

East Meck High School PTSO Board In Person/Google Meet Meeting 1/10/2023 (7:30 am)

Attendance: (21-8 Virtual and 13 in person)

Mary Beth Ausman, Beth Brown (G), Carola Cárdenas (G), Gloria Chambers, Angela Concha de Hernandez, Christine Haynes (G), Quillie Hunt (G), Phanta Lansden (G), Jyotsna Maid, S. Y. Mason-Watson, Chelsea Mellon, Mary Hasty Millen (G), Ruth Nett, Genie Ombach, Maria Papanikolaou, Mary Rantala, Lorree Riley (G), Jennifer Sanford, Dy'ette Spain, Danielle Stallings (G), Yolanda Whitley

1. **Welcome** by Board President R. Nett at 7:35 am.

2. **Minutes** approved for December 13, 2022 meeting, motioned by M. Papanikolaou, 2nd by J. Sanford, motion passed

3. **Principal's Report:** Mr. Parker unable to attend. Vice Principal Ms. Whitley attended on his behalf.

- Update on partnership with Equal Opportunity Schools-program to encourage underserved students to enroll in higher level classes. Survey provided to students where they were able to select a trusted adult and Staff members were selected including secretary, custodians and cafeteria workers. Working on outreach about this program and working with Student Services. Teachers also sent links to recommend students for higher level courses.
- "Soaring Eagles" initiative allows students who would normally not be recognized to be recognized. A motivation for students. There will be a bulletin board to celebrate these students.
- Seniors mentoring program. Staff are mentoring struggling seniors and meeting with them weekly for extra encouragement.
- Parent Square-new communication tool provided by CMS. Need further instructions on how to enroll. The initiative is still in process and a QR code will be available on back to school night in February. Suggestion was made that the QR code/instructions be available at all school events and provided by teachers and shared on all school wide communications. This tool also allows parents to choose their language preference and will translate responses back to the teachers.
- School is in exam prep mode. 1st semesters exams start on 1/18.
- Each department is responsible for recovery for absences.
- Community engagement event will be held at East on 2/1 at 6 pm to discuss Phase 23 Bond Referendum.
- East Meck graduation will be held on Monday 6/12th at 3:30 pm at the Bojangles Coliseum. Mandatory rehearsal will be held on 6/5th from 7-8:30 pm. Students must have met all financial obligations to graduate. Discussion was held on how to assist

these students if they are having a hardship and that PTSO/parents are willing to assist however we need to be made aware of what the needs are. East Meck Foundation is also a resource. C. Haynes suggested a cap and gowns service project however we were informed that the hues of the gowns tend to change each year. R. Nett shared PTSO has a Student Services Committee with the mission to assist all students and they could be a resource for the school as well. M. Ausman, grant chair, also mentioned she is also available to help with the school obtaining grants. S. Y. Mason-Watson also shared about the Student Services Committee as she serves on this committee and Ms. Whitley asked to be invited to their next committee meeting as she was not aware of this committee. S.Y. Mason-Watson shared we assist with the staff however what are we doing to help the students.

4. **Financial Report** by Treasurer M. Rantala

- Provided reports for review
- Grant program update-PTSO tries to update staff by providing flyers in their teacher boxes and have requested that Mr. Parker includes in his emails to staff that teacher grants are available. There are currently two grant requests:
 - Model UN-to be held in Chapel Hill, request by Alexa Richards
 - EC Café 495, request by Corinne Holland. The café is held on Fridays and the students take staff orders for treats and hot beverages and the students prepare the items and deliver them to the staff. They are learning life skills and job training.
- M. Rantala shared grants provided last school year and that there is so much we can do to support our students thru the Teacher Grants Program.
- Update on December's meeting request from School Social Work Department Needs. Within 48 hours, \$2475 was privately raised of which \$700 was provided to seven families with \$100 gift cards to Walmart per Ms. Strand's direction. Motion made to create a budget line item for School Social Work Staff Support. PTSO will not be making the decisions on who will receive the funds as Policies and Procedures need to be in place and a committee will be put in place perhaps with Advocacy Committee, Ms. McCormick, P Strand, and Admin. Having this budget line will allow the flexibility to address immediate needs in a timelier fashion. R. Nett 1st /J. Stanford 2nd motion and motion passed.
- 2022-2023 Budget is fully funded

5. **Membership update** by Membership Chair, J. Maid

- No new update

6. **Nominations Committee update** by Nominations Chair C. Mellon-Need alt least three members to form committee and M. Ausman, G. Omback and S.Y. Mason-Watson have agreed to serve again on this committee for board positions for the 2023-2024 school year.

7. **Open Discussion** by President R. Nett

- R. Nett-Staff breakfast in December and Staff Treats on Jan 4th were both a success and beanies were delivered to staff at the breakfast. D. Spain is planning a popcorn bar for staff in February, be on the lookout for a Signup Genius
- IB Open Houses-requesting PTSO representation-Signup Genuis on PTSO website and Ms. Hayes will advise of any changes in schedule.
- R. Nett-Media Center is still in need of a fridge and transportation is available. Any leads should contact R. Nett.
- Upcoming Events: Spirit Nights Jan 19th and Feb 16th at Hungry Howies
- Direct Giving Campaign-New Year/New Chance is in the works
- Second Semester/Clear the List-Start of second semester 1/26/23-Staff to provide Amazon lists of classroom needs for parents to assist in purchasing needed items. More info to come.
- New Business-
 - S.Y. Mason-Watson shared there is a new Robotics Team and 20+ students are participating. A competition will be held March 4th-6th in Asheville, NC. Students meet every Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Alliance with Queen City Robotics.
 - The NC Youth Legislative Assembly will be held in Raleigh, NC 3/17-3/19. Deadline to register is 1/31. Exposes students to laws governing NC and the process of drafting, voting and debating new laws. There is registration fee of \$425.

Meeting adjourned 8:43 am