

PTA Meeting
February 13, 2023

7:03 pm Mrs. Erdheim opened the meeting. Introduced Mrs. Deane, Restorative Justice Coach, at Mill Creek Towne Elementary School.

1. Mrs. Deane introduced herself. She has been a teacher at MCTES for 8 years. This year she became the Restorative Justice Coach. She's sharing the same slides tonight that she has shared w/ staff at school so all are on the same page with words and concepts.

Any questions, please feel free to raise your hand, ask or put in the chat. She is learning too, but is happy to answer questions. If she doesn't have the answer she will reach out and get back to us via Mrs. Erdheim.

Two outcomes of tonight's meeting; meet the team and answer what is RJ.

1. Floyd Branch III-- Instructional specialist for two schools, Kennedy HS and Magruder HS, and all schools under them (elementary and middle). He has a LOT. Each school has had the opportunity to give the RJ Coach position to someone at their school. Mr. Floyd is a resource that we can ask questions of.
2. What is restorative justice-- traditional approach is to place blame, focus on broken rules, and punishments. Restorative Justice asks 3 different questions.
 - A. Who was hurt?
 - B. What are the needs of those affected and what needs to be done to repair the harm?
 - C. Who has the obligation to address these needs, repair the harm, and restore the relationship?

We are not professionals at this yet, but learning.

What is Restorative Justice

1. Building community—Making connections with one another.
2. Self Care—Caring for ourselves and caring for each other
3. Conflict resolution—Repairing relationships when conflicts happen by supporting each other to be accountable for our actions and to prevent ourselves from hurting others in the future.

We are already doing a lot of this.

Building community— Town Hall Meeting, PTA , birthday celebrations, spirit week, principal coffee talks, Leader in Me, staff in halls to greet students, and lunch bunches.

Self care— flexible seating, affirmations, brain breaks, teaching “I feel” and “I need”, calm down corner, celebrating the process, and mindfulness corners.

Conflict resolution— cool-off time, talk it out and forgive, brainstorm solutions, modeling the use of I messages, instruct when to ask for help, listen to both sides, validate the other person's feelings

We do not have all of the answers, and hope to continue with this list more. We are looking for ideas—maybe you have students at other schools. We welcome any ideas they may do at those schools or ideas you may have. .

Mrs. Deane showed the Restorative questions for conflict resolution and stated all staff members have been giving this, fits in our lanyards so we have it with us at all times. .

It provides the questions for restorative questions for conflict resolution

What happened?

What were you thinking?

What do you think now?

Who does/did this affect? How?

What do you think needs to be done to make things right?

How can we make sure this doesn't happen again?
How can I help you?

Myth busting — Restorative practices are **NOT**

- Simply a response to conflict,
- Being soft on students or eliminating consequences
- Punitive,
- A bandaid,
- Something you can finish
- Limited to circles
- Inherently anti-racist

There is a RJ coach at every school level. Problems are not the same in elementary, middle and/or high school.

Mrs. Deane opened it to any questions.

Question: -is all staff strained, or just teachers. Mrs. Deane said she has gone to 1 meeting per month. I 'm learning the process. We are sharing with school staff. I have ideas what staff want further learning on. Many want to do conflict resolution, so we will start with that.

Comment from parent: Recess is an area where Conflict Resolution needs.

Ms. Shinn said our recess supervisors have not officially been trained but have had it modeled for them to ask the questions, identify what we are talking about. She gave an example of talking with a third grade student. She called the para down who ended up having a conversation with the student.

We are at the foundation of starting this at our school. Our students are realizing every time I have a conversation with an adult it doesn't mean punishment. Ms. Shinn is not about a "kid jail" but growing good humans. Ms. Shinn also said Mrs. Deane uses the RJ in her class every day in talking with her students. When she said, "We are learning from each

other". She is very humble in saying she is just learning. She is a natural. She is a natural fit to our school and our program.

Mrs. Deane stated In kindergarten we have classroom circle time. In the beginning of the year, it is a lot of changes; eating in the lunchroom, playground with lots of kids, etc. At first, there was kicking under the table at lunch. So we went to class and had a circle. Now, they are asking can we have a classroom circle about this... It is interesting because when you talk to students it is more than someone did something... ex; I kicked, why, I wanted their chocolate milk, why? Mine spilled. We can learn and solve other problems too, like how to ask for more milk if mine spilled.

Question: Is there supplementary material we can get to help school with cause or for our own sake? Mrs. Deane said she will ask Mr. Floyd. They love being able to share resources. I will share them with Mrs. Erdheim and she can get them to all of you. It goes beyond the question cards. I'd love to share those resources. If there could be a PTA night and bring problems and brainstorm to solve them, I would love to do that. Parent: Both will be most beneficial for us as parents, to help at school and at home. Mrs. Erdheim stated it sounds great, I will touch base and get it on the calendar for March or April.

Ms. Shinn introduced our counselor. Ms. Heath. She's been spearheading Leader in me. It goes along with RJ. The way we talk to and about scholars starts with building community. What we know from virtual learning, when they were disconnected, they didn't feel a part of something. When you do not feel a part of it, you do not care as much about hurting. Yes, we need to have a night where we share RJ and Leader in me.

Mrs. Edheim asked if any questions for Mrs. Deane.

Question: How does time-out fit or not fit in with this in schools? Is this a framework that goes with RJ? Mrs. Deane explained we have tried to implement a calming corner, wouldn't call it a time out but a self-calming corner. It is a seat in the classroom they can be in. It has a bubble timer,

they can use it for two flips. They have fidgets. The student knows when I go there, I need a mental break before I come back to a problem or after recess when something happened. Teacher sees the child and says okay, I can see the child needs something and I can check on them. The student can say I know I need a place to calm down.

A parent said she is Interested in bringing disability into the conversation too. Mrs. Deane said she did spec ed for 6 years, so I am very pleased to hear that.

Mrs. Erdheim asked if there were any questions. If you have any more questions, email me, Mrs. Deane, or Ms. Shinn. We will get back to you.

Mrs. Erdheim shared the agenda

Vote on December 8, 2022 meeting notes. Motion to approve minutes– Mr. Adler made a motion to approve, Ms. Cheryl Ross seconded the motion, all in favor. All in favor. Any opposed. None heard. Approved

Past events–

McDonalds– December, made \$350,

Ledos– a couple of weeks ago, made a little over \$200

International Night– first back after a couple of years off- Huge shout out to Ms. Rudmann who put it together and those that participated. It was amazing. Most well attended event.

Would love to do that and more as we have volunteers to do it.

Upcoming events–

Movie night in March– if we have a volunteer to organize it

April 27, Science Expo– kids at school see on it on Friday morning

Yearbook is in edit mode now, please send in photos, first day of school, field trips. 5th graders– need a baby picture

Staff appreciation week– May, need a volunteer or group of volunteers. Do have a sign up genius form that can be shared. Usually do breakfast one day, lunch one day and a catered meal too. We are always looking for ideas.

May Fair– Friday night. Need a volunteer. Have a contact for inflatables and games in the closet to be pulled out. Do have information from last year. Many families from the past are gone or have fifth graders, need people with younger students that will be around for a little while.

Need a president and other positions next year, especially president!! Seems like the president does a LOT– but that is not the case. They lead the meetings and make sure there is a person to lead the events. If you have friends and want to get involved, this is a great place to do it– especially if child is in younger grades, have few years and then pass it off

Lost and found out of control– time for people to come and look. There will be a certain day where if it is not claimed, we will donate. We will have people claim or donate to the bins. Do not want to get rid of anything until people have had chance to claim

FB page– have to request
Email and webpage
You can join at any point

Mr. Adler– budget - 5th grade doing great for the end of year party. They are at \$2000.

Delegate update. 2 main things MCCPTA put through delegates–1. digital balance resolution– did pass and it will come out. We want less screen time in front of students at school. Certain lessons can be done not on screen and we want them done not on screen...2. MCCPTA advocacy priority

Ms. Shinn wanted to highlight the work being done, –namely the PTA, what community means. Community having opportunity for communities coming together around a common cause. Voices coming together that are seldom heard. Started a program to hear voices that are marginalized. We need to operate as all are welcome, and make the opportunity for all of them to come together. How can we celebrate our community? Ms. Shinn

celebrated MAP improvement. Our scholars are making great gains by our teachers digging in– Ms. Shinn is happy where we are sitting in the middle year data. She’s happy and looking forward to celebrating with them.

Code Purple: Probably will not use code purple– blizzard and imminent closure for more than a day. Ms. Shinn showed where to find it on MCPS website– code green, all is good and normal. Others indicate delayed opening. Code purple under inclement weather links. All of the codes are listed with colors and what they learn.

Purple– state requires 4 hours of synchronous learning. They will start at 11. Our plans are simple. We kept it as streamlined as possible. It is a heavy lift for families, scholars and teachers. It is not just a flip of the switch. Entire school math 11:00-12:30. Our school is an emergency food distribution site. Anybody can come to MCT to get hot lunches. Student ids are required. Common lunch from 12:30-1:00. Literacy from 1:00- 3:00. Specials from 3:00-3:30. Pre-K Speech and language classes will have a time for the morning and afternoon classes; 11:00– 12:50 and 1:30 to 3:20, respectively. If we go into a code purple for weather, there will be a live zoom link so you can directly to your teacher and have all of the information. We are not posting them yet because no one would access them. It is all about grace. No assignments will be “a one and done graded”. It will be a challenge for our youngest. It is about knowing the option exists but fully understanding if it doesn't work for your family it doesn't work for your family. Any missed instruction would be addressed by the teachers.

Mrs. Erdheim thanked Mrs. Deane again for the presentation, great idea to do a family night around RJ and the leader in me. Any questions, reach out.

7:48– meeting adjourned.