



Shreveewood Elementary PTA



Meeting Agenda

October 12, 2021 7:00 PM | Location: Zoom

In Attendance: Kate Coho, Deb Sutton, Katie Vandawalker, Josh Desmyter, Andrea Capellan, Stacia Keel, Bridget Lancaster, Lorraine Gershman, Maria Giuliani, Mayuriel Tatiana Perez, Lisa Colglazier, Sharon Feeney, Minna Moezie, Tlumley, Clare Valudes, Mindy Pava, Gayla F., Kate Hall, Darlene McNerney, Kristen Moore, Ponneh Varho, Cara Berman, Mayank Modi, Anya Robyak, Amanda Hsu, Cassandra Hoover, Robert Bartolotta, Merci Pinzon, Janice Melchiorre, Anita Prichard, Lara, Adrienne Hancock, Molly Sherlock,, Julie Williams, Jessica Payne, Jessica Bradford, Jennifer Diffell, Dibora, Kelly Ego, Susan Kennedy, Jennifer Adams, Mathew L, Nadeen Zorba, Tami Sibre, David Ackerman, Amy Karnik, Gretchen Kostura, Vi Nguyen, Nicole Shook, Alope Barnwal, Chris Akerman, Paola Robey, Karen Archer, Nik Karnik, Purvi Vaashee, Britney, Elizabeth Weaver

Welcome/Call to order (7PM)

- Kate opened the meeting and introduced our admin guests.
- She mentioned that we made our goal for the Armchair Fundraiser raising over \$15,000, so Mr. Desmyter will be getting dunked in a Dunk Tank on October 22nd.

Guests

- Principal, Mr. Josh DeSmyter and Assistant Principal, Ms. Katie Vandawalker
- Mr. Desmyter thanked the community for always supporting the school and for raising funds for Armchair. He also thanked the community for working with him and Katie the last few weeks that have been very challenging for the community related to COVID.
- They had prepared a presentation for this meeting about instruction at the school but decided to focus on COVID discussions for this week and will bring that in the future.
- They provided a presentation about Admin updates and offered to answer questions. All questions will be captured and shared in the Wise Words.
- COVID update at Shreveewood
 - There has been an increase in COVID cases at the school that has been alarming
 - Two weeks ago, they had been celebrating Covid status at the school and then cases rose and continued to spike. We had 23 cases + 2 staff member cases in the last two weeks.

- The Admin sent a notification yesterday about a COVID outbreak in a classroom. Katie and Josh met with the Health Department and others to collaborate about the outbreak of 3 students in one class. 3 or more students = an outbreak
- Josh and Katie spoke with many families today about the outbreak.
- The school has made adjustments in the last two weeks in conjunction with Region 2 leadership and others. They continue to monitor the classrooms for 3ft distancing.
- In the cafeteria, there is only one grade level in at a time. Students now sit 6ft apart at desks in the cafeteria to limit pausing in contact tracing. Josh lauded the efforts of the facilities/custodial team that got desks into the cafeteria quickly for the change. Also, the school's Instructional Coach helped minimize impact of scheduling changes.
- Additional mitigations added recently include masks are suggested at recess (cannot be required); small groups are limited to only 3 students at the carpet at a time and spaced 3 ft. (The whole class cannot go to the carpet at one time.)
- Safety teams continue to come out every week at all schools in FCPS. COVID outbreaks are affecting other schools, too.
- How are we contact tracing?
 - When admin are notified of a positive case, they contact the family first to get info about where the student has been, how they travel to school (e.g., bus, SACC), to identify potential exposures. Then they collaborate with the teacher for seating charts at lunch, specials, classroom, etc. Then they determine potential close contacts. The school identifies these and then the Health Dept determines who is ultimately considered a close contact.
 - There is a 14-day pause for anyone deemed a close contact by the Health Dept.
 - All info that's been gathered is uploaded into RedCAP the Fairfax County reporting system for the Health Dept. Once uploaded, the classroom teacher then reaches out to the positive case and any close contacts to set up the StreamIn/CheckIn. They can access this learning from home.
 - There is a lag from time the school submits the info to Health Dept and when the Health Dept. makes the final call and contacts people.
 - The Health Dept. will follow up when the students have clearance to return to school and then they may come back. Sometimes the Health Dept will conclude in an investigation that some close contacts may not be close and can go back to school earlier. They send the info via email to families and the school.
 - Students who are paused access StreamIN / CheckIn for morning meeting, math, reading, etc. and scheduled check in time to discuss asynchronous work on Schoology. They access stream through Zoom via Schoology.
- Community & Family role
 - Josh stressed that this is a team effort and reminded families that our kids are playing sports, playing in neighborhood, etc. and to be mindful of COVID

protocols like having kids wear well-fitting masks, maintain social distancing, limit large gatherings, and keeping kids home when they are sick.

- If they're at home sick, they can access work in Schoology. If you keep them home, they're marked absent, but they can still see the work.
- Communicate quickly with the school about positive cases or any information that helps the community.
- Ongoing community support and reflection – safety is number 1 priority.
- Continue to reach out to Admin with any questions. Every school has different circumstances, so ask if there are specific questions for Shreveewood.

- Q&A

- What is the rationale about marking siblings absent when their sibling is a close contact? If the Health Dept did not consider them a close contact, then they are marked absent and not considered paused. The Health Dept says you can't consider close contacts of close contacts.
- Will we be notified if our specific class has had an outbreak? There is a letter that can go to a class. But, since the process was delayed from the Health Dept and two students are already coming back into school for the current outbreak, the school didn't need to notify the individual class. In the future, they will guide the school in what to send to the class. In this case, the Health Dept advised them not to send a letter to the class.
- Can you tell what grade a case has happened in? No
- Once notified, the school will work with the Health Dept on the contact tracing to determine the impact on the school environment if they started having symptoms two days before testing positive.
- Are there plans to break up the table seating in kindergarten? Yes, they're looking for 3ft of distance between students. They continue to look for adjustments and work with the region to update furniture and the warehouse backups are making it difficult to figure out where to move furniture.
- Entries in the COVID dashboard include Shreveewood and SACC designations because they're different entities.
- Are students on the bus considered close contacts? Josh admitted this is a difficult situation. There have been individual situations where the school knows students were close to others. The bus does not have assigned seating and will not change. Transportation will not adjust that.
- Is there a threshold when the school would pivot to all virtual? We would pivot if Governor Northam made a decision to move to all virtual. We could have individual classes on virtual learning, but the admin would work with region leadership to determine if that's needed.
- The county is not looking at additional buses and social distancing is not possible on the bus.

- What is the lag time between case identification and the Covid dashboard? It depends... sometimes cases are reported later if positive test results come back later. It usually takes 24-48 hours from notification for a case to be reported on the dashboard.
- Can PE be moved outside? Yes, on the nice days they look to go outside. The kids wear masks in PE and use the larger space. They utilize outdoor space when they can.
- Any chance of moving lunch outside? No. Some schools are trying to adjust to bring students inside in bad weather and it's even more difficult due to things like muddy areas and platforms outside for seating that are sinking into the ground. We're in a good place with 6ft apart in the cafeteria right now.
- Are close contacts asked to get tested before they can return? They must have clearance from the Health Dept and do not need a test. They require a 14-day quarantine because they're unvaccinated.
- Does FCPS offer free COVID tests? Are there plans to do testing from FCPS? Yes, there will be some discussion coming up. Principals meeting on Thursday will include a discussion on this.
- In collaboration with Health Nurse, they are facilitating free COVID tests as needed. More coming on this soon from the County.
- Kate recommended reaching out to Karl Frisch and At-Large School Board Members to address county-wide policy issues.
- County moved away from taking temperatures when kids come in, so we do not check temps now. When students are brought to the clinic, we do check temperatures.
- Is there any possibility of offering vaccines at school? We will get more info on vaccines and testing on Thursday and Josh is optimistic. He wants to make sure students are safe and he's in it with us. He will share more info about whether vaccines will be administered at school.
- Middle and High School students who are asymptomatic, vaccinated can return after a close contact pause much quicker than unvaccinated students.
- Karl Frisch would like to offer vaccine clinics in the schools to help families.
- Email Josh and Katie with any questions that come up: jjdesmyter@fcps.edu and kmvandawalker@fcps.edu

Old Business

- Approval of 9/14/2021 PTA meeting notes (available on website)

(Do I hear a motion to approve the meeting notes? 1- Cara Berman, 2 – Darlene McNerney, ...All in favor - YES...All in favor....Motion approved)

New Business

- Membership Raffle Drawing
 - Karen Archer announced the winner of the Great Country Farms gift basket. Katie Bertolotta is the winner!
 - Kate reminded people that they can still join the PTA. All are welcome at meetings.

- Treasurer's report
 - We met our Armchair Fundraiser goal with over \$15K raised so far
 - Other income includes Dining for Dollars and Spirit Wear. We have met our goal.
 - We are close with memberships. We have 108 members so far.
 - Stayed underbudget with picnic spending.
 - Detailed Treasurer's report is provided by Paola Robey on the PTA web site.

- Armchair Update- THANK YOU! We have surpassed our goal!!!
 - All money raised over budget will go to classroom furniture upgrades and teacher training as identified by Admin

- Volunteers Needed!
 - Community Outreach committee- email Darlene at darlenehowell@gmail.com
 - Staff Appreciation committee -email Shrevewoodsaw@gmail.com
 - Sign Up Genius for More Opportunities:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4eaead2aa1f58-volunteers>
 - Spelling Bee, Science Fair, etc.

For the Common Good/Other Business and Announcements

- Look for info about Dunking Desmyter next week.
- Last Armchair raffle drawing this week. Those kids get a chance to throw a ball to Dunk Desmyter.
- Kym Falkler mentioned that 2nd grade Ms. Gray and 6th grade Ms. Carroll need a room parent.

Next Meeting – November 9, 7PM (Location TBD)

Adjournment --(Do I hear a motion to adjourn? 1- Darlene McNerney, 2 – Cara Berman and Alex Gershman, ...All in favor - YESMotion approved)

Meeting ended at 7:50pm.