

## PTO meeting 1/15/25

- A. Principal update
  - a. Staffing update
    - i. Vacancy in special education and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher
      - 1. Interviews for 1<sup>st</sup> grade position (some promising) + special education position (strong candidate)
    - ii. Vacancy in CES Aid position
      - 1. Ms. Patel CES Aid went out on leave and thus looking for a sub for this classroom (we had a longer sub who has since changed their mind)
  - b. Playground
    - i. Opening soon, but recent snow storm delayed the opening (was to open 1/13/25). Waiting fencing, inspections (snow has to be melted in order to move forward). Hope to be open by 1/27/25
  - c. Early Readers program started (we have 10 volunteers who work on reading fluency with the students)
    - i. 20 students recommended for the program
    - ii. 7 students attended the 1<sup>st</sup> session and the school hopes to have more
  - d. Budget Process
    - i. Usually, budget for next school year opens in February (not a set date) and then Principal Russell works with LSAT team to allocate funds
- B. IB Parent corner with Ms. Alvarez
  - a. School visit in Feb 2025 (interviews with students, parents, teachers, staff etc)
  - b. Ms. Alvarez shared a 1 pager "Shepherd ES IB communication:"
    - i. [https://www.canva.com/design/DAGcGsDcc94/XflXnSVoO3mHtquaXOUJA/view?utm\\_content=DAGcGsDcc94&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=uniquelinks&utm\\_id=h5d46e58144](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGcGsDcc94/XflXnSVoO3mHtquaXOUJA/view?utm_content=DAGcGsDcc94&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=h5d46e58144)
    - ii. Learn about IB: (1) Newsletters; (2) Meetings; (3) Social Media; (School website)
- C. Appreciations
  - a. Mustang Week (12/16/24-12/20/24)
    - i. Had a 180 fund push!
  - b. Nando Fundraiser
    - i. Nando's commented that partnering with Shepherd was their Best fundraiser to date and we raised \$1000
    - ii. Nando's interested in partnering in the future
  - c. Summer Camp Auction
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> camp auction
    - ii. Raised >\$1500
  - d. IB canned Food drive
    - i. Ms. Alvarez is looking forward to meeting with 4<sup>th</sup> grade IB ambassadors to get the count of the canned food
  - e. Donuts with grown-ups on 1/15/25
    - i. Candace Mainor and Stephanie Bingham gave a positive report
    - ii. Amber reminded that a sign up is needed
- D. December Tap Award Winner with 8 nominations!

- a. Ms. Promithious Denmark-Lawal: “Ms. Denmark-Lawal inspires her students to do their best work. Her love for teaching shines through in how she interacts with both students and parents. She is a role model for other educators. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to have my child in the care of Mrs. Denmark-Lawal
  - b. PTO executive board will share all comments with Ms. Denmark-Lawal and Principal Russell off-line
- E. 180 Fund [benefits the (1) Art and Music programs, (2) IB program, (3) Field trips, (4) school supplies
  - a. Currently at 69 families have donated money
- F. Stay connected
  - a. Register for A to Z account
  - b. Join Shepherd Elementary PTO groups
  - c. Follow on Facebook
  - d. Add Shepherd PTO to google calendar
- G. Budget update-given by Paige Johnson
  - a. YTD Revenues 42, 205.61
  - b. YTD expenses 31, 707.36
- H. What’s next in 2025
  - a. January
    - i. 15<sup>th</sup>: donuts with grown-ups
    - ii. 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: no school
    - iii. 18<sup>th</sup>: Shepherd cheer squad 1<sup>st</sup> competition
    - iv. 24<sup>th</sup>: Winter ball
      - 1. Enter on Jonquil side and doors will open 10minutes before dance is to start
      - 2. Mr. Valez will be DJ
      - 3. Snack/activities for those who do not like to dance
      - 4. Under the Leadership of Ms. Caola
      - 5. Fundraiser (for student activities fund)with tickets \$5/each
      - 6. Shift 1 is for PREK3-2<sup>nd</sup> grade 4:30-5:30
        - a. Ticket for child + adult (adult required to attend as well)
      - 7. Shift 2 is for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: 6-7pm
      - 8. Purchase by bringing cash and name on a piece of paper to homeroom teachers
      - 9. Dress code is “ball” but not required
      - 10. Can sign up on sign up genius if needed
    - v. 27<sup>th</sup>: no school
  - b. February
    - i. 12<sup>th</sup> : donuts with grown-ups
    - ii. 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: no school
    - iii. 19<sup>th</sup>: LSAT meeting and PTO meeting
    - iv. 21<sup>st</sup> : &pizza Fundraiser
    - v. 27<sup>th</sup>: Black History Month Showcase at UDC (3<sup>rd</sup> annual)
    - vi. 28<sup>th</sup>: movie night in MPR

- c. March
  - i. 12<sup>th</sup>: donuts with Grown ups
  - ii. 13<sup>th</sup>: parent teacher conference
  - iii. 14<sup>th</sup>: no school
  - iv. 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: The Music program presents “The Little Mermaid” Musical
  - v. 27<sup>th</sup>: Fifth grade exhibition for IB
- I. 2025 “Gala” committee: contact PTO@shepherd-elementary.org
  - a. Gala Committee
    - i. Sign up: <https://forms.gle/WA3TznPNey9z7Mhi8>
  - b. Operations
    - i. Venue Selection
    - ii. Secure Vendors, DJ, photo booth, décor
    - iii. Food & Beverage
    - iv. Timeline
    - v. Onsite Event + logistics
  - c. Fundraising