



Minutes from ESS PTA Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2023 - 7:30pm to 8:30pm
Held via Zoom

Attendees: Erin O' Brien(President), Kareema Mitchell-Allen (Vice President) Margaret Vice (Treasurer), Amy Molina-Moore (Secretary); Mada Gray (Community School Liaison,) Nia Benoit (Vice Principal - East Silver Spring Elementary School), Jenny Santos & Hari Antonioli (from the Cluster Project), Jessica Leety, Bray Beltran, Grace Fordsman, Sylvia Bollie, Eva Baltzer, Jessie, Hillary Catlin, Lauren H., Melissa, Yael, Jessica, Alexandra, Allison, Katie Mcgaughey, Sarah Wright, Tinbit Amare, Alfaro, Kristen Pisani-Jacques, Mary Beth Pavlik, Selam Kid, Isabel Munilla, Rasika, Samrawit Lemessa (37 attendees!)

The meeting started at 7:32

1. PTA Overview & Welcome
 - a. Lots of good things happening at ESS this year. EBBE, More support staff, surplus budget and now we're a community school.
 - b. Intros of Board and Year long volunteer leaders.
 - c. Overview of our purpose from the By-laws.
2. Good things we're going to keep going
 - a. Support events for community to come together
 - b. After school enrichment activities (panda club)
 - c. Fund during school time enrichment activities
 - d. More support for teachers
 - e. Advocate for resources that benefit our community
 - f. Spirit wear/ year book
 - g. Help families get connected with the school.
3. New things we'd like to fund

- a. Provide a grant to fund a tutoring program for 1st and 2nd graders struggling particularly with literacy.
 - b. Structured recess activities & paraeducator training (Soccer & Peaceful playground)
 - c. Facilitate communication about self regulation & conflict resolution.
 - d. Five New Teacher Initiatives for This Upcoming year
 - i. Promote donors choose; expand teacher mini grants; Ms. Gray's parent volunteer program; expand teacher treat program; Coordinating Room Parent program
4. Budget overview + VOTE
- a. Margaret Vice presented a high level budget for the year - Budgeted to spend \$32,243 and plan to raise \$30,150 - project to begin next year with \$29,183. Amy moved to accept the budget, Erin seconded, passed unanimously.
5. Wix payment method overview + VOTE
- a. Making Wix permanent payment service change - Erin motioned to accept the service provider, Margaret seconded - passed unanimously.
6. Community School Overview + Kennedy Cluster Project: Ms. Mada Gray
- a. A new theme for the school this year was selected "Writing a New Chapter, One Success at a Time."
 - b. Ms. Gray introduced herself and she's got a ton of elementary school experience in a variety of roles.
 - c. Every community school has a liaison & full-time nurse.
 - d. "Community school" is a 5 year cycle - year 1 & 2 is about

assessment and writing implementation plan, then the following 3 years are spent implementing the plan.

- e. Ms. Gray asked for our support in getting data collected throughout the year, and asked us to participate in the community data collecting.
- f. The goals are not just limited to strictly academic goals.
- g. Introducing the Kennedy Cluster Project, Director Jenny Santos and Hari Antonioli - Org. was founded in 2007 and started with ESS last winter. Purpose of the organization "is to improve family stability for students whose families are in crisis or need multiple support outside of the school system,".. so that kids can focus on school! The service time line is 6 months and can be re-upped. After completing a family has to wait 12 months before can enroll again.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:33