



## Increase Miller Elementary School PTO General Board Meeting & Principal's Coffee - Minutes

Co-President, Kathy Martin  
Co-President, Inna Rabinowitz  
Co-Vice President, Jim Danalewich  
Co-Vice President, Cassie Hollander  
Secretary, Danielle Palermo  
Treasurer, Seth Christian  
Member at Large, Kari Wagner

**Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 9:30 AM  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting  
**Attendees:** Principal Kerry Ford  
Chris Nelson, KLSD Director of Technology  
*Board Members:* Kathy Martin, Inna Rabinowitz, Jim Danalewich, Cassie Hollander, Danielle Palermo and Kari Wagner  
*Parents:* Jamie Thomas, Mel Longacre, Dina Borelli, Svetlana W., Helaine Waldman, Casey Parrish, Ellen Cotrone, Kate Rado, Deborah Carlson, Esabel Jamias, Tim Curley, Jennifer DeSerio, Karen Byrne, Olga Limniatis, Melissa Sullivan, Narissa Joyner

Meeting called to order by Kathy Martin at 9:45 AM.

Kathy Martin welcomed all attendees and went over the meeting's agenda.

### PTO Updates

- Halloween Events (Camp Kiwi Spooktacular and Virtual Dance Party) were both successful. We plan to hold another schoolwide virtual dance party for Valentine's Day.
- Picture Day - Even if parents hadn't registered their child(ren) for a time slot, it was suggested to just show up as we need pictures for the yearbook and we would squeeze them in.
- Book Fair - Reminded everyone about the fundraiser and announced the Zoom Guest Reader calendar
- Boon catalog fundraiser was a big success last year and will be offered again this year. Catalogs will be sent home via backpack mail this week
- Holiday Drive – Signup coming in November. This year will consist of Gift Cards only. Recipients will receive the gift cards and cookies from Sweet Delights the Saturday before Christmas.
- Author Visit - Lauren Tarshis, author of the I Survived book series, will visit via Zoom on 12/8-12/11 for grades 3-5.
- Membership Directory PDF file will be sent out in the Eagle Express this week. It was asked if a parent notices a fellow family isn't listed in the directory, to reach out and ask them to add their info as this directory will be updated periodically as families are added.
- New Families – If anyone needs to be connected, please reach out to Cassie Hollander. So far she has contacted all new families from 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but not all have responded. Also, if any Class Parents have had trouble reaching families, they too can reach out to Cassie for help.



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### Chris Nelson, KLS D Director of Technology

- Introduction – Joined KLS D 3 years ago. Upgraded classroom technology. Implemented new technologies across all campuses.
- Last year
  - Flat panel displays were installed in classrooms for digital resources.
  - iPads were given to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Teachers received additional iPads.
  - Built network to support the upgrades in technology
- March 2020 – Resourced new tools for remote learning; Schoology, Zoom, etc.
- May 2020 – Met with BOE to request purchase of iPads for grades K-5. iPads were chosen due to familiarity and comfortability
- June 2020 – iPads purchased
- August 2020 – iPads distributed to entire KLS D community
  - 3,000 new devices (iPads and laptops depending on grade). These devices for the first time would no longer be on the schools' network, but on the community's network, thus leaving room for potential issues with connectivity
- Under normal circumstances, a districtwide device rollout and technology upgrade like this would span 3 years – this was performed in 3 months
- There are 8 team members within the KLS D Tech. Dept. (One in each of the five schools and three districtwide)
- Late September 2020 – Discovered students began “exploring” their iPad apps
- Early October 2020 – Installed software with ability to monitor apps. Will begin using JAMF to remotely support devices when off campus.
- Tech team has ability to track and remotely lock devices if lost/stolen, but only if the devices are powered on.
- Looking into tools that will provide grade appropriate app control and safeguarding YouTube searches and content for younger elementary students.
- At the recent Superintendent's Coffee Meeting, he showed JAMF parental controls which can add tools like screen time to the iPads. Parents will need to download the JAMF app on their Apple devices and then connect to their child's iPad to access these controls. (The JAMF app is not available on Android.)



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- Technology Q & A
  - Parent asked if online chatting was allowed amongst students. – It is allowed, but shouldn't be done during class times. All chats are logged. The district didn't want to disable the chat functionality so students can stay connected while remote/hybrid.
  - Parent voiced concerns over the devices having no YouTube restrictions and not having an Apple device of their own to utilize the JAMF app
  - Parent suggested more teachers use the SafeYouTube.net as an alternative to the standard YouTube app

### Kerry Ford Updates

- Kindergarten
  - Mrs. Morfea's two cohorts already merged into one classroom. Ms. Walsh and Mrs. Dooley's cohorts will combine next week. Ms. Walsh's class will remain in her current room. Mrs. Dooley's class will move into the Library
  - All three spaces were measured with the teachers and custodians present so the teachers felt comfortable
  - Feedback was that "Zooming across the hall" wasn't working for the Kindergartners and that the teachers are eager for live instruction
  - Specials were each increased to 40 minute sessions
  - She looked to see which current staff members/aides could be reallocated to Kindergarten classrooms for teacher assistance
  - Some classes have aides for CPSE reasons and some have aides for other reasons so the teacher's will not be alone all day
  - Interventionists will push into classes for 45 min a day beginning on Monday
  - Specials teachers are using their "flex periods" to push into classrooms for movement breaks
  - Interventionists for 40 minute literacy allows for 2 small groups of reading/writing. Lesson plans are built around that
  - School Social Workers and Psychologists also push in 1-2x a week for support as well
- Health & Safety
  - School is following CDC recommendations
  - Students showing cold symptoms are sent home. The class will be moved to another location if child shows symptoms
  - Testing program not yet in place
  - When parents keep their child(ren) home, school will ask for Doctor's clearance or COVID negative test upon their return



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- Q & A
  - Parent asked if there are any plans to add aides or teaching assistants to fully remote classes. Concerned “break-out” rooms aren’t productive enough. – There are no plans on adding any support staff to fully remote classes. Teachers can identify student’s needs through assessments
  - Parents voiced concern over combining Kindergarten cohorts into one class amidst the growing number of COVID cases throughout the area

Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.