **6 pm**

11/8 - Early Dismissal

11/19 - Boosterthon Pep Rally

11/22 - Fú Fri-Yay

11/25-29 - Thanksgiving Holiday

December

12/6 - PTO General Meeting - 8:45 am

12/6 - Boosterthon Fun Run

12/20 - Teacher service day (students no school)

12/23 - 1/3/20 - Winter Break

January

1/6/20 - Return to school

Minutes

Call to order 8:55 am

Welcome - Kelly Opot

Couple of reminders:

- Minutes from last month are approved with no corrections or additions.
- Minutes of the PTO meetings will be posted on the PTO website within about a week from each meeting
- Everybody is a volunteer - as parents we're supporting the school and students and we're all just trying to help
- We're aware of issues with the cubbies in MS - the executive board will address
- If you've spoken to a board member about something we will get back to you - probably after the next board meeting

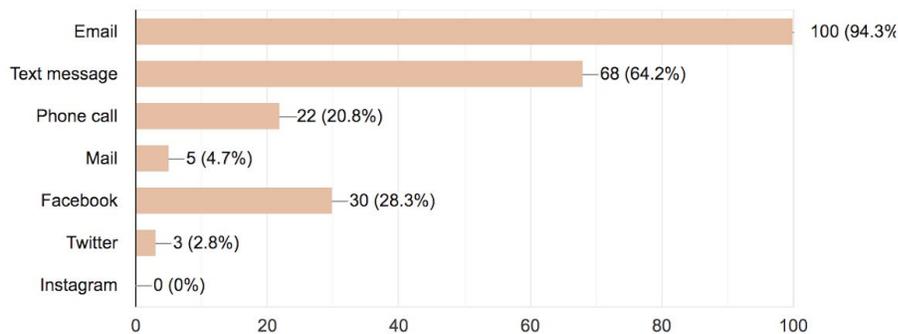
Updates from Admin - Mr. Ying

- Pouring concrete has been postponed because of rain. Thanks to Mr. Doucet, Mr. Lupe, and Ms Franklin for helping us get this fixed quickly.
- Magnet Tours have begun. Thanks to Nissa, Amanda, and so many others for helping organize. Had 15-16 parents to the first tour and have about 70 applicants so far. There is a signup genius for volunteers - more on that later in the meeting.
- Early dismissal - There has been some confusion but our early dismissal time is 1:15 pm in order to get our number of classroom minutes.
- School improvement plan was submitted last Friday. We look at test results and other data to create meaningful goals for the year. It's a living document.
 - Enrollment is down by 100 students
 - Attendance has gone down to 97.4% and our goal is 98% - if students are healthy they should be in school every day
 - Academic achievement - we are an A school and our STAAR results are 90%+ passing, so our goal is to raise from approach the grade level goals to have higher percentage at meet and master the grade level goal requirements. Our focus is to increase 5% in each category to meet and master.

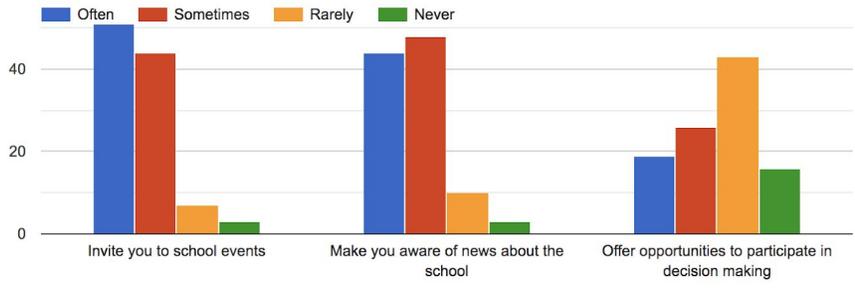
- Staff retention took a big hit last year with 11 new, that's more than 20%; goal is to reduce
- Our community and parent involvement is high - thank you. We do still need more fundraising efforts, as losing so much enrollment reduced our funds
 - Want to thank parent volunteers who are stepping up for Hispanic Heritage, parent-led clubs, copies and folders and helping teachers, buddy program, and more.
- We did a family survey and would like to share some of the response data.
 - 106 responses Mr. Ying took attendees through the survey results. See images below.
 - Email is majority. We'll use email and phone and save text for urgent messages.
 - Information frequency - positive around events; would like more on decision making information
 - Information on what students are working on in class - good; we can do better on student progress information, information on how to support, and making clear school is listening to suggestions.
 - Families agree staff respects them; mostly agree teachers have students' best interests in mind,

How do you prefer to receive information about the school? Check all that apply.

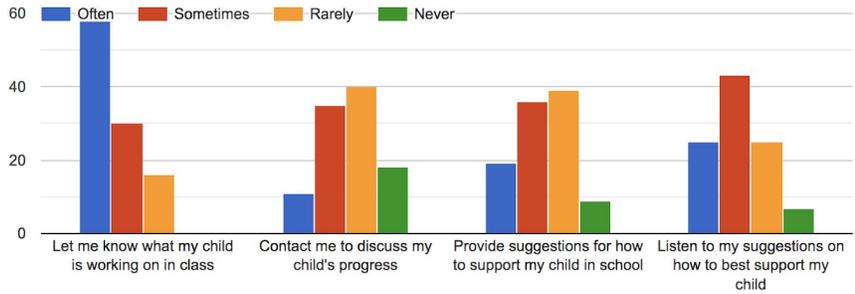
106 responses



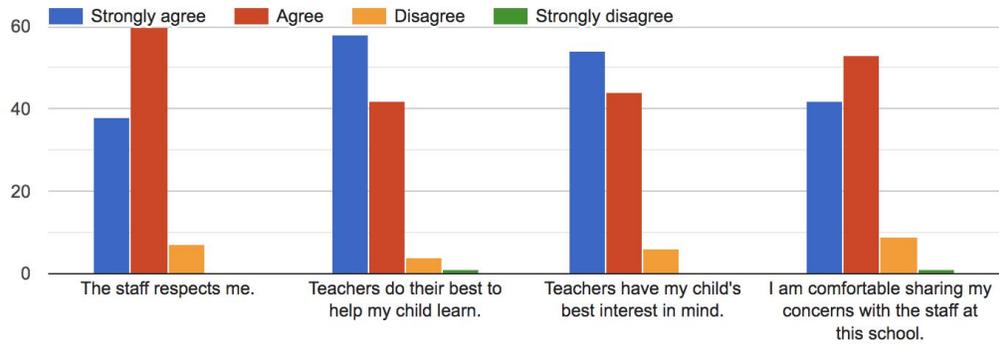
How often do you get information on the following:



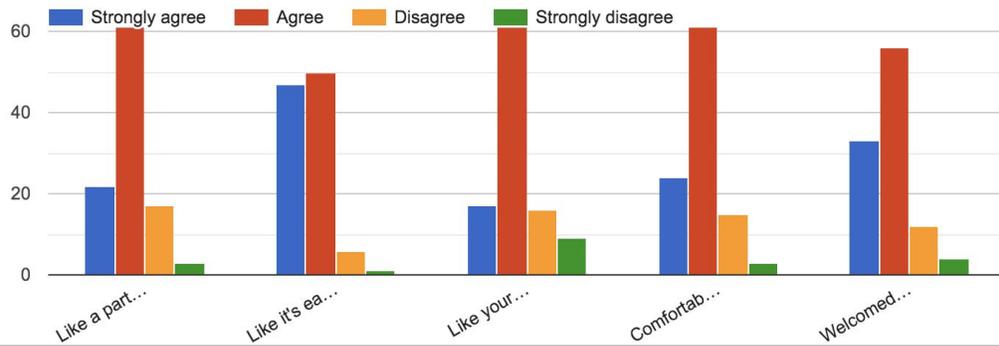
How often do teachers do the following:



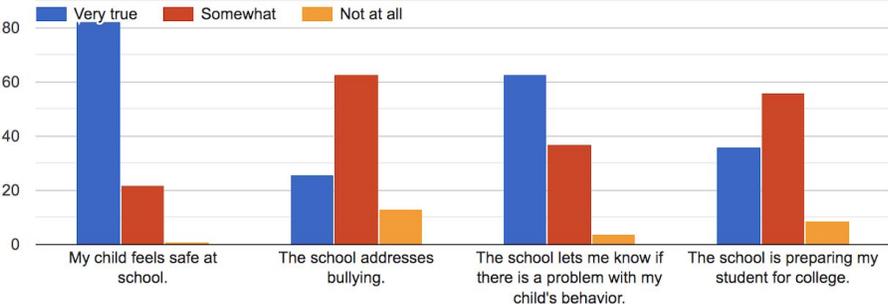
How much do you agree with the statements below about this school:



To what extent do you feel:

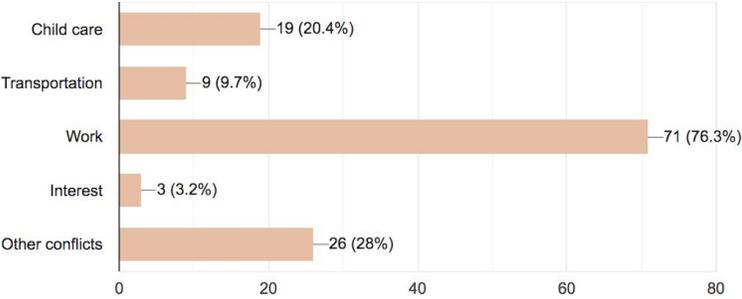


How true are the following statements:

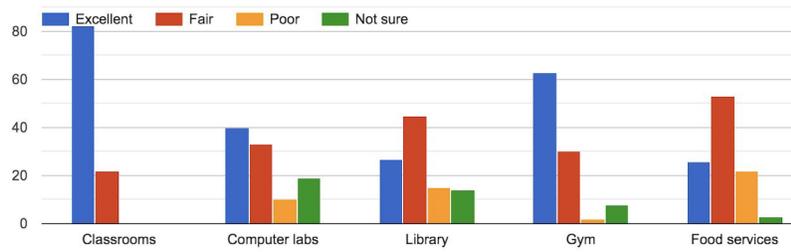


What prevents you from being involved with the school? Check all that apply.

93 responses

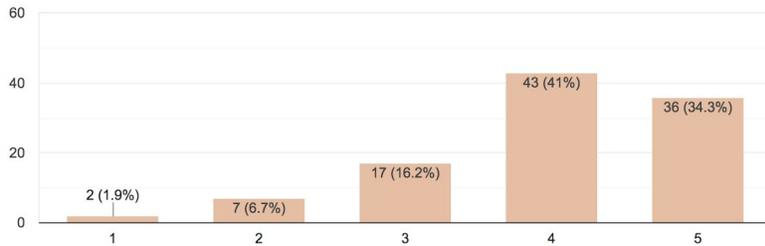


How do you rate the quality of the following facilities of our school:



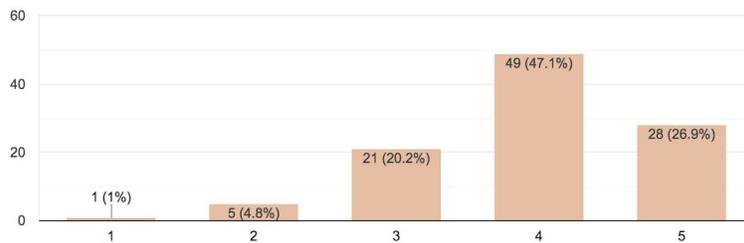
How likely are you to recommend this school to a parent looking for a school for their child?

105 responses



Overall, how satisfied are you with the education your child is receiving at this school?

104 responses



Parent question: How is enrollment being addressed and by whom?

Answer: Kinder, PK, 6th are entry areas - plenty in PK and K, but 4th, 5th, 6th are down by 20 students. They can apply there any time, but have to pass screener test. You might also reach out to families who left and encourage them to come back.

Parent question: Sounds like they're getting in at PK and K and then we're losing them along the way. Why is that happening and how are we addressing?

Answer: Happens because of attrition - they tell us immersion is too hard, other schools have better sports. Please remember, you bring your kid here for what happens 20 years from now.

Parent question: While we're addressing high achievement and staff retention - In middle there are some issues - class sizes, textbooks, how are we addressing to keep academics high?

Answer: It takes 10 years to grow a tree, but 100 years to educate a child - we have some struggles as we rebuild this year. I feel so bad we lost Ms Hill - will bring computer classes back as soon as I can; I know they need computers and tech as essential skills. I have authorized 2 subs, 1 in Chinese and 1 to relieve large classes - it's temporary. We'll be back very soon to mid 20s class size and increased enrichment.

Parent question: To follow up, can we get a timeline and concrete answers on text books, class size .

Parent question: Can you share a summary of the school improvement plan?

Answer: We submitted last week, now the board approves and posts - it should be public after November.

Parent question: Incoming PK/K - school choice office has been flip-flopping. What are we doing to address sibling issue?

Answer: We're aware of the issue and the policy change. We have about 18 families we know in this situation and will voice the concern.

Parent comment: We should let office of school choice know as parents, too. They're responding.

Parent comment: PK parents expecting not to have to apply for lottery, so need info in time.

Parent comment: District has said PK doesn't have to apply for kinder. Maybe we can reserve more seats for returning families?

Parent comment: WE want the district to stop flipping back and forth. Parent question: One of the most attractive parts of the school is high academic achievement - how can the school also help increase the students' inner strength?

Answer: We do spend morning assembly talking about character and values. We do assembly, then announcements (3-5 minutes) on character and daily focus. It's about being surrounded with highly successful, high achieving people.

Parent question: Can you do the survey again at the end of the semester, end of the year?

Answer: We'll do the survey 3x per year

Bylaws vote - Derek

Last month, we discussed change in bylaws. Nobody ran for community fundraising position last year and within our bylaws, vacancy wasn't well defined, so it wasn't clear what we could do. We have suggested a change to the bylaws to better define vacancy. Derek read the proposed change:

Proposed

Article VI, Section B. Vacancies: A vacancy shall be declared in any office upon the death or disability of or upon receipt of written resignation from the person or upon removal of the person pursuant to Article VI, Section C **or if no person is elected to fill the position**. A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a person elected by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall give schoolwide written notice of such election.

Bylaws can be changed by a vote here - we have more than 17 members present - see sign in sheet for attendees.

Call for vote: 37 approve, 0 opposed, motion passes

Here are the updated bylaws:

Festivals & Fundraising

Nissa:

- Fall festival Oct 11 in cafeteria & gym
- PTO will feed you all - clubs & committee invited to sell drinks/desserts
- 3rd Annual MIMS Got Talent Show - send in auditions for acts and for emcee

Lisa:

- Sociables and silent auction will go on sale Oct 11 at 6 pm via Qtego
- Instructions are on PTO site, on tables, and went home in Tues folders
- If you used site last year, you do have to re-register your card
- Raffle tickets \$5 each

Kelly

- Boosterthon dates are on the calendar: November 19 - Pep Rally, December 6 run
- Spirit nights on the calendar: Coffee-Q on Oct. 8, Vietopia Oct. 25-27, more to come

Parent question: PTO needs to help parents by issuing receipts

Answer: Tax receipts/thank you letter are available and will be sent to those hosting - the host expense is tax deductible. If there are additional questions on this to the financial review committee.

Magnet Tours - Nissa Simpson

- Magnet tours started Oct 3 and continue through December at 9 am
- All HISD magnet school and school of choice
- We need help running the tours - we put together a folder with information - it's just your experiences; takes about 1 hour/90 minutes- Sign up genius to help with tours: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c49a4a828a7f49-magnet>
- Dec 6 is the deadline for Phase 1 - updated info from HISD is available
- Still taking 25% sibling space in PK

Parent question: Do we need parent volunteers at school choice fairs?

Answer: The admins are doing the school choice fairs - no parents needed

PTO Committees & Clubs

Kelly:

- Teacher appreciation lunches - we fund some of these through the PTO budget and some from donations. We have different themes for different months.
- Directory - Caroline is working on this - look for more information soon
- Hispanic heritage month - Pinata activity still needs volunteers and toilet paper rolls

Nissa

- Yearbook - we got GREAT cover submissions - student voting all week through Fall Festival - we'll try to announce the winner by October 18
- Early bird ends Oct 13
- Ads are available for purchase - just like you bought the book, log in to the Balfour site to buy
- We can do a full page for a group - don't forget the graduating 8th graders
- Thanks for the photo uploads and please keep uploading
- <http://mimspto.org/activities/pto-activities/yearbook/>

Kelly

- Any clubs have report, Q&A?

Wrapup

- Don't forget to buy birthday spots for your kids' birthdays on the school marquee

Parent question: I was removed from Fb even though I'm a parent - who accepts these requests
Answer: None of PTO is an admin. It's a parent page but NOT an official MIMS or MIMS PTO page. All announcements, sign-up geniuses, and events on the MIMS PTO page. Please send those to secretary@mimspto.org

Parent question: Grandparents lunch? Halloween book character day?

Answer: Waiting for admin to share details - we'll put it on the website when we know

Adjourn 10:05 am