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Co-Chairs Mick O'Dea/Ashlei Parris  
Meeting Minutes

1) Welcome to New Parents

2) Principal's Report: For more detail of the Top 5 Priorities Principal Borthwick put forth, please inquire for a handout at her office. Here is the list of categories that the Instructional Leadership, Early Childhood, Culture of Achievement and School Site Councils will be addressing this school year.

- a) Increased academic rigor in literacy
- b) Differentiated instruction and use of data to strategize instruction
- c) Increased inclusive opportunities for students with autism
- d) Leverage common language around ROCK Star core values
- e) Implement or increase culturally relevant practices in classrooms

Principal Borthwick discussed each of these, and announced efforts to work with an outside educator/ facilitator for help in engaging the school community--staff, parents and children -- in more discussion, education and curriculum designed to help understand differing identities and experiences. For updates on this ongoing effort, please attend the monthly Parent Council Meetings.

3) Treasurer's Report: Treasure Kelly Cunniffe  
\$1,135 in cash reserves (from 2014-2015 fundraising)

4) Parents in attendance voted to make a \$100 donation in honor of a 5th grade family that suffered a tragic loss.

5) Open Positions:

a) School Site Council needs at least 1 new member and is strongly encouraging participation by men. All are welcome at the monthly School Site Council meeting. It takes place in the hour prior to the Parent's Council meeting each month. Childcare is provided at both meetings.

b) Citywide School Council. The Mozart needs 2 representatives. Kelly Cunniffe and Monique Oliveira have volunteered to serve as alternates. This positions requires attending monthly meetings at 2300 Washington Street Roxbury in the new Boston Public Schools central building (Last Tuesday of every month)

6) Let's Talk: This time is for parents to bring new issues or suggestions to the floor. The September meeting focused on Diversity and Homework

a) Diversity/Inclusion. A parent-led discussion of personal experiences at the Mozart as they relate to diversity, race, and inclusion. It was generally agreed this would be an ongoing discussion as Principal Borthwick advises the school community on this 2015-2016 priority.

b) Homework. Many parents find the District-generated Homework Sheets frustrating.

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Some examples cited were generally agreed upon as confusing, poorly worded or presented, or otherwise problematic. A suggestion was made to NOTE the problems to your classroom teacher when they arise, and also bring your concern to Curriculum Night. At the October meeting, this discussion will continue with a decision on whether and how to present complaints at a classroom, principal, or district level.

7) Upcoming Events: The Mozart Parade flyers have been distributed. All other school events for the first half of the year will be discussed at the October meeting.

8) Wellness Policy: Birthdays will be celebrated once a month in Mozart classrooms. The Wellness Policy states that parents should send only "healthy snacks" to share for classroom celebrations. That list does not apply to individual lunch boxes. Those food choices are not governed by the Mozart or the District, but the Mozart does follow the District policy on Wellness for any food or snacks that is distributed to share. This policy was discussed and clarified for new parents. A list of healthy snacks can be found by visiting the Wellness page.

Reminder: The Mozart School Website has a calendar showing all school events.