



Shreveport Elementary PTA



Meeting Agenda

November 9, 2021 7:00 PM | Location: Zoom

In Attendance: Kate Coho, Deb Sutton, Katie Vandawalker, Josh Desmyter, Emily Zuppert, Purvi Vashee, Andrea Capellan, Cara Berman, Stacia Keel, Kate Hall, Mayuriel Tatiana Perez, Anita Prichard, Darlene McNerney, Jennifer Adams, Paola Robey, Minna Moezie, Kristen Moore, Kelly Ego, Jeremy Hancock, Clare Valudes, Kym Falkler, Alope Barnwal

Welcome/Call to order (7PM)

- Kate welcomed the community and introduced our guests.

Guests

- Mr. DeSmyter, Principal, Ms. Vandawalker, Asst. Principal, and Ms. Zuppert, Reading Specialist
- **Updates:**
 - Mr. Desmyter welcomed the community and talked about how great the first quarter went. He said they continue to win every day for our students and staff.
 - Things are going well with our COVID cases, staying at 1 or zero each week. No weekly notifications reduce the anxiety for the community. He urged us to continue practicing mitigation strategies at home.
 - Shreveport's Professional Development this month was about access and opportunity; we continue to focus as a community on providing all students with opportunities.
 - Our AAP teachers and other teachers work with other 3-6 grade-level teachers to expand AAP offerings/program to meet all of our students' needs. It's not easy, but we'll continue to provide coverage and professional development for the staff throughout the year.
 - We're on track with this goal in our school improvement plan.
 - They are looking at offering two AAP classes per grade. He'll continue to update us as this progresses.
 - Staff updates mid-year:
 - Candace Crowe, Kindergarten teacher, was on extended maternity leave. She decided to stay home for a year with her son. They've hired a December graduate, Haley Murnan, who started this week and will be a long-term sub for this class this year. Sarah Character will be an instructional assistant to support Haley.
 - Instructional Coach, Britney Rogers left the school for an Assistant Principal role at another FCPS school. In place of her role, the school

traded the position for two instructional assistants. One of whom is supporting the new Kindergarten teacher.

- Jessica Chinn, Art teacher, has been offered a position teaching art at the High School level. Josh released her from Shreveewood and we have 4 December graduates interviewing now. Her last day at Shreveewood will be next Monday, 11/15.
 - Assistant Principal, Katie Vandawalker, will be going out on leave in December. She found a great fit, Suzie Lilleborne, who will work with Katie before she goes on leave. She's currently Dean of Students at Falls Church HS. Her first day at Shreveewood will be January 4th.
 - Josh reiterated that we need the support of the community to work together and collaborate for the kids to create the best environment. He thanked us for continuing to provide for the community.
 - Recently, they did a 'just because' raffle that the PTA supported for staff with holiday baskets with socks and treats and things at a Friday staff meeting.
 - PTA also provided Duck Donuts.
 - With fewer COVID cases, Josh and Katie have been able to get into the classrooms more around the school (because they're not spending so much time contact tracing). They're looking at inter-disciplinary guides to teach kids similar topics in different classes (e.g. Social Studies and Reading) and seeing the connections happening with students.
- **Workshop Model:** Emily Zuppert, Reading Specialist discussed the Reading Workshop Model and Josh Desmyer, Principal, discussed the Math Workshop Model
 - Because of COVID, the group sizes are smaller and other guidelines impact the overall structure of workshop model.
 - Reading Workshop: We do this so that all students can learn skills and strategies based on grade-level content. It allows them to have books at their instructional level.
 - Components of reading workshop: Focus Lesson with the whole class, Guided Reading/Strategy Groups (students practice strategies from focused lesson and differentiating at various instructional levels – this also allows time for 1-on-1 conferring with some students); Workshop Reflection (brings all students back to tie together reading workshop lesson).
 - Math Workshop: Learn through verbal and written sharing.
 - Components of math workshop:
 - Number Sense Routine, Focus Lesson with whole class on a specific strategy, Guided Math Groups (pulling groups to teach at specific levels), Workshop Reflection with whole class and check for understanding (exit tickets, white board checks, thumbs up/thumbs down)
 - More independent: Number sense routine, one longer task, and workshop reflection

- Number Sense Routine, Stations (e.g., previous lessons like regrouping, rounding, and estimating) with guided math groups or teacher directed station, and workshop reflection and assessment.
- All students learn differently, so they meet the kids at their level.
- Questions:
 - In the Reading Workshop, what are the strategies that are used? E.g., phonemic awareness approach. FCPS is moving toward a phonics-based approach for K-2. This year, they rolled out specific phonics lessons in planning and pacing guides. In K, in addition to reading goals and writing goals, they have a word study and phonics piece. At Shreveewood, K uses Foundations that follows a scope and sequence of teaching letters and letter sounds. All K classrooms do that for 15 minutes a day. They're also training teachers in other strategies.
 - Are workshops and reading groups more focused on younger grades? What is the reading support in upper grades? Josh confirmed that he knows it is happening in all grades. He suggested reaching out to the teacher to find out how it is being implemented in the classroom. The admins are observing it in classrooms now. Reading groups are pulled 2-3 at a time, so it's a slower pace to get through the different levels of students. They are getting better at tracking it. They monitor weekly. Older grades sometimes call it a 'book club' instead of a reading group.

Old Business

- Approval of 10/12/2021 PTA meeting notes (available on website)
- **Do I hear a motion to approve the meeting notes?**
- 1) Darlene McNerney 2) Cara Berman; All in favor: Motion approved**

New Business

- Treasurer's report
 - Kate shared the Treasurer's report from Paola. She shared a more detailed budget and the audit report at the following link:
<http://shrevewoodelementary.ch2v.com/Content.asp?PageID=0&ContentIndex=17>
 - Proposed Amendment – School Social Worker has asked the PTA to support children in need for snacks, water bottles, etc. Community Outreach chair asked for PTA to provide gift certificates to the neediest kids to be able to purchase books at the Book Fair. Asking to transfer \$1000 from the Assemblies budget to support the Social Work budget. It will leave \$1000 in the assemblies budget.
- **Do I hear a motion to approve the proposed amendment?**
- 1) Kelly Ego 2) Clare Valudes; All in favor: Motion approved**

- MemberHub – please make sure you have signed up! To keep getting the newsletter in the new year, you’ll need to register for MemberHub. You do not need to be a member.
 - <https://shrevewoodes.memberhub.com/join/2c0d5c>
- Outstanding Employee Nominations – deadline is this Friday, 11/12. Please nominate staff at the school.
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1wMf73rE7gBMdFWcBUc2ZUGIzgR7T5znI9v12s-BY5d9EwA/viewform?utm_name=
 - Cara asked if teachers know that they received a nomination, even if they don’t win. The school plans to get better with their process. Kim Paska Negro is leading this to help the school do better and share information with the staff. They want to be intentional about supporting the staff members and reading the letters. The school is putting a packet together with the strongest case to support these nominations.
- Book Fair – Ms. Wenzel needs help with set up on Thursday afternoon, early release day.
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4eaca722a5f58-swes>
 - There will be some extended hours in the evenings.
- We still need YOU!
 - Community Outreach committee – e-mail Darlene at darlenehowell@gmail.com
 - Power Packs each week or other community outreach for holiday drive and needs.
 - Staff Appreciation committee – e-mail Shrevewoodsaw@gmail.com
 - Miana Ford set up donuts and gifts for the teachers. Send her ideas or suggestions.
 - Sign Up Genius for More Opportunities:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4eaead2aa1f58-volunteers>

For the Common Good/Other Business and Announcements

- Andrea Capellan raised the issue that her community sends over 100 kids on two buses each day. The community she lives in is 40% LatinX and 40% South Asian and 90% immigrant. There may be some better ways to include these parents in our meetings and discussions. So much info goes out through email. Everything is through cell phones. PTA MemberHub has a cell phone database. **Consider sending links through text message to reach more families.**
 - The LatinX community are non-English speaking. Consider incorporating a translator in the budget to make it more participatory for all families. South Asian community generally speaks English. But Spanish would be beneficial to a lot of families.
 - Andrea offered to provide some ad hoc translation.
 - Discussed making flyers in other languages.
 - Josh mentioned that this is a big focus of his. Entire front office staff speaks Spanish. 302 families in the community speak Spanish as their first language. He

agreed that cell phones and other communication tools may be the way to go. In the past, they have sent the Wise Words out in Spanish. They also brought on the Spanish program here because of demographic changes at the school. Hoping to push that to the whole school in the next 1-2 years. Also reaching out to the community through liaisons to improve outreach.

- Cara mentioned that the ID volunteer system is back up and running at the school. It makes families feel safer.
- Kristen Moore asked if there is an update on the crosswalks. Josh hasn't gotten any info yet, but Jeremy Hancock said the timing is still 4-5 years away. Funding doesn't start until 2024. They're trying to get funding through another grant, but timeline is the same. Kate will reach out to Rob to see if he has any updates.

Next Meeting

- We will not have a meeting in December because it would be the week before winter break.
- Kate asked for ideas for a social activity in December that we could consider doing virtually.
- The next meeting will be January 11, 7PM. Join us to hear from our Student Services Team about mental health resources!

Adjournment – Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

- 1) Darlene McNerney 2) Kristen Moore; All in favor: Motion approved**

Meeting ended at 8:02pm.