

## PTO General Body meeting 4/23/25

### A. Principal Updates

- a. Hiring season is on-going. Principal Russell will provide updates in the weekly newsletter regarding vacancies etc.
- b. On 4/23/25, AP Coles hosted a parent CAPE session. 5<sup>th</sup> graders took their science test 4/8 and 4/9. Grades 3/4/5 will complete ELA next week and Math assessments the week after that
  - i. Parents have opportunity to practice the CAPE testing:  
<https://dc.mypearsonsupport.com/practive-test.html>
  - ii. AP Coles and team reviewed test taking tips including prioritizing sleep, arriving on time, eating a hearty breakfast. The tips will be posted on class dojo for families to review

### B. IB Parent Corner with Ms. Alvarez: We received our results back from the IB evaluation and overall we did a fantastic job!

- i. Program strengths: (1)The concept of community, diversity, inclusion and compassion permeate and frame the work of all of the member so the community (2)The governing board, school leaders, pedagogical leadership team show a strong commitment to education through initiatives that foster strong connections within and beyond the school community (3)The school community honors individual and culture differences by demonstrating caring, open-mindedness (4)Implemented strategies and process for involvement of parents (5) commitment to high valued learning environment (6) policies we have bring consistency and clarity to school operations (7) develop culture of healthy relationships (8)Impressed by IB ambassador program (9)strong commitment to varied and purposeful assessments
  - 1. Ms. Alvarez thanks the community, administration, and everyone who helped to have a successful evaluation
- ii. Opportunities for development: (1) Revise inclusion policy to include broader access beyond accommodations (2) explore ways to address the different parts of the transdisciplinary themes (3) Further incorporate explicit teaching/documentation of the ATLs (4) explore additional training opportunities for teachers within the IB community (all teachers have been officially trained)
- iii. Final conclusions: We passed!!!. Overall, the school's implementation of the program shows close alignment with the IB program standards and practices.

C. Enrollment process with Ms. Offor

- a. Budget for SY 25-26 based on 409 students
- b. Goals for enrollment: 5/2: 60%, 6/2: 90%, 6/18: 100%
  - i. Currently 25% enrollment
- c. Please enroll online. It is important to note that if the student has attended any DC public school, they are a “returning student”. If the parent doesn’t see their student in the portal, please call the school and the school will update that information. Please include your proof of residency in the enrollment. Please make sure address is on your paystub (make sure there are no other states on the paystub). You can redact your paystub (but we need the withholding, name, and check date). When submitting your utility bill, please submit proof of payment.
- d. For families who are not returning to a DC public school, Ms. Offor sent out a withdraw form
- e. Incentives for enrollment by grade level, homeroom, whole school. You have to enroll in school before enrolling in SESSA
- f. Questions: [ShepherdESenroll@K12.dc.gov](mailto:ShepherdESenroll@K12.dc.gov) or office: 202-576-6140

D. Highlights and appreciations

- a. Shepherd Cheer wrapped up a another successful Cheer season. Thanks to Coach Hunter, Coach Weng, Coach Scott, and Coach Smith
- b. Circus Circus: Thank you Pre-K4 Team and volunteers for a wonderful circus circus event
- c. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade IB exhibition: Thank the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers: Teacher Dogbe and Ms. Caola and Ms. Alvarez and students
- d. Book Fair: Thank you to Ms. Scott and volunteers and for all who purchased books for a successful book fair
- e. Spring Clean-up and clothing swap: Thank you to parent Simon Messing, for leading our spring clean up and for all the volunteers who assisted

E. March TAP Winner: Teacher Dogbe, 5<sup>th</sup> grade ELA

- a. It was noted that: Even when absent, he thinks about his students and leaves a comprehensive plan for substitute to complete. He does a remarkable job about engaging 5<sup>th</sup> graders to love learning.

F. Upcoming events

- a. 4/26: Shepherd Gala and auction
- b. 5/2: Family outing @ juneberry
- c. 5/5-5/9: Teacher appreciation week
- d. 5/9: Spring fling dance
- e. 5/21: Little Mermaid @ Kennedy Center performance

- G. Gala and Auction on 4/26 from 5-9pm at Gaia Supperclub (1025 Vermont Ave NW)
  - a. Can contribute to the auction even if you do not attend the gala
  - b. Auction will close on Sunday at 12pm
  - c. Will be able to view the class-donated auction items on Thursday and Friday 3:15-5:15pm
- H. Join PTO
  - a. Reviewed the open positions on the PTO exec and committee
- I. Budget update
  - a. YTD revenue 70,000 + Expenses: 68,274--□ 1766 net change
- J. Stay connected