

## **Shepherd Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization**

**Minutes: October 16, 2019, general business meeting**

**Board members in attendance: Taryn Losch-Beridon (1st Vice President), Caroline Smith (Recording Secretary), Lauren Benning (Corresponding Secretary), Karen Sloan (Assistant Treasurer), Andrea Smith (Assistant Treasurer),**

**Absent: Liz Bradley (President) and Ayana McIntosh (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President)**

**Welcome from the PTO First Vice President, Taryn Losch-Beridon**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Between 25-30 people were in attendance.

### **Updates from Dr. Hedlund**

Dr. Hedlund had parents get in a circle. She conducted a brief “morning meeting” with parents, asking them to both greet as many people as possible and discuss something that they have in common.

She followed this activity up by indicating that the learner profile of the month is “inquirer.”

### **IB Update from Ms. Mack**

- Ms. Mack indicated that the IB Academies that she hosted on Parent/Teacher Conference day went well.
- In January, she is hoping to run a program centering on supporting IB learning at home.
- The best way to stay updated on what is happening in the IB classroom is through the newsletters that go out.
- She also indicated that the PTA’s IB Committee is going well. The room parents will be used as points of contacts for information coming from this committee.
- Ms. Mack expressed desire to connect with the PTA representative who is in charge of social media.
- She also announced the mini-embassy adoption program has been started. Each class will be partnered with a country. She hopes that students will begin taking action on the things that they are learning about.
- She is also hoping that as a community we can participate in monthly community events that promote sustainability.
- She concluded by thanking everyone who has supported the IB initiatives.

### **Approval of September Minutes**

Taryn asked those present to vote on passing the September meeting minutes. A motion was made. The motion was seconded. The minutes were passed.

### **Financial Update**

- Andrea reviewed the current budget. She indicated that T-shirts continue to bring in revenue. She also indicated that the concessions at movie night went well.
- Andrea reminded everyone of other ways to contribute to Shepherd. For instance, Amazon Smile and the Box Tops program. Caroline will send these announcements regarding other opportunities to donate to Shepherd in the upcoming PTA newsletters.

### **Fall Fest Update**

- The event is Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 pm. Family sponsorships are still available. These sponsorships are \$100 and include a bag, a water bottle, a wristband, and 25 tickets. You can also purchase tickets at the event, but you cannot purchase sponsorships there.
- Volunteers are still needed for the event.

### **Upcoming Fundraisers**

#### ***Shepherd Fall Family Photo Fundraiser***

- Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>
- The photographer will donate her entire sitting fee (\$65) to Shepherd. She just asks you to purchase prints directly from her.

#### **Blue 44 – Restaurant Night**

- Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

#### **Greenery Sale**

- A greenery sale will be held in November or December.

### **Other Issues**

#### ***School Safety***

- A parent raised a concern about supervision during lunch and recess.
- Dr. Hedlund indicated that the incident the parent was referring to had been dealt with.
- This brought up a discussion of incidents that people have experienced at lunch and recess. A kindergarten parent indicated that they had no issues. Other parents agreed.
- Dr. Hedlund indicated that there are always two staff members or teachers on the playground at all times.
- It was pointed out that third grade and fourth grade are the bubble years, which means that there are three sections instead of two. The question was asked whether this meant that there were more adults at lunch and recess because of this.
- The question was not directly answered, but another parent encouraged the third and fourth grade parents have a meeting with Dr. Hedlund about this since it was not an all school concern.
- It was acknowledged that safety of the students should be of concern especially with the new build.
- Andrea suggested that the parent who raised the issue file a complaint with DCPS.

### ***Homework Issues***

- A parent raised a concern about how homework is handled. Is it required? How much is appropriate? Does it increase and how? She suggested that it be made more transparent.
- Dr. Hedlund indicated that these policies are in the handbook which is on the website.

### ***Increased Recess***

- A parent raised a concern that the students need more time outside. The national standard, this parent indicated, is 60 minutes.

### ***Holiday Productions***

- There will be a winter concert as well as a spring production. The school will be putting on *Aladdin*.

***The next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.