

PTO meeting 6/11/25

- A. Introduction to the final PTO meeting of the 2024-2025 SY by Amber Romine, outgoing co-president
 - a. Current SY 2024-2025 PTO board introductions occurred:
 - i. Co-Presidents: Amber Romine + Lauren Okonkwo
 - ii. Vice-presidents: Amy Zettle
 - iii. Co-Treasurer: Liz Daily + Paige Johnson Liz Daly
 - iv. Recording Secretary: Candace Mainor
 - v. Corresponding Secretary (absent): Artemis Benedetti
- B. Enrollment Reminder by Ms. Offor
 - a. We are around 90% enrollment (370/409), goal 100% by next Tuesday
 - i. By reaching that goal, the incentive is extra paper provided by the district
 - b. Several homerooms who have 100% enrollment
 - i. Last week Ms. Holt's class had a pizza party to celebrate being the 1st class at 100% enrollment
 - ii. Today, the Pre-K3 received extra recess + popsicle party (1st grade level to get 100% enrollment)
 - 1. Other classes with 100% enrollment: Ms. Holt and Ms. Hunter
 - 2. Kindergarten is missing 3 student enrollments; 1st grade is missing 3 student enrollments; 2nd grade is missing 4 student enrollments; 3rd grade missing 4 student enrollments; and 4th grade is missing 5 student enrollments
- C. IB Corner update by Ms. Alvarez
 - a. Talked about IB ambassadors for grades 3-5. These ambassadors would help with morning announcements, help give school tours, serve on panels, help to lead strong start assemblies; help to lead action projects
 - b. 5th grader ambassadors will be purely election based (email about this will come out before the end of the school year, so the students have the entire summer to work on application and even the first few weeks of school)
 - i. Positions available: President, VP, Secretary
 - c. 3rd-4th grade ambassador positions are application based
- D. Sessa Updates
 - a. Registration opens 6/16/25 at 10am (for returning families and students have to be enrolled in school in order to enroll in Sessa)
 - b. Registration opens 6/23/25 at 10 am for all families
- E. Election Results
 - a. 2025-2026 PTO Board

- i. Co-Presidents: Guy Riddick +Lauren Okonkwo
 - ii. Vice-Presidents: Amy Zettle
 - iii. Co-Treasures: Marquisha Thomas + Catherine Godwin
 - iv. Recording Secretary: Candace Mainor
 - v. Corresponding secretary: Artemis Benedetti
- b. 2025-2026 LSAT Board
 - i. Kate Syner, Kimberly Rollins; Marianna Papademetriou; Wes Thompson
- c. 2025-2026 Committee Co-Chairs
 - i. Family Engagement: Kimberly Hague + Danny Nguyen
 - ii. Curriculum & Staff support: Kara Thomas + **OPEN**
 - iii. Fall Festival: Jennifer Fessler + **OPEN**
 - iv. Facilities Improvement: Chris Woods + Daniel Stevens
 - v. Fundraising & Grants: Trevor Keck + **OPEN**
 - vi. Gala: Stephanie Bingham + **OPEN**
 - vii. Health & Wellness: Jessie Caola + Julia D'Angelo
 - viii. Nominations: Michelle Toussiant + Sharee Richardson
 - ix. Gear: Jabrie Lovelace + Nicole Lovelace + Ron Dyson
 - x. Audit: Christy White + Brandi Howard
 - xi. Communications & Advocacy: Morgan Rawlings + Dana Ju + Lesley Brown
 - xii. Room parent lead: Jodi Arellano
- F. Highlights & Appreciation
 - a. Thank you to Ms. Offor and Ms. Wilson for their efforts with enrollment
 - b. Thank you to Mr. Velez and team for the talent show and Field-day entertainment
 - c. Shout out to the Field-day team (Mr. Brown, Mr. James, Mr. Velez, the parent volunteers and dunk tank participants)
- G. EOY promotion activities
 - a. Tomorrow 5th grade promotion
 - b. Friday night is 5th grade prom
 - c. June 16th is Kindergarten moving up ceremony and 5th grade Kings Dominion trip
- H. May TAP Winner
 - a. Ms. Deane (7 nominations)
- I. Budget Update
 - a. YTD Revenue: 146, 384.45
 - b. YTD Expenses: 116, 486.45
 - c. NET change 29,898
- J. State of school: Back to school 2025-2026
 - a. Last days

- i. for students 6/18
 - ii. for teachers 6/18-8/18
- b. Over the summer, families will receive a summer packet including, teacher assignment, supply list, report card, and a summer letter from the principal]
- c. Summer School hours:
 - i. 8:30-3:30pm (School leadership, Custodians, all others as asked)
 - ii. School is closed 7/14-7/18 for leadership academy and safety summit
- d. Summer work
 - i. CSP (school goals)
 - ii. Handbook
 - iii. Behavior expectations
 - iv. Grading expectations
 - v. New District initiatives
 - vi. Finalizing Schedules
 - vii. Hiring
- e. Highlights for next year
 - i. Arrival: doors to open at 8:20
 - ii. Culture: Transcend will continue for another year
 - iii. Math: New EM2 Math curriculum
 - iv. Strong Start: Monthly Strong Start and Heritage Days
 - v. Matrix/Handbook: Handbook initiatives
 - vi. New Hires
 - 1. School Psychologist: Blake Lind
 - 2. Interventionist: Maggie Bromley
 - 3. 12mo Aide: Brenda Taylor
 - 4. Music: Faith Woods
 - 5. 5th grade: Clifford Wimberly
 - 6. Educational Aide : Fatoumata Goodwin
 - vii. Internal Hire
 - 1. ELA instruction coach: Jamie Weng
 - 2. Intervention Coach: Dr. Chantell Rowe
 - 3. MLL & SPED Inclusion: Amani Bisle
 - viii. Vacancies
 - 1. SPED AIDE, ED AIDE, CES Teacher,
 - ix. Teams for next year
 - 1. Pre-K3:Awunyo-Akaba/Goodwin; Trotter/Shepherd
 - 2. Pre-K4:Holt/Upshur; Hunter/Prince
 - 3. CES ECE:Patel, Conte, Velez

4. CES K-2: Vacancy, Jordan, Pollard
5. CES 3-5: Smith, Sparks, Neversen
6. Kinder: Deane/Stewart; Smith/Melat; Rajwani/Vacancy
7. First: Saxton, Chamovitz, Douglass
8. Second: Murali, McIntyre, McKinley
9. Third: Montgomery, Denmark-Lawal
10. Fourth: Ripley, Dogbe
11. Fifth: Caola, Hector, Wimberly
12. Music: Woods
13. Art: Brown-Wimberly
14. PE: V. Brown
15. Library: Scott
16. World Lang: Gadie (French), Bostick-Delgado (Spanish)

f. Thank you to the PTO/LSAT from teachers

g. Questions from parents:

- i. What is the playground availability over the summer?: Top playground is not available but lower is run by dpr
- ii. Will the summer packet be in Mail form or also electronic? Only Mail the summer packet will not be sent in an electronic format
- iii. What is the official start time? It is 8:45, however, the school will open at 8:20 to allow for breakfast (breakfast will be in the cafeteria, not the classroom)
- iv. When will the "Back to school open house" be? No date yet
- v. Are there paraprofessionals after Kindergarten? No
- vi. A parents asked about the school uniform code and lack of enforcement.
 1. Answer: All DCPS elementary school are supposed to have uniform policy, however it is not allowed by the district to enforce the policy
 2. The school is working on outlining "incentives" for students who follow the school uniform code
 3. The outgoing PTO treasurer discussed that including Shepherd gear in the uniform code, may create excitement amongst the students
 4. Another parents asked about flexibility with the color ie khaki, different color shirt etc
- vii. When will the Behavior and consequences be finalized?
 1. Answer: The school administration is working on the handbook and clarity (combo of DCPS and Shepherd school/staff)

2. The school, along with parent and community engagement/support, completed the matrix this year and the school will continue to engage parents in those small group settings to work on those policies
- viii. What is the plan around the communication platforms for next year?
 1. Answer: the school will continue with dojo (app) + blackboard is email platform.
 2. If a family is not getting communications, call the front office
 3. PTO may use dojo more next year
- ix. A parents commented that it was difficult to communicate with teachers in dojo
 1. Answer: the school administration will utilize “dojo master users” to help with utilization;
 2. A parents also asked if its possible to have school wide norms around use of dojo so parents know what to expect
- x. DCPS clearance (it is for 2 yrs; send to Ms. Offor)
- xi. Summer monthly newsletters will be from the principal