

PTO General Body Meeting Minutes (9/29/21)

PTO Welcome and Introductions

Speaker: Taryn Losch-Beridon; Shepherd PTO Co-President

- PTO focus on community building in 2021-22
- Exec board members and committee chairs introduced
- Contact information/key emails provided
- Annual PTO calendar highlights reviewed
- DCPS Covid Protocol overview provided

Principal Report

Speaker: Dr. Phyllis Hedlund; SES Principal

- Status of school operations provided, with emphasis on difficulties in staffing continuity
- Hiring updates provided
- Announced kick-off of afterschool clubs and tutoring
- Answered questions on Covid notifications and related procedures

Presentation: Mental Health Matters; An Overview for Parents

Speaker: Dr. Persephone Brown; Shepherd Elementary School psychologist

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum reviewed
- Whole Purpose Child model discussed, which promotes shared leadership and ownership
- School Psychologist's role; to identify and provide support for students benefit from their educational program
- Social emotional learning vs. mindfulness defined.
- Response to Intervention (RTI) has progressed to use of multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS)
- Mental [health.gov](https://www.health.gov) can provide additional information

Proposed Budget; presented by Andrea Smith (PTO treasurer)

- Anticipated total revenue \$81,350
- Anticipated total expenses \$81,278
- Balance forward \$56,481
- Budget accepted by vote of 37/66 members present at the meeting
- ptotreasurer@shepherd-elementary.org for additional questions

Committee Updates:

- Communications & Advocacy
- Further details regarding use of community center coming; MOU in process with Cinthia Ruiz
- Fundraising & Grants;
- Siri Warkentien; \$3,000 grant from “Let us Grow” and new grant from “Whole Kids Foundation.”
- Family Engagement
- Cendrine Head; kick-off meeting 10/1/21, 55 new Shepherd families this year!
- Curriculum & Staff Support
- Seeking committee chair
- Jodi Arellano; room parent network coordinator
- Health & Wellness
- Dana Ju; walk-to-school day 10/6/21, Health Fair 4/2021
- Facilities Improvement
- Committee chair needed!
- Community Engagement & Public Relations
- Robin Showannes; working on social media platform/ engagement

Other Updates:

- **W3DNET**
- Monthly calls to discuss Deal feeder patterns
- **LSAT**
- Recent acquisition of money allocated

- **PAVE**
- Advocacy group for parents of DC students
- Recent discussion for proposed vaccination mandate
- Hearing for safe passage act on 10/12/21
- **Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP)**
- Submit nomination of teacher excellence by letter
- Monthly award of \$100 towards teacher wish list
- **180 Fund**
- Goal to raise \$10,000 SY 2021-22
- **Gear sales**
- Winter gear is coming 10/2021
- Online storefront in progress

Meeting called to a close at 7:50 pm