

Miller Avenue School Parent Teacher Organization

3 Miller Avenue

Shoreham, NY 11786

631.821.8231



Miller Ave PTO

September 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by: Brittany Yannucci, Recording Secretary

- I. 6:32 PM Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance
- II. 6:32 PM New Board Member introduction:
 - All of the board members introduced themselves; including two new members, Lianne Hoffmann, Treasurer and Brittany Yannucci, Recording Secretary. Ashley Mulligan, Corresponding Secretary was absent.
- III. 6:33 PM - 6:49 PM Principal's Report (Claudia Smith):
 - Mrs. Smith thanked the PTO team for their creativity and for all the special events they bring to the building.
 - Mrs. Smith spoke about how the routines are now in place at Miller Avenue, curriculum picking up, student review meetings are being done.
 - Claudia Smith thanked the PTO and audience members for the success of the Kindergarten Playdate. She informed the group that there are 150 kindergartners this year, about 20 kids per classroom.
 - She spoke about Chalk the Walk being a success and thanked Kim Hepburn for the special mural.
 - Picture day went smoothly.
 - Mrs. Smith spoke about one of her priorities, keeping kids safe on the bus, while still allowing them to have fun. She spoke about Star Student of the Bus which will begin in two weeks. The Star Student will receive a red ticket that will be good for one free item at the school store or Fruity Friday. She believes that this will be the best way to positively reinforce good behavior and encourage students to follow the bus rules while riding on the bus.
 - Lunch Program- Miller Avenue does not have a kitchen, however, meals are delivered hot and ready from the Middle School each day. This year meals will be free for all students and the lunch monitors will hand out the meals to the students who order.
 - Claudia Smith spoke about the first lockdown drill that will occur on September 19, 2025.
 - Mrs. Smith spoke about parents' concerns over a "suspicious package" that was delivered to Miller Avenue during the week and assured the members that there was no threat, no danger, but felt out of an abundance of caution to involve the police to ensure everyone's safety.
 - There is a bees nest on the playground that was being monitored and students were kept out of the area.
 - Mrs. Smith encouraged parents to join the Parent Square app as a constant way to be informed on what is happening at Miller Avenue and SWR schools.

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Lisa Kowalchuk - Co-President, LisaMAPTO@gmail.com

Lianne Hoffmann - Treasurer, LianneMAPTO@gmail.com

Ashley Mulligan - Corresponding Secretary, AshleyMulliganPTO@gmail.com

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Remind: 2nd Grade @mapto2036

1st Grade @mapto2037

Kindergarten @mapto2038

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IV. 6:49 PM Treasurer's Report - Adoption of Budget:

- Lianne Hoffmann, Treasurer, provided the group with copies of the budget from this year and last year. She asked if anyone had any questions; no questions were asked.
- All in favor of budget, Approved @ 6:49 PM.

V. 6:50 PM President's Report - Welcome Message/Presentation:

- Mary Cait Byrnes, Co-President, welcomed the attendees, letting them know how much the PTO board enjoys what they do, that they are available for your children and parents and to reach out at any time.

VI. 6:51 PM- 7:02 PM Old Business (Mary Cait Byrnes):

- Kindergarten Play Date- each student was provided a t-shirt (color dependent on class), ready confetti, stickers and books also gifted to each incoming student. Mary Cait encouraged attendees to provide her with any feedback regarding the event via email.
- Chalk the Walk- another successful year, the kids had a great time, as well as the parents being able to leave messages for their child.
- Teacher/Staff Luncheon- the cost was \$1,726 and \$1,514 of that was raised by the community members. The luncheon was catered by Zest Gourmet Catering and the staff loved it. Mary Cait thanked the community members and Zest.
- The mum pre-sale has ended. There were approximately 190 mums pre-ordered for pick up starting on Friday, September 19th at 3:15 pm. There were 44 extra mums ordered that could be sold the day of. Mary Cait thanked Andrew's Family Farm for supplying the mums.
- T-shirts for the 1st and 2nd graders will go home at the end of this week or next week. The 2nd graders should keep their t-shirts "handy" for the 2nd grade class photo on the playground that will take place on 11/14/25. These t-shirts are also used for Field Trips.
- Picture Day went smoothly and Class Act Photography was thanked for their kindness to the children and for their efficiency. Pictures can still be purchased online only at this time. Picture retakes will be on 11/14/25 for anyone who missed them and/or would like to have a new photo taken. Mary Cait informed the group that she will be at retakes on 11/14 and encouraged parents to write notes on the photo package what they would like changed for retake day. She also informed parents that picture retake day tends to be much more calm for children who may get overwhelmed.
- Volunteer Slots have been sent out and filled. These slots were only for the first half of the year. The rest of the year's volunteer opportunities will be sent out around December before break. The waitlist has also been sent out. Mary Cait informed attendees that there are a lot more opportunities coming up and not to feel discouraged if they did not get an opportunity yet. She also encouraged attendees to sign up for the upcoming book fair, which needs four volunteers per class. There are still some yearbook volunteer slots

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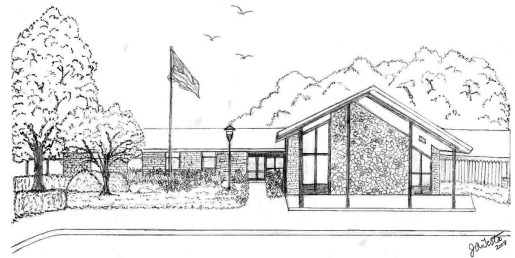
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available. Mary Cait also spoke about how pop up shops are on a lottery system. Future volunteers were informed that they must remain in the area where the volunteering is occurring; they are not permitted to walk around the building. Volunteers must also sign up using the name that they have on their license. Older siblings are not permitted during volunteering and please reach out to Mary Cait and/or Lisa if younger siblings have to attend due to childcare issues. Younger siblings are not encouraged due to space restraints.

- The membership drive is still open and available at <https://mapto-membership-25-26.cheddarup.com>. Attendees were encouraged to donate and email any special events ideas.

VII. 7:02 PM - 7:14 PM New Business (Lisa Kowalchuck, Co-President):

- The first Fruity Friday will take place tomorrow, Friday, September 19th during the student's lunch period. The fruit and fruit items are all \$1.00 and in compliance with the national school lunch program. Only items that are made of fruit are offered. Lisa encouraged attendees to have money in a ziploc bag with the student's name on it. She also informed the group that there will always be a board member present at each sale. Lisa spoke about how each Fruity Friday is such an amazing learning experience for kids to be able to purchase items with their own money.
- The first School Store will be on 10/8/25. School store items are \$1.00 each and will also be sold during the student's lunch period. The school store is offered once per month, unless there is a pop-up shop within the same month. Kids love the school store and all of the fun items that are sold.
- The Fall Festival at Fink's Farm will be on Wednesday, 10/1/25. The bracelet pre-order has already started; \$15 per bracelet for ages 3+. Bracelets will also be available for purchase at the door for \$20, however, attendees were also informed that the line at the door tends to be very long. Bracelets will be sent home with students on 9/29/25. Bracelets can be purchased at <https://maptofallfestival2025.cheddarup.com>. Lisa informed the group that only Miller Avenue families are allowed to attend and that food/drinks are cash only.
- The Scholastic Book Fair will take place between 10/14-10/17 during class. The evening book fair will be on 10/15 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. More information will be provided soon on social media and website. The class schedule and volunteer sign up will also be available soon. An eWallet option is available so that your child can be cashless, which opens on 9/22. eWallet: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/milleravenueelementarysch>.
- There will be an online sale of sportswear that will go on within the next few weeks. The sportswear will go home with students, unless there is a very large order. If any of the sportswear is supposed to be a gift for the child, please let Mary Cait know so that arrangements can be made.
- Trunk or Treat will be held on 10/25 for Miller Avenue families only. There will be a prize for the best trunk; everyone gets to vote. This event was a huge success last year! The PTO is also thinking of doing a food drive during the event that will be donated to the local food pantry.

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- The Halloween pop-up shop will be on 10/29 during lunch periods. This pop-up shop will have Halloween themed items for \$1.00-\$2.00. Volunteers will be selected via lottery and will only be eligible for one pop-up shop per year.
- Students will be working on their Square One Art projects during art class with Mrs. Brown. Catalogs will be sent home in November with a preview of the child's artwork and orders can be made.

VIII. 7:14 PM Principal Q & A:

- Mrs. Smith let the attendees know that Homecoming will take place at the SWR High School on Friday, September 26th. All Miller Avenue students/families are welcome to walk in a short parade before the football game.
- There were no questions for Claudia Smith at this time.

IX. 7:14 PM Other Business:

- Candy Buy Back will occur after Halloween and students can earn extra recess if their "monster" (one monster per grade) wins. This candy will be given to the military and orthodontist.

The PTO Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. Attendees were provided coffee and donuts.

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