

Minutes - PTO Meeting - February

Feb. 12, 12:05 pm, via Zoom

Recording available:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6qeS3JroiEx73vcjaxSaobF3Bap2f_Ez1E1dEaT0PXacla0Zcz-g1WWD_wX_J3HI.OjYfO-wNcj1bDnZD Passcode: Zd8L+ENu

Dragon and Phoenix Spark Park update - Beth Jenkins

- Neighborhood kids using! HS kids playing soccer - this is a great example of us building something that supports community.
- Scouts (6th & 8th girl scouts) trimmed the fruit trees - hope to make this the regular tradition that girl scouts take on care for fruit trees
- Safety fence is installed - may look a little restrictive, but worried kids would run across the parking lot from dragon door, so the gate opens at the south end and kids should follow sidewalk around and enter that gate
 - There is a gate left on the west side, too, especially for when there will be festivals or events
- Soccer goals from Katlyn's GS project are there but not installed in final location - waiting for earth moving/leveling/drainage to be completed before making the official field - skills game size right now rather than endurance
- Gaga pit almost installed - get a lot of questions about what is a gaga pit
 - lots of kids get in and move a lot, for both younger and MS kids
 - Gaga is a variant of dodgeball that is played in a gaga "pit". The game combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping, with the objective of being the last person standing. Players hit the ball at each other with their hands, and are eliminated if the ball strikes them on or below the knee.
- Next steps:
 - Outdoor Chinese game tables with a chess board plus a library box to hold the games
 - 50-yard dash (in bus lanes)
 - Moon gate (art) - every Spark park is for exercise and congregation but also for art and culture

Fundraising:

\$50k - spending on this phase

- 13+ obstacle course \$45k
- 5-12 obstacle course \$75k
- Exercise equipment \$45k
- Pavilion, shade, Walkways, drainage \$350k

Fundraising for the next phase(s) ongoing

- Year of the Ox Red envelope campaign (postcards sent!)
- You can donate at sparkpark.org/wordpress/donate
- Matching funds are great to do for Spark Parks!

Student leadership projects are available, such as signs in English and Mandarin, art wall, brick path

Idea to have teachers and staff explain the Gaga pit with a "Sweet 16" tournament and run as a bit of a fundraising at the same time

- Teachers and staff faceoff for the Spark Park
 - Opening matches Dee and Jackson vs Ritsema and Ying
 - Consider a \$5 donation or sponsor a team
 - Dates and details to come - please contact Beth if you want to volunteer to help organize
 - Hope to have students emcee the tournament -- and maybe in Mandarin if possible!
- GAGA PIT tournament example below. Should be fun.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvJs440u1Js&t=147s>

Update -

Ying not on right now because at emergency meeting re Monday weather plan - more information will come

M&T now teacher prep days

Asynchronous learning days to finish makeup work, projects but no instruction

We won't have to make up at end of the year

We'll see what happens - look for updates from the district and MIMS

Chinese New Year - Nick

Prep in full swing - lots of volunteer opportunities

Goody bags assembly tomorrow - have activities for the kids

Sign up genius if you want to volunteer 8-2 tomorrow

Other volunteer opportunities for parking, give out bags, etc - all on sign up genius

Raffle - prizes are awesome and getting more donations as time goes on

Let Nick know if you have prizes to donate

Buy raffle tickets online - buy more and it's cheaper \$5 for 1, \$20 for 5, \$30 for 10

Pick up goody bags - for all kids - Saturday the 20th 2:30-5:30 pm

We'll also have tshirts and raffle tickets there at the drive through for pick up or purchase

Making bags for every kid!!

Sponsor opportunities still available - on the website

Portrait session for CNY portraits - look for that online

Parking opens at 6
Dragon dance at 6:30
Videos from the kids and raffle
Pick up raffle if you're there - otherwise, contact Nick
Hold on to your tickets because there will be re-drawings

All the things you can buy, do, or donate are available on the PTO website

If you didn't pick up the physical raffle ticket, let Nick know with an email to festivals@mimspto.org and he'll send you a picture of your raffle tickets

Admin update

M&T now teacher prep days and Asynchronous learning days to finish makeup work, projects but no instruction

We won't have to make up at end of the year

We'll see what happens - look for updates from the district and MIMS

W = we may do virtual learning for all

It will all depend - so look for district updates as we know more

CNY

2 sessions of Lion dance

Got 50 sign ups for those at home - thank you! - if you signed up, you are in

One more chance at CNY celebration at 6:30

District level Assessment

These were for STAAR tested areas on STAAR subjects

Did pretty well - Mr Ritsema working with teachers for interventions

Will parents get results at child level? We don't have a template for this like we do for Ren360 but teachers know so check with them

STAAR

TEA says online students can opt out but we don't know more yet - we'll wait to hear from the district

Staffing: 4th grade

Still looking for a person for Ms Liu when she goes on leave

SDMC

Updating the mission statement for the school - need to revise as the school grows
Draft version will be shared for your input and then SDMC will meet again on a quarterly basis and will finalize and start next year with updated mission statement

Strengthening Mandarin

- Continuing to add Mandarin programs
- Morning Announcement segment in Mandarin by students - kids are enjoying participating
- Mandarin contest
 - Storytelling in March
 - Speech in May
 - Look for more details to be sent out
 - consider partnership with alumni for mentoring and tutoring
- Welcome your ideas - please send

LivingTree

An invitation was sent to new parents only (those with no existing LT account) - returning parents OR those who have accounts from another school should be able to use their existing credentials; can reset passwords or contact LT or Kirk for help

- It's active. You can talk to all parents in your children's classes as a "group" post - parents can send group messages to homerooms
- You can talk to any individual
- PTO and Admin can send to entire school, all teachers
- More work is being done on the back end but we didn't want to keep waiting to launch
- We've started to put some admin and PTO messages - **We'll keep LT and the MIMS PTO website updated for official communications**
- Get with Ms Kirk for logins if you have questions or challenges
- Some teachers are using it - not all - all teachers get to choose
- We'll be working on setting up groups and make it as user friendly as possible and as maintainable
- Main communication to teachers is still email

Q: How is middle school set up? Kelly will investigate

Teacher appreciation

- School sponsoring CNY lunch today (2/12)
- Cookies are for all teachers and staff next week - you can sponsor and PTO will pay for the rest
- PTO sponsoring another lunch at the end of the month for Black history month - Shavaun Rose and Amonee Haley are organizing

- PTO is focusing our spend this year on teacher fundraising

Fundraising

- Midnight Sunday is Dream Dinners Spiriti Night deadline
- Feb 19 - 28 is to go spirit night at Happy Valley in Dun Huang plaza near beltway - take out only
- Kris will send out a sign up for more CNY portraits
- Shavaun and Kris are putting together an auction for later this spring
- One brisket didn't get picked up - been wrapped and frozen -
- Thanks to those who have supported!
- Another movie night coming in March

Upcoming Dates

- Black history month - February (volunteers needed - contact Shavaun Rose fundraising@mimspto.org)
- Spirit Night - Happy Valley 2/19 - 2/28; Dream Dinners
- Movie night - 3 / 6
- PTO Board nominations - we vote in April
 - Deadline is April 2 by 6 pm
 - Send name, bio, position to treasurer@mimspto.org
 - Voting will be April 16

Minutes from January approved as posted with no corrections or additions.