

MVMS Parent Council 2021-2022

Meeting 1 - September 10, 2021

- **Principal Toth**
- **Chair and 8th grade: Kelly Gillard**
- **8th grade: Julie Maurer**
- **7th grade: Tiffany Jurist Baus**
- **7th grade: Tricia Gay**
- **6th grade: Cristin Adinolfi**
- **6th grade: Vidoushi Curtil**
- **5th grade: Sarah Quinn Clausen**
- **Co-chair and 5th grade: Aparna Largman**

Discussion Topics:

- I. Morning drop-off (people not moving forward, stopping the flow of traffic, etc)
- II. School supplies (unnecessary items, yearly waste, etc)
- III. Crossing safety at pick up
- IV. School's free lunch program—not enough food, will there be additional items to purchase?
- V. What happened to Lifetouch?
- VI. Yearbook picture purchase info hidden at bottom of mailing - missed by many.
- VII. Are desks 3 ft apart in all classrooms?
- VIII. Other
- IX. Other

Welcome and positive feedback on the start of the year –

- The 5th graders seem happy and excited to be middle-schoolers
- The 6th graders are happy to be having a “real” experience
- In terms of first impressions, a parent shared Ms. Walsh is off to a wonderful start

I. Morning drop-off

- a. Background: Despite having included guidance in the 8/20 Weekly Update's Back to School video, we're still having issues with some parents using the parking lots for drop-off. Some are even using the short “cut-through” separating the lots, and that disrupts front entrance access for the students and staff. It is understood this partly stems from the fact that MVMS has multiple drop-off points, but inappropriate use of the parking lots poses a danger to both students and staff.
- b. Mrs. Toth has included an additional reminder in today's Weekly Update.
- c. We occasionally have MBPD presence, and [Mrs. Toth will speak to Officer Behre today to request a car be present in front of the staff parking lot at 815 for the next few mornings and](#)

then again on occasion to discourage parents from straying from the designated drop-off points.

- i. **9/10 UPDATE:** After meeting with Mrs. Toth, Officer Behre contacted MBPD. He will also be present on the corner of Park and Orchard with a patrol car during dismissal.
- d. As for the circle at the back of the building, the morning drop-off issue seems to stem from parents stopping at the first path despite signage indicating the drivers should continue to pull forward. What else can we do to communicate the need for drivers to use the full length of the circle for drop-offs? Drivers seem responsive to the presence of school representatives and/or MBPD, but in lieu of that, we'll look to inform parents to encourage each other to optimize their use of the circle for this activity.
- e. *Aside: Photo introduced into Minutes to help inform the reader*



- f. Are stipends available to teachers to help support drop-off? On-duty teachers are already receiving students, and in order to provide the level of support needed, multiple resources would be required.
- II. School supplies – concerns about quantities purchased and waste
 - a. Background: This issue comes up every year. The HSA Board will be discussing this item at its meeting this morning. The supply kits are an HSA fundraiser. Every year, the supply lists are shared with Team Leaders for editing. Over time, the list has been somewhat pared down, but some challenges remain –
 - i. Disconnect between the choices available and the lists that are generated. Shopping parents don't need the level of specificity currently stated on the lists; generalization would eliminate brand constraints and unnecessary bulk quantities
 - ii. **HSA item:** Need an improved dialogue with vendor about how the kits are packaged
 - 1. **9/10 UPDATE:** Topic was discussed at today's HSA meeting.

iii. MV item: Need heightened selectivity on list items and quantities.

1. **9/10 UPDATE:** As a result of today's discussions, we'll continue to work this issue with the HSA to establish a better understanding of the options available to us.

iv. The kits vary by grade in terms of expectations

v. Students may go through certain supplies at different rates, so it is tricky striking a balance; regardless, we have to find a way to get away from unnecessary bulk

vi. We want to be mindful of what the kids take away from this situation; we don't want to excuse waste

b. What if we created one MV kit with an add-on/supplemental for calculator? EOY inventory could be performed to see how we do and adjust accordingly. **Cristin will look into this further.**

c. This year, the 6th grade teachers stated supplies on their syllabi, and that was very helpful.

d. If there is an opportunity to streamline items such that the overall bulk and weight can be reduced, that would be helpful for the kids in terms of transporting to/from.

e. Perhaps we can standardize the binders across grades so that they can be reused?

III. Crossing safety at pick-up

a. Background: Sgt McNichol attended a PC meeting last spring to discuss safety concerns with crossing activity on Orchard, Park and by the gazebo. Both student and parent behaviors were relevant to the issue. The problems seem to ebb and flow seasonally. We asked what MBPD would be willing to do to help contribute to an improved situation given that these areas are off-campus.

b. Mrs. Toth has heard back from Sgt. McNichol. He has officers monitoring the areas of Orchard and Park to determine the next course of action for a crossing guard (if we are able to get one). Includes signage for parents at pick-up. The recurring issue is that compliance seems to happen with police presence.

c. Our Morning Announcements to students include requests to use crosswalks and stay off of cell phones.

d. Can they designate a no parking zone to clear out traffic and improve visibility? The existing signs seem to be disregarded. It may be helpful to try to ensure the incoming line functions solely as a moving pick-up line vs. today's mix of parked and moving.

e. **Mrs. Toth will ask Officer Behre if he offers some sort of presence, perhaps a parked car. She will also follow up with Officer McNichol for next steps. Parents are welcome to represent the community by sharing concerns with MBPD, too.**

i. **9/10 UPDATE:** Mrs. Toth and Officer Behre have established a plan. See item I. above.

IV. Free school lunch

a. The current offering is a standard lunch; there are no additional items available for purchase at this time.

b. Mrs. Toth advised the students of this and suggested they supplement with food from home.

c. We are striving for the ability to offer extra portions and snacks, but challenges include staffing and serving lunch in two locations.

d. Mrs. Toth will let us know when additional food becomes an option via the Weekly Update. We are working on ID cards to allow students to simply scan for additional food, and parents will need to replenish their PayForIt accounts if they have not already done so.

e. Is there any opportunity to influence the menu for healthy options? Mrs. Toth will take this feedback to Pomptonian for consideration.

- f. There seem to be no beverage options other than milk/chocolate milk. The milk is wasted for those seeking alternatives like water. The water option seemed to disappear after the first week. The meals last year were pre-packaged; this year, the meals are being served in a more traditional fashion, and as such, there is no real link to the online order. Mrs. Toth will take this feedback back to Pomptonian.
 - g. It seems to be a popular option with families this year.
- V. What happened to Lifetouch as a photo vendor?
 - a. Lifetouch was acquired by Shutterfly and service has not been the same since. The changes not only impacted quality, but also customer service and our ability to have a “buyback” process. As such, we made a move to a vendor (School Craft Studios) who seemed better positioned to meet our needs.
- VI. Many parents are unaware of the new photo ordering process, so [Mrs. Toth will distribute information this coming week and also in the 9/17 Weekly Update - will include directions for online ordering and the student code](#)
 - a. Retakes October 12
- VII. Desk spacing in the classroom – 3ft?
 - a. Guidance is “greatest extent practicable”
 - i. MV’s classrooms are smaller than HT’s
 - ii. Impacted by room configuration, furniture type and class size
 - iii. [Questions related to specific classrooms should be directed to Mrs. Toth](#)
 - iv. Despite having the pandemic-related procedures and considerations in place, it feels pleasantly normal in the building
- VIII. Other – will the B2SN presentations be recorded?
 - a. Last year, they were pre-recorded and the links were posted and available for viewing
 - b. This year, the teachers will present live
 - c. No Q&A due to logistical constraints
 - d. Google Meet’s requirements for permissions prevent us from being able to offer a livestream
 - e. Mrs. Toth sent out a Google Form to submit questions for B2SN. See embedded .pdf in August 27 & September 14 Weekly Update.
- IX. Other – what happened to the mums sale (8th grade fundraiser)?
 - a. Trip status unknown at this time
 - i. Refund process tied to community fundraiser is highly problematic
 - ii. We need to fundraise on a smaller scale for other school-wide initiatives, and we will likely look to parents to fund their 8th grader’s trip individually.
 - iii. May consider a payment plan over time building up to the trip.

[Next meeting Friday, October 08, 2021](#)