

Shepherd Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

Minutes: December 18, 2019, general business meeting

Board members in attendance: Liz Bradley (President), Taryn Losch-Beridon (1st Vice President), Caroline Smith (Recording Secretary),

Absent: Ayana McIntosh (2nd Vice President), Lauren Benning (Corresponding Secretary), Karen Sloan (Treasurer). Andrea Smith (Assistant Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Between 20-30 people were in attendance.

Welcome from the PTO President, Liz Bradley

Updates from Dr. Hedlund

- Dr. Hedlund opened with an activity similar to those that the students do during school time.

STAR Rating Discussion

- She then discussed the STAR rating, distributing a handout which summarized the findings.
- Shepherd received a 4-star rating.
- She noted that Shepherd performs very well in reading but not as well in math.

Recess Plan

- Dr. Hedlund indicated that starting in January there will be a new recess plan – one which aims to help students learn how to play with one another in a constructive way.
- Teachers are being encouraged to standardize their language regarding behavior, and that language will be shared with the parents so that they, too, can implement those strategies.
- Dr. Hedlund indicated that 32 degrees is the cut off for outdoor recess. Any temperature about that, and students will go outside.

Construction Update

- Dr. Hedlund indicated that the groundbreaking ceremony was well attended.
- There will be a construction superintendent onsite who Dr. Hedlund will be able to address any concerns with.
- It was indicated that by Fall 2020 the building should be open.
- A parent expressed concern about the air quality during construction. Dr. Hedlund indicated that the soil quality was of a bigger concern, and they were working to control that.

Updates from the Recording Secretary

- Caroline reviewed the highlights of the minutes from the last meeting.

Updates from the Treasurer

- The budget highlights to date were discussed.
- It was noted that the PTO had already funded three field trips.

IB Updates

- Ms. Mack shared that each classroom is partnering with an embassy. Look for more information in the future regarding these partnerships.

Additional Announcements

Spring Gala

- The spring gala will be happening and help will be needed. Please contact Liz if you are interested in helping out.

DCPS Budget Hearing

- The DCPS budget hearing is coming up in January. We want to make sure that our language learning is supported.

By-Laws Update

- Taryn will look into updating the PTO's bylaws. Anyone interested in helping with that project should contact her.

PTO Survey

- Michelle Musgrove will develop another PTO survey for parents.

Upcoming Events

- The annual Summer Camp Expo will be held on January 15th. Please contact Ayanna McIntosh if you are interested in helping out, donating money, or donating weeks at camps.
- Jazz Night will be held on February 28th.
- The Health and Wellness Fair will be held in the spring as well.
- The Spring Gala is tentatively scheduled for April 25th.

The next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.