

# **Shepherd Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes:**

## **Virtual Meeting October 21, 2020**

**Executive Board in Attendance: Liz Bradley (Co-President), Taryn Losch-Beridon (Co-President), Ayana McIntosh (Vice President), Karen Sloan (Treasurer), Andrea Smith (Assistant Treasurer), Sara Faulman (Recording Secretary)**

**Total attendees: Approximately 80-90 Teams Participants (including Board and Dr. Hedlund)**

The Meeting was called to Order at: 6:35 pm

Liz Bradley Welcome Address to all attendees and introduces agenda for the meeting, to be focused on Dr. Hedlund's presentation. Notes that Dr. Hedlund has agreed to present again next week as she learns more information from DCPS.

### **Dr. Hedlund Update**

- Staff survey happened first; many staff have health or child-care concerns that are reasons for not returning to live instruction
- She has been keeping a careful eye on the Dashboard and looking at documentation approvals
- Staffing was solidified on the Dashboard today; on Friday the staff will find out whether documentation was approved or whether they will be coming in live
- They have set up some classrooms based on that preliminary information
- Two classrooms:
  - IPL (In Person Live) Classroom: led by a homeroom teacher for that grade level
    - Max capacity of 11; 10 in PK 4/K; 8 for PK3
    - Student selection round 1: complete on Friday and notification on Friday
      - At risk student (IEP, ELL, homeless, 504s); they will contact by phone immediately
    - If there are no homeroom teachers who agree to come back, they will not offer in person learning for that grade for that school
  - CARES Classroom: virtual instruction under the supervision of a professional
    - Could be instructional aide, an AP, or someone from another school
    - Student selection: lottery – will happen the next week
- Current efforts: working with custodial to place spacers on the floor and desks spaced accurately
- Custodial Issues: are being addressed by DCPS
- Walk-through will be scheduled with PTA, LSAT, WTU rep, and building leadership to ensure preparedness and readiness
- Flexibility: she is trying to figure out from DCPS whether they can make modifications to serve the needs / wants of the community. For example, with respect to differentiated learning in grades 4/5, can the IPL classes do some virtual so they can continue to have all three teachers?

### **Pre-Submitted Questions for Dr. Hedlund:**

- How will students classes be impacted for virtual?
  - Cap on virtual instruction is 40 students

- Example: in first grade that are 54, and if one comes in, and the in-person takes 11 students it will exceed the cap
- Online instructional teachers will get “additional resources” as needed, but DCPS has not clarified what or how that will work
- What about PK classes; what will those CARES classes look like?
  - They will be more about play and play stations (though spread out)
  - Will look like “choice time” during school but with sanitary measures
- Staff Needs: do you need anything?
  - They have PPE and cleaning supplies
  - There are still some things they are waiting for that DCPS has promised to provide
- Building Needs / HVAC
  - Supposedly things are being fixed and will be fixed

**Live Questions:**

- Teacher Reassignment:
  - Some kids will get reassigned a classroom.
  - Not sure when kids in virtual will be told whether they are reassigned as well
  - Staff / kid selection is happening through Central Office
- Role of SPED / ELL Teachers:
  - They will have the same assignments and caseloads that they currently have
- Recess for CARES / ILP classes:
  - There will be recess, and boxed meals.
  - The playground will be cleaned in between recesses. Each DCPS school given a power washer; but it will be challenging
  - Outdoor recess will not happen when raining or below freezing; however, Shepherd has a new gym and MPR that can be used.
- ILP Classes: will they know which teacher when offer is made? No.
- Symptom Protocol:
  - If they are shown symptoms, they go to an isolation room until a parent comes and takes them to the doctor for testing. The assumption is that the class will be quarantined for a period of time (10 days)
  - No information on whether a negative test will be required
- What is the minimum of students for IPL classes?
  - Not sure; it may be that they just keep moving down the list of kids to get to 11
  - Will know more later this week.
- Virtual Option for learning
  - Always there
  - You can opt in and then opt back to virtual if it is not working for you
- PK Participation:
  - Lack of participation (as long as attendance is there) will not impact ability to be in the school for next year
- Kindergarten Overcrowding:
  - They will keep the aides in for virtual learning because it is so big. She will not pull any of them from virtual learning.

- Improving Numbers of COVID: if it gets worse we go back to virtual. Essentially.

**Dr. Leonard Suggestion:** can the parents rally around testing and transparency. He asks the parents to do that so that the stress can come off the teachers and the administration.

- Liz / PTO to share information about how to be vocal to the City
- Friday gathering information will be shared as well

#### **Liz Updates (General)**

- Focusing on 180 Fund – in lieu of the fall fest and everything else, please try to support the PTO and the school by becoming a 180 member
- Fundraising efforts through the CustomInk; thanks to Esther for organizing.
- New family meet up. There will be another tomorrow on Thursday October 21. Thanks to Carolyn Smith for helping.
- Still looking for a Corresponding Secretary to join the PTO leadership board
  - Communication focused / supporting weekly newsletter and website efforts
- Filled all of our LSAT positions; those will start soon

#### **Taryn Update (General)**

- Thank you to parents for volunteering for committees
- If you still want to volunteer, please do so!

Meeting Called to Close at 7:20 pm