

# Shepherd Elementary PTO 2018–2019

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- Membership meeting for Wednesday, April 24, 2019

## Attendees

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- Liz Bradley (President)
- Taryn Losch-Beridon (1st Vice President)
- Allison Berg (2nd Vice President)
- Andrea Smith (Treasurer)
- vacant (Assistant Treasurer)
- Karen Sloan (Corresponding Secretary)
- Theo Francis (Recording Secretary)
- Jade Brawley (SES Principal)
- Raquel Ortiz (DCPS)

## Agenda

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## Meeting Notes

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Meeting was called to order on April 24, 2019 at 6:40 PM.

Ms. Bradley recognized Ms. Suchecki, the school's recently hired music teacher.

Mr. Francis presented the minutes from the prior two meetings. A motion to adopt was made, seconded and passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Francis discussed the procedure for the May election, including the open officer positions and four LSAT positions. He also briefly described plans for the IB program self-review in anticipation of the IB recertification, including the need for parent volunteers.

Mr. Francis solicited volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Simon Messing and Callie Eideberg volunteered.

Mr. Francis described plans to revise the PTA's bylaws and said a draft proposal would be circulated. He requested feedback on the draft so a revised version could be distributed ahead of any vote.

Principal Brawley encouraged parents to re-enroll their students, noting that medical records could be supplied later. She noted that DCPS rules for proof of residency had changed; if a utility bill is used, it must be accompanied by a receipt for payment, or a second consecutive utility bill. Enrollment for Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 must be completed by May 1 to guarantee a spot.

For other grades, the school hopes to reach 100% enrollment by the start of summer vacation, Principal Brawley said. Forms are available online, and Ms. Brooks in the main office has copies; she will also be available at the school until 6:30 p.m. through May to assist with enrollment. While some information can be emailed, one document must be signed in her presence.

Principal Brawley provided an update on PARCC testing, giving planned dates for English-language arts, math and other testing for third through fifth graders during the month of May. She noted a PARCC tutorial is available online, that during testing each student will have a dedicate device on which to take the test, including headphones, and that the tests are timed. Students will complete one session of ELA or two sessions of math a day. Students will have snacks available to them on days with multiple assessments. She asked that parents ensure children have a good breakfast and arrive on time, though make-up slots are available.

An audience member raised concerns that the school doesn't provide explicit computer training for students who don't have experience using computers. Principal Brawley said the school has worked to ensure students have exposure to the kind of computer applications used during testing, and that they have had time on the computer generally. She acknowledged that the school doesn't have a dedicate staff member working with students on computers, but that Ms. Anderson, the school library media specialist, does work with students on computer skills as part of her other work with them.

Ms. Smith presented a financial update, including a preview of donations for the gala, the 180 Fund and other income streams. She discussed a series of deposits that had been received at PTA's bank accounts that appear to be errors or otherwise unexplained, despite requests through the bak and the telephone numbers provided with the transfers.

Ms. Bradley provided an update on a discount available for Galley Foods, a meal delivery service.

Ms. Losch-Beridon provided an update on the upcoming gala, including more than 250 items available for auction.

Mr. Francis provided an update on the LSAT meetings, including the apparent success of efforts to control mice in the building.

Mr. Francis reintroduced the Nominating Committee, which presented the slate as it stood so far:

- President: Liz Bradley`

- 1st Vice President: Taryn Losch-Beridon
- Corresponding Secretary: Laura Benning-Williams
- Treasurer: Antoinette Aguilar
- Assistant Treasurer: Andrea Smith

Ms. Eideberg gave a brief presentation about the Star Achievers aftercare board, noting that it is a separate nonprofit and that the time commitment is not onerous. Nominations must be received by May 20.

Ms. Sloan discussed plans for the school's Field Day on June 11, or on June 12 in the event of rain. She said because it is usually hot, the event needs donations of water, as well as volunteers for events. In response to a question, she said events are likely to include tug of war, an obstacle course, soccer, football and other sports, as well as races. She noted that last year there was a bounce house. She said volunteers should contact her at [info@shepherd-elementary.org](mailto:info@shepherd-elementary.org)

Derek Musgrove discussed the upcoming First Annual Shepherd Camping Trip at Great Falls, about 90 minutes away, for one night from May 18–19. He described it as car camping on tent pads, so no hiking would be necessary to the campsite. He noted that a Google sign-up sheet was available through recent PTA emails. Participants really just need a tent and a sleeping-bag.

Ms. Smith suggested providing a list of all the necessary equipment or supplies a family would need, given that some people have no camping experience.

Mr. Douglas Sloan provided an update about the recent Ward 3 Feeder Network meeting at the Cleveland Park library, concerning schools that send students to Deal Middle School and Wilson High School. He said the group was friendly and laid back, and he heard no discussion of attempting to remove Shepherd from the Deal-Wilson feeder network. He said he was the only person not from west of Rock Creek Park, and the only African-American at the meeting. He said participants were focused on overcrowding at Deal and Wilson, and discussed the possibility of repurposing Old Hardy school, currently rented to the Lab School by DCPS, as well as the possibility of a new elementary school.

Ms. Bradley said there had been some discussion about emergency legislation to reauthorize the Lab School's lease, but that there is also opposition. Ms. Bradley noted that Shepherd will be hosting the Ward 3 Feeder Network on May 13.

Ms. Suchecki introduced herself and described her background. She said she hoped to attend PTA meetings and described professional development she had participated in over spring break, incorporating more modern music into instruction. She said she also hopes to explore a drama club, choir, musicals and other musical activities.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and adopted by unanimous voice vote at 7:48 PM.