

## East Meck High School PTSO/In person/Google Meet Meeting 9/12/2023

### Attendance: (34)

Mary Beth Ausman, Kimberly Baker (G), Kathryn Bauer, Tracy Brown, Katherine Carroll (G), Carola Cardenas, Angela Concha de Hernandez, Beth Davis (G), Christina Drogaris, Christine Elliott (G), Kndyia Fisher, Jeremiah Golden (G), Christine Haynes, Lauren Hicklin (G), Quillie Hunt, Tracy Jenkins, Jyotsna Maid (G), Carrie Marshall (G), S.Y. Mason-Watson, Chelsea Mellon, Mary Hasty Millen, Genie Ombach, Maria Papanikolaou, Pilar Pohlheber, Deyna Rogers (G), Jamie Sheppard (G), D'yette Spain (G), Danielle Stallings (G), Lorree Riley, Deanna Talley (G), William Taylor, Angel Vogel Daley (G), Joliette Juncadella Welch, Leah Zarville

1. Welcome by interim Board President P. Pohlheber at 7:31am
2. Minutes approved for May 9th meeting, motioned by G. Ombach, 2nd by P. Pohlheber, approved by 34 votes.
3. Principal's Report by Vice Principal K. Bauer
  - It's the 10th day of school, which is the end of schedule changes.
  - Enrollment is currently at 2437 which is right on par with the district's prediction.
  - Transportation continues to be a hurdle and Mr. Edde is working with the district to find solutions. There are currently about 37 families who can't reliably get to East due to a lack of transportation and Mr. Edde is working with the district and encouraging carpools. Mr. Parker is advocating for families as well.
  - Curriculum Night will be on Tuesday, September 19th from 5-7pm. Teachers will be on campus and there will be drop-in options and presentations available. PTSO will have a table in the cafeteria lobby and Ms. Strand will be available to translate.
  - T. Jenkins asked about the status of chromebooks. K. Bauer responded that there are still quite a few students without chromebooks, mainly due to the increased enrollment numbers at East. For example, freshmen receive chromebooks from graduating seniors and this year there are over 900 freshmen and there were only 450 graduating seniors. Teachers are being instructed to keep instruction equitable until chromebooks are available for all students. K. Fisher asked if students are allowed to bring personal devices in the interim. K. Bauer responded that it is allowed, but students must follow the same cell phone policies with personal devices. Any students who need chromebooks repaired should see Mr. Hindley in room 304.
  - Homecoming is October 27 and Beautification Day is November 4.
4. Student Advocacy Report (switch on agenda) by A. Concha de Hernandez
  - A. Concha de Hernandez attended Open House this year and provided translation for families.
  - Breakfast and lunch are now free to everyone at East and the information needs to be widely distributed to all families.

- A. Concha de Hernandez plans to connect with Ms. Strand and the school counselors to better serve in the liaison role.
- Recently, an 11th grader at East passed away and the family is struggling to pay for an independent autopsy and funeral expenses. A. Concha de Hernandez asked if there is a budget line item for such expenses. W. Taylor said that there is a line item.
- A. Concha de Hernandez also mentioned the possibility of an “Adopt a Senior” program for 5-6 students who can’t afford senior dues. This could also possibly extend to an “Adopt a Family” program since there are unaccompanied minors within East who could use regular support. Ms. Strand has connections with local churches, but she is at capacity, so this is also a possible avenue for PTSO. T. Jenkins asked how the needs of the school are communicated and A. Concha de Hernandez explained that it has been through contact with Ms. Strand and the school counselors and the families remain anonymous to the PTSO. S.Y. Mason-Watson suggested it would be more efficient for a group to adopt families. And H. Millen suggested perhaps using direct give as a resource to fundraise. T. Brown suggested corporate partnerships could also be used as a resource. K. Baker (G) asked to help with corporate partnerships. And P. Pohlheber concluded that the goal would need to be added as a line item on the budget. Q. Hunt suggested getting student perspectives as well and A. Concha de Hernandez agreed and said she would speak to her niece, who is serving as Student Congress President. M. Papanikolaou also encouraged reaching out to the class boards for advocates.
- A. Concha de Hernandez encouraged all members to seek out their student’s counselor. And she highlighted “Let’s Talk Money 101,” being put on by Ms. Miller for senior parents. The counselors suggest that parents understand how to access Powerschool and Parent Square.
- G. Ombach mentioned that she is building a “living” spreadsheet of volunteer interest for the PTSO.

5. Financial Report by Treasurer W. Taylor

- Provided reports for review
- Budget was approved last PTSO meeting of the 2022/2023 school year
- Quickbooks reconciliation of what came in and what went out
- Open House and Nest brought in a total of \$4800 in August, but the funds were deposited in Sept.
- \$18000 is the PTSO budget for this year. We have a surplus of \$15000 held over from last year.
- Biggest expense so far has been the staff lunch. W. Taylor intended to come to the board and ask for more money, but due to some issues with the staff lunch, we’re getting a partial refund (thank you P. Pohlheber), so we don’t need that increase.
- Financial Reports approved, motioned by W. Taylor, 2nd by P. Pohlheber. Motion passed

6. Membership Report (added to agenda) by J. Maid
  - We currently have 140 members signed up (13 staff).
  - J. Maid is working on a raffle to increase teacher participation. S.Y. Mason-Watson volunteered to help with staff membership. T. Brown asked if we are seeking teacher participation or their money and then suggested that we could subsidize the teacher fees through corporate partnerships. S.Y. Mason-Watson suggested that we need teacher “buy in,” and teachers already have reduced membership fees. K. Fisher suggested that we can utilize the grants program and the ASC website requests as a way to gauge teacher buy-in instead. K. Bauer pointed out that teachers don’t get paid over the summer, so membership requests in August are often a hard ask. It might be beneficial to move teacher membership drives to October. P. Pohlheber pointed out the big push that was made to attend teacher meetings last year and the high number of teacher participants as a result. J. Welch suggested an incentive program as a way to encourage teacher participation.
  - Q. Hunt asked about the status of the combined PTSO/school sunshine committee. P. Polheber outlined that the PTSO was unable to take over that task without a board vote.
  
7. Nominating Committee Report by S.Y. Mason-Watson
  - Motion made by S.Y. Mason-Watson to approve Kndyia Fisher and Leah Zanville as co-presidents, C. Haynes 2nd motion and motion passed with 30 votes.
  
8. Spirit Night Report by D. Stallings
  - Blaze Pizza in Southend on 9/28, Jersey Mike’s on 10/12 and monthly spirit nights at Hawthornes going through May. G. Ombach created a one-pager so we can promote the spirit nights along with the specific restaurant rules. This is easy money for our school
  - e-VIC benefits: 1907 for the PTSO and it must be re-linked every year. The time to do it is in the fall.
  
9. Corporate Partnerships Report by T. Brown
  - T. Brown is a member of MORA and interested in making connections within the community. C. Haynes suggested a meeting with Mr. Parker, possibly coordinating with other committees in order to maximize time with Mr. Parker.
  - Two ideas to share: 1) Corporate Campaign with tiered levels of involvement (corporate advertising). S.Y. Mason-Watson mentioned that she is the lead mentor for First Robotics and will also be seeking corporate sponsors this year, so she will reach out in order to make sure the same companies aren’t tapped twice. 2) Community Business Directory. P. Pohlheber mentioned that this has been discussed previously and wasn’t completed due to concerns over PTSO oversight. K. Fisher said she will help with this task.
  
10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:42am.