



Tilden Middle School

6300 Tilden Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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Tilden PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 10, 2024- hybrid meeting (virtual/in-person)

The meeting was called to order by Tilden PTSA President Anne Mandeville at 7:06 PM. There were 13 participants in person and 43 participants via Zoom. This was the first meeting offered in-person in 1.5 years. Attendance was recorded and Principal Hopkins was in attendance.

Anne provided the President's updates- PTSA provides resources for classrooms, school programs and support for families in our community who need assistance. There is an unofficial guide to Tilden drafted by members that can be found on the PTSA website in the upper left corner:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/middle-schools/s-w/tildenms/ptsa/tilden-101-unofficial-guide.pdf> Additionally spirit wear proceeds go to support PTSA initiatives. Spirit wear can be purchased in person at PTSA meetings and events, as well as online at <https://tilden-middle-school-ptsa.square.site/>.

Anne Mandeville gave each incoming officer the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide an update:

- Elected Officers:
 - President- Anne Mandeville
 - Vice President- Nikki Boisture
 - Vice President- Farhan Hameed
 - Secretary- Jennifer Kwan
 - Treasurer- elected at the meeting Eddine Mureke
- Additional Positions
 - MCCPTA Reps- Rachel Lanman and Mickie Chandra



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- Cluster Coordinators- Jen Cassell and Karen Foxman
- NAACP Rep- Daphne Pee

Minutes from the May 2024 PTSA meeting were approved unanimously.

Eddine Mureke presented the 2024-2025 budget and financial update. The PTSA's income so far is \$4,282 (generated primarily by PTSA membership and spirit wear sales)-the goal for PTSA memberships income is \$6,300. The income from spirit wear alone is \$2,253. The back-to-school picnic cost \$350 paid to the DJ. There is currently \$19,000 in the account. A question came from an attendee about why current PTSA membership income is lower than projections, and the response was that typically the peak membership is in Sept/Oct so there is some time for more funds to come in. That said, please join if you haven't done so! Membership information can be found on the PTSA website:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/tildenms/ptsa/>

There was a motion to approve the budget which was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Programs

- Farhan Hameed and Nikki Boisture provided the vice presidents updates. The back-to-school picnic was the first event upcoming event is Skate night March 22, 2025. Additional volunteers for events are needed.
- Upcoming dine outs are September 12th and October 24th at Ledo Pizza. Additional dine-outs at Taco Bamba and Noodles&Company. Dates will be announced soon.
- The Reflections Program – Mikkie provided an update on the program which is a national PTA which is hosted by schools. A link was shared on the zoom call to the program. Flyers will be distributed at the end of the month for interested students to submit a project, with an early December deadline. The theme is "Accepting Imperfections" and the work will be highlighted at STEAM night on Jan 9th. More judges are needed- please volunteer!
- No Place for Hate- many schools have been classified as No Place for Hate schools, but to keep the designation there must be programming. Rachel Landman is spearheading the activities. Angela Wang will be the Tilden staff member. The first meeting will be on September 26 during AST
- Black and Brown Parents Group representative Daphne Pee is looking to open a dialogue- please contact the Tilden PTSA by email peed@tildenms.org if you are interested in being a part of this initiative.
- Cluster Representative Report. Karen Foxman and Jennifer Cassell. Meetings are held once monthly to advocate to local and state legislature. The first meeting will be at the end of



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September and the big issues will be the boundary study and implications for the Woodward high school opening in the 2027-2028. In the boundary study will not impact the elementary schools. During the first quarter of 2025 there should be lots of opportunity to provide input as the study is completed. The Woodward auditorium has been added back to the phase 2 construction, and should be open as students start to attend.

Principal Hopkin's Report

- So far the start of the school year has been great. The hallways have been clear before the bell and there are no cell phones in the PMD bucket. Two sets of airpods were briefly confiscated. There has been an increase in kids saying good morning to Ms Hopkins on their own.
- All teaching positions have been filled
- The final enrollment is still being reconciled- for those who indicated that they would attend but haven't arrived yet.
- Class sizes are large due to the MCPS guidelines and budget
- Progress report on student questionnaire at start of school year
 - 65.5% were interested in learning about race
 - Respondents were primarily 6th and 7th graders
 - 31% of students felt bullied by peers based on race
- Discipline- there were 687 referrals last year (these are instances where the teacher has run out of options to correct the behavior and need to get admin staff involved)
 - This total includes the serious incidents
 - Of the 70 serious incidents:
 - 82% were from male students
 - 43% were Hispanic, 22% white, and 21% were African American
 - 21 involved hate bias, 17 occurred in March alone. These events require involvement from school resource officers and MCPS guidance
 - A question was asked from a zoom participant- asking about follow up from serious incidents and whether parents can get updates. Ms. Hopkins responded that the school has to protect the student's s privacy
- Staff survey- made improvements in the last 2 years
 - 59.1% felt a sense of belonging
 - 56.8% felt that they receive feedback
 - 34.1% felt that it is a positive environment
 - 50% supported the administration
 - Key Concerns:
 - Student Behavior
 - Meetings- where staff felt that there were too many. An effort is underway to use email as much as possible.



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- There was a parent question about how the concerns about behavior will be addressed. Ms. Hopkins responded that they are focusing on creating a sense of belonging, and learning about other cultures during homeroom advising
- Parent- Caregiver Workgroup- There was a request from the community because of an incident and parents wanted to be a part of the discussion. Parents attended a session last week. The goals are to make Tilden more inclusive, create a space for more perspectives. This group is different from the other PTSA initiatives because it is exclusively for caregivers.
- There is a Parent /Caregiver Town Hall on September 18th at 7pm via zoom

Safety- there was a discussion about the safety at drop-off/pickup. We really need to ask parents to be patient with the lines, but the back up onto Tilden Lane is hazardous as cars try to pass through the traffic. There has been a lot of advocacy to get additional MCPS support for either another crossing guard or staff to guide traffic. Last week there was a representative from the Department of Transportation, as well as Julie Yang to view the issues first hand.

Immediate actions for the car lane-

- School messaging to parents to pull through the drop off lane to the start of the lane to increase the number of cars that can fit within the parking lot.
- Additional messaging to make it clear that cars should not linger in the drop off lane. Kids need to be ready to hop out of the car as quickly as possible and the car needs to leave the lane.

Please let the [PTSA Board](#) know if any particular topics would be of interest for a future PTSA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM