

East Meck High School PTSO – Zoom Meeting 12/14/2021 (7:45 am)

Attendance: (25)

Mary Beth Ausman, Cynthia Bailey, Tanja Buchanan, Carola Cárdenas, Mary Crowe Taylor, Jill Federal, Christine Haynes, Jyotsna Maid, S.Y. Mason Watson, Tahira McCoy, Hasty Millen, LaSonya Moore, Kay Murray, Ruth Nett, Genie Ombach, Rick Parker, Summer R., Paola Strand, Jenise Tate, Merritt Tracy, Gdemakis, Jennifer, Tessa, Nina, Valerie.

2) Approval of minutes:

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

3) Principal Report:

- Winter concerts and Christmas play were amazing, especially being back in person. Musical coming soon.
- American Idol winner Laine Hardy performed at our school and his sponsors donated instruments.
- New app coming out to report issues anonymously. Training teachers, then students.
- Teacher social on Dec 14., Santa gifts delayed, but things are rolling.
- **Important dates: Jan 20:** last day to turn in work. **Jan 14-21:** Exam week. Exam days will be full days. Exam schedule will be provided after break

4) Financial Report:

- Reformatted budget reflects balances and shows income through business partners (Amazon Smile). Direct donations are \$4,400 down. Secret Santa has reached \$1,500, we need to get \$2,000. First payment for Secret Santa done (staff appreciation).
 - **Action: Amazon smile, Direct give and teacher grant should be promoted.**

5) Communications:

- Nice page in new Connector. Actual schedule on website. Like posts to elevate them up. No update on Remind.

6) Update from Student Services:

- Working on **1)** support for male black and Latino students: population at East 38% Latino, 34% African American students.
 - **Action: Help needed:** looking for black/Latino volunteers to reach out to identified students to take higher level classes. **Contact: Jenise Tate (jtate320(at)gmail.com).**

2) start in the new year with a database collecting communication platforms that are being used and make it available for everyone.

- Scholarship newsletter (Mr. Schroeder) in the Friday weekly update. Creation of flyer for onboarding package (and website).
- East is looking for a bilingual parent advocate (role on staff) to fill the gap for families identified as non-Spanish speaking or illiterate to call/visit/translate and focus on those families. Idea to give out a survey to Spanish speaking families and call those directly who did not reply.
- Interpreters are available in CMS.

7) Grants update:

- Letter of intent for Charlotte beautification grant submitted. Usually one recipient for the amount (\$5,000). Recruited grant (\$2,000) for school funding arts department.
- To secure some cares act funds are difficult to see as non-admin person.
 - **Action: If you are aware of funding opportunities, please forward to Mary Beth.**

8) Teacher Appreciation:

- Secret Santa and gift card collection are underway.

9) Corporate Partnerships:

- **Action: Help needed:** We are looking for a person (or a team), who could bring this topic forward. We have signs from previous sponsors, which could be a good starting point for contact. **Contact:** Ruth Nett (rnett72(at)gmail.com).

10) Open Discussion:

- **Meeting day/time:** Can it be moved to attend PTSO meetings at different schools and/or make the meeting in English in the morning, afternoon Spanish?
 - **Action:** Carola will create a survey in regards of time and Paola Strand is willing to translate.
- **Spanish translation** (for Connector): Paola Strand (Paolal.Strand(at) cms.k12.nc.us)

11) Next Meeting: Jan 11, 2022 - 7:00 am: **ATTENTION: TIME AND MEETING STYLE SUBJECT TO CHANGE (based on Covid and/or carpool situation) – check website and email for updates!!**

Closing: 8:45 am

Ruth Nett