

10/16/24 General Body PTO meeting

- A. Welcome
- B. Walk/Bike/Roll to school day
 - a. Thanked volunteers
- C. Call for Committee Leads and (vacancies)
 - b. Curriculum & staff Support (1)
 - c. Fundraising & Grants (2)
 - d. Gala (2)
- D. Room Parent shout out (recognized the RPN leads)
- E. Examples of how “Your involvement Makes a Difference”
 - e. Crossing guards at 14th/Kalmia and 16th/Kalmia
 - f. First grade additional teacher
 - g. Fourth grade DCPS engagement
- F. TAP winner
 - h. Ms. Smith (Kindergarten) and will receive Wishlist fund bonus!!
- G. Opportunities for Engagement
- H. Review of communication for school
 - i. Class dojo
 - i. Question from parent about teacher’s usage of dojo
 - j. The school’s website (Shepherd-elementary.org)
 - k. Groups io for each class
 - ii. Encourage everyone to register
 - l. A to Z connect
 - iii. If not receiving PTO newsletter, then you are not registered with A to Z connect, therefore, please register
- I. Upcoming events
 - m. Family Faculty Kickball Game 10/17/24 4-5:30pm@Lower Field
 - n. Fall Fest 10/20/24 12-4pm
 - iv. Call for Volunteers

- v. Call for someone to chair for next year
 - vi. Tickets will be available at event this year (no pre-sale opportunity this year)
 - o. Book-o-ween Parade 10/31/24
 - p. Donuts with grownups, first one: 11/11/24 8:30-9:10am
 - q. Next LSAT (4pm)and PTO (5:30pm) meeting 11/20/24
- J. Ways to be engaged
- r. Attend events
 - s. Volunteer for events
 - t. Leading committees
 - u. Join committees
 - v. Give to 180 fund
- K. Budget update
- w. Reviewed budget
 - x. YTD revenue 11,329.82; YTD expenses 5,851.71, Net change 5478.11
 - y. Expect uptick in expenses from Fall Fest etc
- L. Welcome back Principal Russell
- z. She thanked the PTO for the flowers
 - aa. Thank you and shout out to the staff lounge snacks, foods, drinks etc
 - ab. Thank you for attending parent teacher conferences (several grades with 100% attendance)
 - ac. Today was her first whole school strong start (Ms. Alvarez and Ms. Scottt, and Ms. Murali for being the A/V)
 - ad. Events to provide engagement in the school house (Focus this year to engagement community in the classroom)
 - vii. Donuts with Grown ups (time for families to visit classroom and participate in strong start, 1st Tues 11/12/24)
 - viii. Coffee and conversation series with principal and admin
 - ae. LSAT update
 - ix. Focus on comprehensive school plan, our school climate culture, our academics, engagement
 - x. The administration is developing a series of handbooks to define the Shepherd

Way

- xi. Updates on Staffing
 - 1. Vacancies in special education program
 - 2. Vacancies in 4th grade
 - a. 4th grade ELA Ms. Visle(spelling), our MLL teacher stepped up to build consistency for the students and to provide quality instruction, however, we are looking to fill the vacancy
 - b. Parent said that she thought IS Larken said they would open the MLL vacancy and not the 4th grade vacancy
 - c. There may be discussion offline to further clarify this
 - 3. Recently filled ECE-Prek Aide position (onboarding now)
- xii. 4th grade Town halls
 - 4. Parent asked if Town halls will continue on Fridays through October and Yes they will continue with Principal Russell

M. The Arts are thriving at Shepherd

- af. Cheerleader team shoutout
- ag. The Little Mermaid musical this year 3/20/25 and 3/21/25
 - xiii. Tryouts 10/21 and 10/22 (children have to submit interest to audition by Friday 10/18/24)
- ah. Fall Art show 11/19/24 3:30-5pm

N. IB Recertification update (presentation by Ms. Alvarez, formerly, Ms. Mack)

- ai. What is the IB evaluation
 - xiv. Reflective process to look back over the past 5 years
 - xv. Assess if school continues to meet requirement of IB
- aj. IB philosophy
 - xvi. Purpose; learning; culture; environment
- ak. Phase of IB evaluation
 - xvii. Phase 1 (documentation); Phase 2 (self-study); Phase 3 (IB visit in Feb 2025)
- al. Parent's role
 - xviii. Fill out the parent IB survey released in December
 - xix. Participate in focus group session as requested

xx. Provide evidence

xxi. PTO and Shepherd staff will partner to create a warm welcome for our evaluators

am. Ms. Alvarez asked if questions

xxii. CO-president Romine asked how Ms. Alvarez felt we would do and Ms. Alvarez is quite optimistic

O. End of PTO meeting