

East Mecklenburg High School PTSO – Meeting 10/12/2021 (7:30 am)

Attendance: (28)

Mary Beth Ausman, Cynthia Bailey, Tanja Buchanan, Carola Cárdenas, Jill Federal, Samya Gajjar, Will Hair, Devonya Govan-Hunt (z), Christine Haynes, Quillie Hunt, Jyotsna Maid, S.Y. Mason Watson (z), Chelsea Mellon, Hasty Millen, LaSonya Moore, Keisha Murray (z), Ruth Nett, Genie Ombach, Maria Papanikolaou, Rick Parker, Mary Rantala, Valerie Retifer (z), Stephanie Robinet, Jennifer Sanford, Dyette Spain, Danielle Stallings (z), Jenise Tate, Merritt Tracy.

1) Welcome:

- attending members in person (23) and on zoom (5).

2) Approval of minutes:

- approved

3) Membership Raffle:

- 24 staff members were entered in the lottery. Winning ticket: Meghan Barger.

4) Principal Report:

- Celebrating national Hispanic Heritage Month. Today's focus Mexico by wearing green.
- Students take survey on social emotional well-being to find out their needs.
- PSAT tomorrow for all 10th & 11th grade students. Freshmen and seniors, who need CPR credit, complete course on digital citizenship. Early dismissal for all around noon.
- Construction in good shape for August 2022: Beams of building are coming up.
- Thanks to PTSO for founding shirts for counselors that have our three goals on back: Everything is possible. Think positive. Act & Adjust.
- Tennis and Gold conferences are running.
- **Important dates:** End of Quarter Oct 29th. Last day to turn in everything is Oct 26th. Check grades in Power School!
- **Communication:** East 495 Connector is out for Oct. Improvement suggestion from SIT, so that every parent is connected in some way with East (sometimes school announcements don't make it home) to add a link-tree. Student Services committee is also working on improvements to get information to parents.

5) Beautification:

- **Save the date**, bring tools: Campus cleanup Oct 23, 9 am – 12pm (rain or shine). All clubs and advisors present. L. Moore will organize some tools.
 - **To-do:** Organization “Toolbank” not yet contacted to add PTSO on account, but Ms. Quintero will help to add Merritt Tracy to it.
- **Keep Charlotte Beautiful (KCB) grant:** up to \$5,000 for community beautification projects. Justification based on social-emotional learning (outdoor classroom) and school spirit to help students identify with school.
 - **Question:** Applicant East Mecklenburg HS or PTSO?
- CARES Act. Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds.
 - **Question:** Are funds still available and how can we apply to it?

6) Student Services Liaison:

- **New board position** created this school year to proactively connect PTSO and Student Services “as a resource to create awareness, drive behaviors and influence change to better equip parents/caregivers as they guide students through their successful high school journeys.”
- “What to know” for October is out. Best practices by grade level, what can be found where, information not only for students (canvas tile). **Scholarships** linked online on school-counseling website under “paying-for-college”
- **Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday.** Looking for parent representative for each grade level. Contact Jenise Tate if interested.

7) PTSO shirts:

- 15 interested board members for \$16 per shirt. Money needs to be collected up front to be paid in one payment. Contact LaSonya Moore to order or make your payment.

8) Volunteer/Visitor Memo:

- **Volunteers** are once again welcome at CMS schools! Please **sign in** at the main office!
 - must be **registered as a CMS volunteer** and **receive clearance status** before volunteering. Previously registered volunteers must activate their status for the current school year.
 - should **follow CMS guidelines** for health and safety, including mandatory masking and social distancing (where possible).

- may provide coverage during lunch time. However, families are still not permitted to have lunch with their students.
- **One-time visitors (guests)** are also welcome at CMS schools! Please **sign in** at the main office before entering campus and follow CMS guidelines for health and safety, including mandatory masking and social distancing (where possible). However, visitors are still not permitted to have lunch with their students.

9) Gift Card Morale Booster:

- Email to ask for donations for monthly drawings as not been send out yet.

10) Teacher Grant Application:

- PTSO is lucky to have \$20,000 in additional funds to the planned budget this year and suggests implementing a teacher grant program to fund projects we have.
 - **Voted & approved:** \$10,000 to implement this fund.
 - **Voted & approved:** \$2,000 to Beautification committee.
 - \$8,000 will stay in account to see how the direct giving campaign proceeds.

11) Update on communication Platforms:

- Website (emptso.org) will be in Spanish. We are also on Facebook and Instagram.
- Looking into other ways to get information out: 495 connector and maybe Remind
- Topics for the website should be send to Genie Ombach directly.

12) Gift presentation:

- Carola Cárdenas thanked Christine Hays for her work as PTSO president during last school year with a flower arrangement.

13) Upcoming events / New Business:

- It was brought up, to involve more student representatives within the board.

Next Meeting: November 09, **7:45 am** via ZOOM.

Closing: 8:40 am

Ruth Nett