

East Meck High School PTSO/Google Meet Meeting 10/10/2023

Attendance: (30)

Mary Beth Ausman, Cynthia Bailey, Kimberly Baker, Ivonne Bermudez, Tracy Brown, Angela Concha de Hernandez, Beth Davis, Angela Daley, DJ Fisher, Kndyia Fisher, B Goins, Beth Hair, Quillie Hunt, Tracy Jenkins, Karen Kelley, Nicole Kutny, Jyotsna Maid, Carrie Marshall, Chelsea Mellon, Hasty Millen, Genie Ombach, Maria Papanikolaou, Lorree Riley, Deyna Rogers, Aspasia Sanders, DeAnna Talley, William Taylor, Mark Wilson, Leah Zanville, Unknown (704...90 number)

1. Welcome by Board Co-President L. Zanville at 7:01pm - This welcome includes brief introductions of the co-presidents, house rules for the meeting including muting phones and being called on to speak, and a brief overview of how meetings are run for newcomers and people unfamiliar with board procedures.
2. Minutes approved for September 12th meeting, motioned by A. Concha de Hernandez, 2nd by M.B Ausman, approved by 30 votes.
3. Principal's Report - Mr. Parker is not in attendance for this meeting.
4. Financial Report by Treasurer W. Taylor
 - The current financial report outlines the work that was done to carry over money from last year. There is currently \$20k being carried over from last year. \$5k is being held as a reserve, which leaves \$15k unallocated.
 - The budget which was approved over the summer shows the income over expenses in a \$2k negative, which means we projected to spend more than we brought in. After reconciling that \$2k, we still have \$12k unallocated funds available.
 - Now we have a job to get all our committees up and running and fund them with these unallocated funds.
 - We are also currently on track to maintain our budget goals based on the same time last year.
5. Student Advocacy Report by A. Concha de Hernandez
 - We are still waiting on the name of the student who passed away in order to submit the check from the PTSO for his family.
 - We are also in discussion with Ms. Strand regarding senior needs in order to get a number finalized for the "support a senior" initiative.
 - A. Concha de Hernandez is planning to visit the homerooms for the class boards in order to discuss what students think about when they hear "advocacy." She is also working with her niece and Student Congress, but since it's a busy time of year for them, she is expanding her student outreach.
 - A. Concha de Hernandez attended a conference with a student psychologist and learned that CMS has a partnership with Atrium in order to provide onsite counseling services for students. Student Services is working to provide a calm

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room for this purpose and is requesting PTSO funds for a couch and possibly other supplies for the calm room.

- A. Concha de Hernandez has been working with Spanish speaking families to establish a WhatsApp chat. There are nine families currently on the chat and she's able to communicate with them there.
- She also highlights the importance of the upcoming bond vote for East Meck!

6. Corporate Partnerships by T. Brown

- T. Brown summarizes a meeting that was held by T. Brown, L. Zanville, K. Fisher, W. Taylor and Mr. Parker. It allowed them to listen to Mr. Parker and his visions and ideas for the school. He was also able to prioritize his top needs which are currently being narrowed down into these projects:
 - i. Create a more permanent walkway from the student parking lot to the front of the school.
 - ii. Add and improve the outside seating area for students - add 40-50 different sorts of eating spots within the center atrium and enhance the area with lighting and shade.
 - iii. Support the Art Department:
 - 1. Support an art show with materials.
 - 2. Support the Dance Department: A dedicated dance studio is in the works. The school has already obtained a dance floor, but will need volunteer help installing it and also need mobile mirrors which are very expensive. This is a \$6k ask
 - iv. Install a big East Meck logo between the 4000 and 5000 buildings
 - v. Campus Clean-up initiative: mulch-spreading, arborists to work on damaged trees
- K. Fisher spoke with someone at Lowes about providing materials and is waiting for an update from him. T. Brown has been in touch with a contact from Lowes as well, but is first working on getting costs for a lot of these initiatives before making asks.
- T. Brown is also working on getting East parents and community members involved and invested. Some projects may be able to include partnerships with school clubs and/or classes.
- L. Zanville highlights the long term gains established by these projects and K. Fisher points out that T. Brown is doing a terrific job and can benefit from a partner or someone interested in supporting her on a committee.
- T. Brown concludes by mentioning her relationship with MORA and how East has a potential opportunity to be involved in their Spring Fest next year. It will involve a lot of volunteers and coordination, but East will be the benefactor of sponsorship funds.

7. Direct Give by H. Millen, T. Jenkins

- H. Millen and T. Jenkins have a plan for the Direct Give campaign. The week of Direct Give will begin October 22nd. We currently have raised \$4k through direct donations and we are pushing to meet our \$10k goal.

8. Parent GPS Update by L. Riley

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- L. Riley briefly outlines the vision for Parent GPS this year: A parent-to-parent group, available and trying to reach people who might not have other ways to make connections. It grew out of the Student Service Liaison role.
- The first parking lot meeting - a tailgate with coffee - was held at the school and is the first of many ways in which Parent GPS intends to reach out to families.
- There is a separate email to communicate with Parent GPS:
eastparentgps@gmail.com

9. Open Discussion (Open to All):

- A reminder over the changed dates for Beautification is made and G. Ombach acknowledges that the change will be updated on the website.
- Beth Davis works for ACE construction company and offers to help provide tools for Beautification Day and possibly get mulch donated.
- Kimberly Baker is interested in partnering with T. Brown for the grants. She also partners with the CMS bond committee and asks if signs can be placed around the school to encourage people to vote "yes." She also describes a growing pothole in the student parking lot, and wants to know how to get it filled. L. Zanville offers to follow up on both these questions.
 - i. A. Concha de Hernandez plans to meet up with L. Zanville in order to strategize bond-supportive strategies
- MB. Ausman highlights a grant that Lowes can potentially provide for East to help with the design build process. There are many points in the application that speak to East: Lowes encourages employees to partner in projects, campus clean-up is well-defined, it might be helpful to utilize the engineering classes or IB career development students in design and proposal.
 - i. MB. Ausman and T. Brown agree to discuss further. The fall application window for Lowes closes on 10/16.
- G. Ombach shares a reminder of another food fundraiser on Thursday at Oakhurst Commons drive, which is close to the school. Instore, online and app purchases. We are lucky to have these spirit nights planned out and hope to get more people to participate.
- In conclusion, L. Zanville reminds everyone to reach out to teachers and encourage them to request grants. She thanks everyone for showing up for our kids and our school! K. Fisher follows up by reminding parents who are listening in, but not yet holding positions on the board, that information will start trickling out for needs. English-speaking and bilingual needs are plentiful and we are continuously attempting to coordinate with other parents and students. Any questions should be sent to info@emptso.org

10. L. Zanville adjourns the meeting at 7:44pm.