



## **Morris Brandon PTA General Committee Meeting**

September 6, 2023

9:00 AM, Zoom

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Presenter: Lindsey Porter**

**Start Time: 9:00 AM**

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:37 AM**

Lindsey welcomed attendees and discussed the role of our PTA including holding events, fundraising and building community while supporting our teachers, principal and staff. She also introduced our Treasurer, Evan Carter, who relayed we began the year with a surplus of around \$50k thanks to a sizable donation from our Foundation.

### **II. Topic/Subject: Vote to Approve Minutes from April 2023 PTA General Meeting**

**Presenter: Lindsey Porter**

**Discussion:**

Lindsey presented our April meeting minutes for approval. A move to approve was made by Evan Carter. A second was given but the sound stopped for 10-15 seconds and their name was missed.

The minutes were approved without objection..

### **III. Topic/Subject: PTA Events and Reminders**

**Presenter: Lindsey Porter**

**Discussion:**

A. PTA Calendar-Our Morris Brandon Calendar is on the school website and is full of many wonderful upcoming events. You can download it to your personal calendar and you will be synched to receive any updates that may occur. Upcoming events include the following:

1. September: 5th grade Car Wash (9/10), CFA Spirit Night (9/11), PC Bingo Night (9/21)
2. October: Walk to School Day (10/4), Principal Coffee Talk (10/6), Fun Run (10/21)

### **IV. Topic/Subject: New Business to discuss**

**Presenter: Brittany Goepf**

## **Discussion:**

### **A. PTA to PTO Transition**

1. Current status of PTA/PTO-Brittany discussed the process we have begun in transitioning from a PTA to a PTO. We have been approved as a new corporation by the Secretary of State and are currently awaiting our tax exempt status from the IRS.
2. Benefits of PTO going forward-Our PTA is established to the point we no longer need direction from state and national PTAs. That past guidance has come with heavy and increasing fees. We will now write our own bylaws and keep all funds at the local level.

B. Introduction of Kristi Stathopoulos to answer any questions about the PTO transition-Kristi Stathopoulos is an attorney specializing in non profit Law who has helped other schools in our cluster transition from a PTA to a PTO. She confirmed the only change that will occur is all funds raised will be kept within the school. The move will not impact our relationship with the Morris Brandon Foundation. Fundraising and events will remain the same. We will just be a different type of charitable organization with more autonomy and flexibility. We will adhere to all state and federal guidelines for a charitable organization without having to adhere to the PTA specific ones.

## **V. Principal's Report**

**Presenter: Jay Bland**

### **Discussion:**

Jay took time to share what is currently happening at Morris Branon including our Back To School nights which went very well. He mentioned the GO Team, our school's governing body, and that their meetings are posted online. Other topics covered include:

- A. Enrollment-Enrollment is off to a great start with many new students and teachers. We are back up to 884 students after dipping from over 1000 to around 700 during the pandemic. This brings more funding to the school which benefits everyone. Our largest grade is third with an average of 20.4 students per class. Eighteen to twenty two students is ideal.
- B. Security-There will be an APS meeting regarding security hosted at Sutton Middle School tomorrow night. A private donation last year has allowed us to increase security at our two campuses. All windows at the PC and some at the MC have been glazed making them bulletproof. There is increased fencing at the PC and the entire playground is now fenced in. Fencing around the back of the MC has also increased. This layered approach increases safety. We are still waiting on our bulletproof vestibules from APS.
- C. Hiring-We have a few vacancies including a Special Ed para at the MC, an ESOL teacher and an art teacher.

## **VI. Topic/Subject: Conclusion of meeting and reminder of next meeting in January 2024**

**Presenter: Lindsey Porter and Brittany Goepf**

**Discussion:**

Following this discussion, the meeting was adjourned. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next General PTA Meeting on January 17, 2024.

A recording of this meeting can be found here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/r5l6EP8dfpkLLtmkmN4jKYoS6KbrGqcQFUgonSR5EGhNcACbz8PIISj3Hw5GOaWj\\_e7hPwoSVM6D3gW9?startTime=1694006575000](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/r5l6EP8dfpkLLtmkmN4jKYoS6KbrGqcQFUgonSR5EGhNcACbz8PIISj3Hw5GOaWj_e7hPwoSVM6D3gW9?startTime=1694006575000) Passcode:  
@W7q%WiX

PTA Representatives at this meeting:

Brittany Goepf, PTA Co President

Lindsey Porter, PTA Co President

Lane Kurban, Secretary