



Shrevewood Elementary PTA



Meeting Agenda

September 14, 2021 7:30 PM | Location: Zoom and Shrevewood Cafeteria (concurrent)

In Attendance: Kate Coho, Karen Archer, Deb Sutton, Katie Vandawalker, Josh Desmyter, Purvi Vashee, Darlene Mc Nerney, Sharon Feeney, Andrea Capellan, Mayuriel Tatiana, Cara Berman, Paola Robey, Mindy Pava, Omar Zao, Jennifer Adams, Anita Prichard, Traci Crockett, Ed Roggenkamp, Minna Moezie, Rachel, PJ Hydera, Kym Falkler, Jackie Wilson, Kelly Ego, Lyn Chea, Elizabeth Higgingson, Stacia Keel

Welcome/Call to order (7PM)

- Kate welcomed the group and discussed the concurrent approach for PTA meetings. We're the first local PTA to attempt a concurrent model for PTA meeting.

'Getting to Know You' Icebreaker

- Attendees introduced themselves.

Guests

- Kate introduced Mr. DeSmyter and Ms. Vandawalker.
- Principal's Report – Mr. Josh DeSmyter:
 - Josh discussed the idea behind being here in person – if FCPS says our kids are safe here, then parents can be safe here with the proper mitigation strategies, too.
 - Kudos to the PTA for putting on the picnic last week and sending the message to the community that it's ok to be together, safely.
 - Started off by discussing the educational priorities at Shrevewood this year: celebrations, SWES Priorities, COVID protocol updates
 - Celebrations:
 - Success of school opening – no pauses yet
 - Engaging and purposeful lessons
 - Relationship building – lots of great feedback about connections already
 - Back to school night – great info sharing at open house face-to-face, since we have 690+ students they had to keep B2S Night virtual
 - Wonderful school picnic – Feedback from another school staff member was positive about our community feeling at the picnic.
 - Priorities:
 - Academic priorities are the same – reading and math workshop models with differentiated instruction for all learners
 - Access and opportunity of all students getting AAP curriculum – this has been in our school improvement plan as an equity goal for the last two years and it will

continue to be a priority. Fundraising for in-house AAP education led by our AART, April Done.

- Balancing safety and academic achievement
- Social and Emotional (SEL) supports in place – understand 24 character traits of Positivity Project. Implemented this over the last 2 years, continuing now. Using the mailbox at the front as a Positivity Project box to celebrate students’ learning.
- Cultured Kids is the closing circle program this year.
- Strong multi-tiered systems and support MTSS and Tier 1 Behavior Wellness Supports for students to help everyone be successful; working with parents to develop plans.
- COVID Protocol Updates
 - Updated information since Back to School Night. Concerns about increasing cases have changed plans
 - Increasing space in seating arrangements. Need to separate a little more than we had, which is challenging in our school. Teachers are separating seats for some social distancing now in classes – gave to the teachers on Monday. They continue to work on this, collaborating with one another to create the safest environment.
 - High academic expectations and safety concerns make things challenging. Shreveewood is committed to the academic focus this year, not just trying to make it through the year.
 - Outdoor learning spaces are coming together. Umbrellas and dry erase are coming together.
 - Small groups must be pulled for only 15 minutes to support contact tracing needs
 - Seeking ongoing community support and reflection from parents and staff.
 - Josh reminded the community that his son goes here. He wouldn’t put him in an unsafe environment.
 - Exploring virtual livestreaming option in case of pauses. Asynchronous learning will be provided. They are working with the teachers to incorporate live streaming to continue to share with the class if they’re at home. Teams met on Tuesday and meet again on Thursday to develop plans.
 - Live stream would be offered to kids who have to be home for positive COVID cases or contacts.
 - Kim Paska, Dr. Rogers, Katie, and Josh continue to work on safety mitigations in the building.
 - Question about vaccines changing the policy in the future; hopeful but no answer yet
 - Admin will walk the school around on Friday to validate the spacing in the classrooms. We’re using as much distance as possible, given space constraints.
 - School is trying to get rid of excess furniture, but it’s sitting the CARES room because the warehouse is full.
 - Josh commented on the big success of bringing the 6th graders into the building vice trailers this year; great to have them in the building, but it does add students to the building and makes social distancing harder.
- AP Report—Ms. Katie Vandawalker:
 - Katie introduced herself from home, first year as Asst Principal at Shreveewood.
 - She loves the sense of family at Shreveewood. She’s local to FCPS and has worked in the county for 11 years. She has taught in each level of school and is glad to be back in elementary this year.

- Kate reminded new members that the PTA continues to advocate with the School Board and others about the overcrowding issue.

Old Business

- Approval of 6/11/2021 PTA meeting notes

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

New Business

- What is the PTA?
 - Kate described how PTA supports children at Shrevewood, working with teachers, Admin, and families.
 - Introduced the Board this year. We all have kids at Shrevewood. We are volunteers and want to make Shrevewood the best place for everyone.
 - PTA tries to plan fun events. We're evolving and trying to do as much as we can safely. We'll continue to look for options in the spring to help build community.
 - We organize before/after school classes, fundraise for the school, communicate with families, and work with everyone.
 - Provided an overview of last year's fundraising – Read-a-thon raised \$26,405 last year, along with some smaller fundraisers.
 - Fundraising dollars support teacher training, teacher wish lists, field trips, staff appreciation, STEAM events and cultural programs, and special projects (e.g. school improvements, classroom libraries, etc.)
 - All classrooms now have age-appropriate libraries!
- Treasurer's report/Proposed Budget
 - Paola briefed the membership on the budget projections
 - Planning for two fundraisers and estimating conservatively on intake.
 - Teacher training is the largest chunk of budget, along with staff appreciation and wish lists.
 - Hoping for field trips this year and helping with school furniture and landscaping and events.
 - Andrea Capellan offered to provide fundraising ideas from her former private school last year.
 - Kate shared that we plan to ask for money in the fall and the spring. But hoping to not ask constantly.
 - **(Do I hear a motion to approve the meeting notes? 1- Darlene, 2- Cara, ...All in favor – YESMotion approved)**
 - Kate reminded the group that we will bring budget updates to each meeting. Any time we change the budget by more than \$500, we have to seek approval from membership.
- Volunteers Needed!
 - Kate shared that there are several committees looking for chairs.

- Committee Chairs/Members (Spelling Bee, Science Fair, and Geography Bee are co-sponsored with the school; PTA also may do spring Fun Fair, Bingo Night): ptaboardshrewood@gmail.com
- Community Outreach: email Darlene at darlenehowell@gmail.com; currently organizing the clothing drive for the Shrewood community in coordination with the school Social Worker
 - Last year's holiday drive was amazing!
- Staff Appreciation: email at Shrewoodsaw@gmail.com; Miana Ford is a 6th grade parent who leads this committee
- Room Parents – still looking for a volunteer for Ms. Gray, but all other classes are now covered. Email Kym Falkler for more info.
- Follow the PTA on Facebook, Twitter, and newsletters.
- Dining for Dollars at Ledo Pizza, 29 and 30 September.
- Armchair Fundraiser 9/27-10/15 – some incentives this year but based on participation rather than value of donation to make it more equitable.
- Spirit Wear store closes 9/24
- Please share your ideas and interest and time with the PTA!

For the Common Good/Other Business and Announcements

- Katie Vandawalker is pregnant with twin girls, due in January. She promises she will be back!
- Josh is working with the Region 2 staff to identify staff to help fill in while she's out.

Next Meeting – October 12th at 7:00pm (Concurrent)

Adjournment - (Do I hear a motion to adjourn? 1) Darlene, 2) Josh,All in favor – YESMotion approved)

Meeting ended at 7:56pm.