

PTO General Body meeting on 3/18/26-62 in attendance

- A. Principal Russell school update
 - a. Principal Russell welcomed Chief Jackson and IS Larkin
 - b. SES has hired Ms. McCall for the 1st grade Math/Science teacher and she will start Tuesday 3/24/26
 - i. Ms. Person will remain in the class for 1 week for a transition time
 - ii. Ms. McCall Meet and Greet planned on Thursday 3:30 (informal)
 - iii. Administration sent out parent survey for STEAM vs. Performing arts teacher which is due by 3/25/26
 - 1. PR working with central office team to get overview of what the courses may look like
 - 2. Ms. Alvarez described how these courses may play a role with our IB program-will extend to our POI (program of inquiry), which are units of inquiry which exist in each grade level. Extends connections with hands on projects etc
 - iv. Construction project at Shepherd-started today!. The steps from the gym to the field are unsafe in wet weather. DGS has started the work to make the steps safer. The field is still accessible etc
 - c. 5th grade promotion ceremony is set. The save the date was sent out today
 - d. Parent concerns regarding lunch
 - i. There is no silent lunch here at Shepherd
 - ii. Students can participate in “Shepherd has talent”
 - iii. Open hours for lunch-administration to send out sign up genius for 2-3 families to come and pop in to discuss
 - iv. Morgan asked if there could be a habitual parent presence and that can be discussed
 - e. Parent concerns regarding teacher retention
 - i. Internal teacher retention form was sent out. Have 22 (20 classroom responses and 1 staff member which does not plan to return due to personal reasons) responses. We have 33 classroom teachers but 54 forms were sent out in total.
 - f. Shift in how 1st and 2nd grade is going to be organized for SY 26-27
 - i. Self-contained in grades K-2 and G3-5 with be departmentalized
 - g. Parent question: Will Ms. Woods produce the school musical next year? If not, would performing arts teacher do that? Principal Russell replied, “Moving forward lean in to Ms. Woods strengths” and will look into the musical etc

- h. The plan is to have 3 cohorts for the rising 3rd grade and the current 4th grade class is likely the last class to graduate as 2 classes
 - i. Administration is looking into hosting more parent cafes this year
 - j. Some Teachers that are in house expressed interested in STEAM vs. performing arts position, but administration will also attend hiring fair to get candidates
- B. IB corner w/Ms. Alvarez
 - a. She presented approaches to learning “IB parent academy”
 - i. 5 approaches to learning (social skills, research skills, thinking skills, communication skills, self-management skills)
 - b. How can parents support developing the approach to learning skills at home?
 - i. Parents can use “I wonder...” or “What if...”
 - c. Make home conversations intentional
- C. Upcoming events
 - a. Donuts with grownups on 3/19/26
 - b. Class picture day 3/25/26
 - c. IB showcase 3/30/26
 - d. Parent Café: All things DC CAPE 4/2/26
 - e. Panorama Survey 4/3/26
 - f. Community clean up on 4/11/26
 - g. Shepherd Gala at Crimson 4/25/26
 - h. Teacher appreciation week 5/4-5/8
 - i. Camping at Cunningham Falls 5/15-5/17
- D. Gala Spotlight
 - a. Shepherd’s biggest fundraiser of the year
 - b. Tickets are on sale now. \$125 for early bird tickets – 3/19/26
 - c. Live auction
 - d. Live appeal
 - e. We are looking for donations of items or experiences for the auction
- E. Appeal Spotlight
 - a. Lauren, PTO co-president, Explained the appeal
 - b. Open to suggestion from community, teacher, and administration
- F. PTO and LSAT elections
 - a. 3/1-4/24 (nomination window opens)
 - b. 4/22: announce nominations
 - c. 4/27-5/1: voting window opens
 - d. 5/8: election results announces
 - e. 6/1: onboarding new members
 - f. 7/1: new PTO board and LSAT terms begin

G. TAP

- a. Erin Scott won TAP. She had 39 nominations

H. Financials

- a. Met our 180 goal
- b. YTD Revenues: 62, 809
- c. YTD Expenses: 86, 249.24

I. Q&A

J. Stay Connected