2026.11.10 - PTSA General Meeting / Run of Show / Meeting Minutes

Zoom Info (hosted by Ms. Martin):
Join Zoom Meeting
https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/89138360552?pwd=FXHpVsrcZJY2BwLlv0iUe5Va61ahjF.1

Meeting slides: 2026.11.10 - PTSA General Meeting
Meeting minutes: *Below*

Run of Show

Time		Speaker/ Timing
7:00 - 7:05	**5 minute buffer (5 min)**	5 min
7:05-7:10	**Welcome / Translation** ● Meeting Kick-off (Chris, 2 min) ● Spanish, TBD (Chris, 1 min) ● Students receive SSL Hours for attending,you will put your name into a form to announce your attendance at the end of this meeting (Chris, 1 min). ● Communications Reminder (Chris, 1 min) https://www.tpmspta.org/abouttpmspta/mailinglists/ ○ If you became a PTSA member - **you must sign up separately for communications** ○ We send out an invitation from our Announce list, which you must accept. ○ For more conversation and quick communication, join our WhatsApp group. ■ WhatsApp has special grade level groups, SpED and magnet. + Busses. ○ Being in these spaces will get you our Newsletter, which comes out weekly on Monday. ○ The Newsletter delivers information about the school, our parent PTA MCCPTA advocacy priorities, meeting minutes from meetings like these, community events and more! ● Welcome	5min
7:10-7:12	**Upcoming Events (Emily, 2 min)** ● Teacher luncheon ● Multicultural Night ● Silent Auction help	2 min

7:15-7:20	**Membership and Fall Fundraiser https://www.tpmspta.org/** ● Membership and fundraising drive results (Heather 2 minutes) ● What we're fundraising for	5 min
7:20-7:28	**Minority Scholars Presentation** ● Topic : TBD	8 min
7:28-7:30	**Budget Update (Mic)**	2 min
7:30-8:10	**TPMS English Curriculum** ● Overview (Ms. Martin, 5 min) ● Presentation (Ms. Soriano, Ms. Todd Hunter) (35 min)	40 min
8:10-8:30	**Open Q&A with Ms. Martin and the PTSA (25 min)**	25 min

November 10, 2026 | Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) General Meeting Minutes
Meeting presentation slides: [November PTSA Slides]

Attendees:
TPMS PTSA Board: Emily Modde, Summer Smith, Chris Campbell, Ramata Diop, Beth Dunford, and Ms. Martin. Other members of the Administration present were Ms. Lee, Mr. Booker, Ms. Soriano and Ms. Todhunter.

At 7:20 there were 69 members participating in the Zoom call, including the Board, TPMS Administrators, community members, and students. At the height of the meeting there were 77 participants.

Meeting Minutes

Welcome
Chris Campbell, VP of Communications, opened the meeting and welcomed members to our third PTSA Member meeting of the school year. The PTSA is offering Spanish translation tonight, offered by our Board Member Ramata Diop.

Ms. Martin reminded students that if they attend this meeting, they can receive Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for their attendance. The forms are located in the Main Office. Ms. Martin said if students didn't receive their SSL hours for the last meeting, to see her in the office.

Chris then went over our agenda for the evening, including updates, announcements, meeting the Minority Scholars, an update on the budget, learning about the new English Curriculum and question/answer portion.

Communications - Connect With Us
Chris thanked everyone who supported our membership drive. We're excited to share information with you on an ongoing basis: Join our conversations!
https://www.tpmspta.org/abouttpmspta/mailinglists/

We encourage everyone to join the PTSA. *Note that if you become a member, you still need to sign up separately for our communications*. The PTSA has many different ways that we communicate with our school community:

Announce - PTSA updates and information, the Blue Devil Newsletter comes out Monday evening. The Newsletter delivers information about the school, our parent PTA MCCPTA

advocacy priorities, meeting minutes from meetings like these, community events and more! Note you must accept the invitation to receive these announcements.

Discuss - email channel that is more of a back and forth communication.

WhatsApp - This is more of a conversation platform and a great place to ask quick questions. The PTSA has 7 different channels: three that are grade specific, one for Special Ed families, one for Magnet families, and one for bus routes (note there is a sub group for every bus route that goes to TPMS).

Upcoming Events
Emily Modde, PTSA Board President shared upcoming events hosted by the PTSA.

Multicultural Night - was November 12 from 6-8 pm in the TPMS Cafeteria. It was a HUGE success. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and showed up.

Teacher Luncheon - Monday, November 23: The PTSA is sponsoring soup and pie for teachers to eat during parent teacher conferences. Soup, Pie, and other contributions needed. Signup here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4DA4AC28A4F49-60273633-soup#/

Silent Auction - this is an annual event where we need items and/or services for our PTSA to auction off. It's not until March 2027, but it's never too early to start gathering items. We also need volunteers. Please reach out to Ann Gordon who will chair this event.

Fall Fundraising
We wrapped up our Fall Membership drive. As part of this drive, we attributed points to each house. Look for a winner soon! The winning house will also receive a treat!

You can still become a member: join our PTSA: https://www.tpmspta.org/join-the-pta .

Fall Fundraising - our December 1 goal is to raise $17,000. We're only $3,000 away from our goal. Please consider donating to our PTSA!
https://www.tpmspta.org/join-the-pta

What does the PTSA Support? All this AND more!
Mini-grants to Teachers and Staff to Enrich Curriculum (Last year these included: Counseling office reboot room materials, after school program materials, training resources, Pi Day activities, instrument repair, curriculum enrichment, and so much more); Welcome Families Picnic Potluck; 6th Grade Outdoor Ed Reptile Man; 8th Grade Promotion Dance;

Student Dances; Assembly Performances; School Beautification - School Garden and Mosaic; International Multicultural Night Event; Books & Basketball Community Building Event; Speakers and Presenters; Agenda Books; Teacher & Staff Appreciation Activities, Events and Meals; Teacher & Staff Professional Development Augmentation; Cafecitos; Instrument repair and practice room build out.

Meet the Minority Scholars at TPMS!
The Minority Scholars Program gives student leaders a space to stand up against racism, promote equity, and celebrate diversity. Members empower each other and their peers through courageous conversations, mentoring, and advocacy work. The work is grounded in the five keys: Academic Achievement; Student Voice; Student Leadership; Cultural Capital; and Community Engagement.

The program also helps minority students to advocate for themselves, feel confident and prepared to take honors classes, and become leaders in their own way. Ms. Martin introduced Ms.Lee and Mr. Booker the teacher sponsors and the students who are attending tonight. Ms. Lee is an English teacher at TPMS and this is her first year in this role.

The Minority Scholars asked that the PTSA help support them with an upcoming event: a Winter Social where Any TPMS student can come engage in activities and drink hot coco! Look out for more information as the event gets closer.

Budget Update
Mic Murphy, PTSA Treasurer presented updated finances. We made $1,111 during the Election Day Bake Sale. Other recent financial accomplishments include: Annual Financial Review forms submitted to Free State PTA; IRS 990-N e-postcard filed for Tax Year 2025-2026; Membership Dues paid to MCC PTA and Free State PTA; and the PTSA closed an inactive Venmo Account.

TPMS English Curriculum
MCPS has a new English Curriculum! Ms. Todhunter presented the new TPMS English Curriculum that is currently in its second year. TPMS ELA/Reading Information - Google Slides

How did we get here: Mr. Todhunter said that six to seven years ago we were living through the pandemic - schools were virtual, many students couldn't show up, and some students fell behind. From 2020-2024 MCPS maddle school implemented StudySync: Instructional priorities were centered on depth over pace, grade-level texts and tasks, frequency and fluency of reading, and inclusion of ALL students

2025-2026 brought the implementation of Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) for all middle schools. This year (2026-2027) is the second year of CKLA. core principles are: Tier 1, grade-level instruction for ALL students; Practice grounded in the Science of Learning; and Vetted curriculum with High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) that prioritizes academic language, fluency, writing, morphology, discourse, and knowledge-building.

Why dd MCPS choose CKLA? According to Mr. Todhunter, “CKLA open-source curriculum is designed to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality, content-rich literacy education. CKLA builds students’ background knowledge and academic vocabulary, which are critical to the development of reading comprehension and long-term academic success. CKLA integrates reading, writing, speaking, and listening with engaging content in history, science, literature, and the arts. It helps all learners, especially those from historically underserved backgrounds, develop the knowledge and skills they need to become strong, confident readers and thinkers.”

The Features of CKLA include: “No online platform!; students may use computers for classwork, but CKLA is not computer based; students have access to materials on paper; students are using books in class; and eBook versions of most texts are available on myMCPSclassroom as well as audio versions.”

For the current 6th, 7th and 8th grade curriculums, please see the slides: TPMS ELA/Reading Information - Google Slides (6th: slide 7; 7th slide 25, and 8th slide 35).

Some highlights of the 6th grade curriculum are: Unit 4 - myth writing, this is a big hit for all our TPMS students; Unit 7 - a focus on Civil Rights - reading The Blessings of Liberty: Voices for Social Justice and Equal Rights in America and ending the year with poem writing and reading.

Some highlights of the 7th grade curriculum are: starring the year reading Hello, Universe, about a group of friends exploring friendship and destiny; reading The Tempest
aloud during class; working on their own poetry writing; and creating multimedia reports based on : The Genius of the Harlem Renaissance, Vol. 1 (for SSL hours!).

Highlights of the 8th grade curriculum are: reading a series of short stories, exploring the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, and ending the year writing poetry.

The overall curriculum is designed to be intense and challenge students. Multiple TPMS teachers attend specific workshops to help support the CKLA curriculum. An additional

highlight of the program includes additional enrichment for students who are ahead of their classmates (additional reading/harder assignments).

March - May 2027 we will see the big end of year tests which will include an adaptive design: as the student answers more questions correctly, the test will get harder and harder. When asked what is the one thing caregivers and families can do to support our TMPS students, the overwhelming response was - READ!

Additional information and resources can be found here:
https://www.coreknowledge.org/language-arts/

CKLA Questions
Ms. Soriano helped facilitate questions related to CKLA.

Question: How is enrichment assigned to students?
Answer: It is being assigned as an extension activity for students to complete as “an addition” to their standard work. This could look like a harder text and/or more challenging assignments. If you are interested if your student is receiving enrichment, feel free to reach out to their English teacher. Currently, the school does not have teachers track what types of enrichment are being offered in a school-wide manner. Mr. Todhunter said this is something that they could explore going forward.

Question: What resources are out there for students who need help writing?
Answer: Help can be offered in class and at home. In class, teachers can help students and at home, caregivers can encourage writing. Help your student find what types of writing they are interested in - short stories, novels, fiction, graphic novels, and more.

Question: How can I help my student prepare for English quizzes and tests?
Answer: FOr all your students' classes, you can see what they are doing in MyMCPS Classroom. Each teacher posts every lesson there and you can review the slides with your student.

Other Questions
Communications
Question: I reached out to a teacher, and I never heard back.
Answer: Please note that teachers are very busy and might miss an email. Please reach out again and you can consider including their counselor and/or Administrator. Also, please remember our teachers have so much on their plates and offer them grace. And note that some teachers are out and may not be able to respond - this week our 7th

grade teachers and administrators are with our students at Finance Park, which takes them away from email.

Question: What level of involvement should I expect as a caregiver - should I be reaching out to my students' teachers at all?
Answer: Please reach out to teachers and staff as needed. We're all in this together. Ms. Soriano added that she encouraged families to reach out and believes this is true all the way through High School.

Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours

Question: How can I check how many SSL hours my student has earned?
Answer: You will get a number on the report card at the end of the quarter. For hours that are linked to year-long class projects, they usually show up at the end of the school year.

Question: For SSL hours earned during PTSA meetings, when do those show up for my student?
Answer: Ms. Martin checks attendance at the end of the meeting via a form in the chat. The next day, students can go to the office and receive their form. It is their responsibility to pick up the form, fill it out, and return it in the main office.

Question: In general, how do SSL Hours work?
Answer: It depends on what the activity is! For general assignments that all students have to do each year, those are generally awarded at the end of the school year. For students who volunteer for PTSA events (like helping with Multicultural Night or the Picnic), those are given out at the end of the event.

Students can earn 50 SSL hours through successful completion of the courses listed below. During school, teachers lead students through class research and service-learning projects:
10 Hours Grade 6 Science
10 Hours Grade 7 English
10 Hours Grade 8 Social Studies
5 Hours High School Health B
+ 15 Hours High School Class– National, State, and Local Government

Still have questions? We understand it can be confusing. Stay tuned for a PTSA "cheat sheet" on SSL Hours!

Question: Do Difference Makers earn SSL hours?
Answer: Yes!

Final Question: (From a student) What advanced classes can I take next year?
Answer: Ms. Martin said that they are current in the process of determining what classes will be available next year. In around January/February, the school will start hosting information sessions for students and families. Look for more soon.

Emily closed out the meeting at 8:19.

Please note there is NO PTSA meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 7-8:30 via Zoom.

Do you have questions, ideas or thoughts for our meetings? Contact us!
tpms.pta.president@gmail.com