

## East Meck High School PTSO – Zoom Meeting 11/09/2021 (7:45 am)

### **Attendance:** (24)

Mary Beth Ausman, Kristy B., Cynthia Bailey, Tanja Buchanan, Carola Cárdenas, Jill Federal, Christine Haynes, Quillie Hunt, Jule Howard, Victoria Johnson, Jyotsna Maid, S.Y. Mason Watson, Chelsea Mellon, Cynthia Miller, LaSonya Moore, Keisha Murray, Ruth Nett, Genie Ombach, Maria Papanikolaou, Rick Parker, Mary Rantala, Jenise Tate, Nina Toth, Merritt Tracy.

### **1) Welcome:**

- Special welcome to our student representative Jule Howard.

### **2) Approval of minutes:**

- Approved. Minutes can be found on the PTSO website.

### **3) Principal Report:**

- Water break (600 hall) and sewage issues (100 hall) cause relocating/closing bathrooms to get repairs done. Some issues are connected to construction.
- Student congress hosted Campus cleanup with great turnout (video here: <https://emptso.org/2021/10/25/campus-clean-up-2/>)
- Covid testing is back and can be done with parent consent.
- Carpool much smoother due to designated drop off zone (yellow mark).
- Lock out (being late after class started) had 100 kids the first day it was enforced, 20 on second day. Changing time between classes is 8 min. Being on time for school/class is emphasized, not focused on suspension, but other ways to make up for missed classes. Parent sign-ins as excuse for being late should be limited to 5x.
- **Important dates:** report cards first quarter are out. Dec 1 immunization record must be current. Dec 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> staff holiday event. Foundation is asked for funding to help spread some holiday cheers for teachers before the break.
- **Communication:** East 495 Connector is out for Nov.
- Ballpark for Holiday gifts approx. \$2,500.

### **4) Financial Report:**

- Revised budget reflects balances we inherited and shows where we stand, including the reserve for new year. Current month donations have slowed down.
  - **Action:** Mary Rantala and Hasty Millen are brainstorming a “November blitz” to increase donations.

- Staff Luncheon expenses are being turned in and could mostly be refunded directly.
- **Thank you** to Tammy Caplan and her family for reimbursing the remaining balance as a donation.

#### 5) **Update on Teacher Grant:**

- Mary Rantala will meet with Mr. Parker to talk about the protocol procedures for teacher grants.

#### 6) **Update on Membership:**

- Current number on memberships 114.

#### 7) **Update on PTSO shirts:**

- 30 shirts are ordered for \$241.95 and will bring us a profit of \$208.05.

#### 8) **Advocacy Report:**

- The advocacy team wants to make aware that it's possible to get free screening as well as free counseling sessions from CMS. They advocate for Title IX<sup>1</sup> at East that reports of sexual assault won't be suspended. ELS and AVID helps implement equity among students.
- Advocacy is investigating how East could benefit from the Covid relief funds.
- Next meeting via zoom on Nov 15

#### 9) **Communication Flow:**

- Communications in good shape. November connector has lots of info from PTSO, but some hiccups with links. Working on sending out info for the weekly update about this.
- Information about remind: It will cost \$8,000 – \$10,000 annually to have a school account. As of now, we stay with grouping of 150 participants in the free version.
- **Action:** Mr. Parker will reach out to district, if there's a corporate partnership with remind possible, so all schools could benefit from this.
- Input from Chelsea Mellon from SIT meeting: It should be per default set that parents are "in" for communications and should have to take action to "opt out".

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<sup>1</sup> RN: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." U.S. Dept. of Education

**10) Student Services Liaison:**

- Student Services is raising awareness that all demographic groups/all students at East Mecklenburg HS benefit from being connected to information from East Mecklenburg HS, its Student Services Department, and/or PTSO. A good example for information is the Instagram account of the CTE department (@eastmeck\_cte). They try to find out what different groups use to communicate. Announce on Chromebooks as an option.
- To get more students connected to the PTSO work with selected members of the student boards as multipliers (@eastmeckeagles).
  - **Action:** Connect with each teacher supervisor for each grade level board. Make sure they don't feel missing a class for attending the meeting. Should always be two-way communication: To PTSO with student "requests" and from PTSO.

**11) Teacher Appreciation / Holiday gifts:**

- Input from Mr. Parker and Ms. Stark needed what teacher need. Currently thinking of East Mecklenburg Lunch bags for \$3, - each. They think of establishing something monthly like a special coffee break.
  - **Help needed:** for teacher event December 15<sup>th</sup>, for monthly events, and for the gift card sign up (status: 12 cards from 2 people). **Contact:** Victoria Johnson.

**12) Update Teacher Morale Meeting:**

- Last year, due to online school and the nature of covid, there was a lot of focus on teacher mental health, but that has waned some as we have returned to school. In addition to teacher appreciation, we discussed multiple ways to support our teachers and decided to start with a questionnaire to ask teachers for firsthand information on what we could do to support them. Questionnaire is drafted and will be discussed in the group before sent to teachers. Group is open. **Contact:** Ruth Nett.

**13) Review Past Events – Campus Cleanup:**

- See #3 Principal report and video link.

**14) Corporate Partnerships & 15) Upcoming events / New Business:**

- Not covered to keep meeting time to 1 hour.

**Next Meeting:** December 14, **7:45 am** via ZOOM.

**Closing:** 8:45 am

Ruth Nett