

## **PTO Agenda: May 8, 2018**

**Call to Order:** Pres: The May 8, 2018 meeting of the SSESH PTO is hereby Called to order at 6:08pm

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from our last meeting are electronically distributed on our webpage, **President:** does anyone have corrections, great since there are no corrections the minutes are approved as read  
Minutes are approved as posted.

### **President Report:**

#### **Update on completed tasks since our March meeting**

-Spring Festival huge success, so much positive feedback from you about how fun this event was, our goal was to have a beautiful community building event that was unique to SSESH and full of the Montessori spirit

-it was also a huge financial success the PTO raised close to 5k for its PTO project fund and the remaining 17k went to support the school's mission.

-the PTO would like to honor Chevonne Greaser for her leadership and hard work on this year's spring festival. Chevonne had a vision to turn our fall Festival into a bright and cheery spring festival representative of our wonderful and unique school and she did just that

Chevonne shared some thoughts about Spring Festival

This event was a vision to make an event that was about celebrating what is so beautiful and amazing about our school. Thank you to everyone who put in many hours to put it all together.

Massive thank you to David, Nahla and April for trusting us with this and allowing us to run with this idea. Please complete a survey, we are going to use what people say about spring festival to create the event for 2019.

-Finally we are excited to announce that this year's project fund is complete. We ordered and installed a Gaga Ball Pit on the playground. If you haven't had a chance to see it we encourage you to stop by and ask your kids about it. It has been a big hit with them and at least 20 of them can use it at once which is super cool.

And just to show you how well the PTO system works this idea was brought to us by our lower el grade rep. One of the lower el parents brought this idea to her, she brought it us along with a couple of other playground items and we selected the Gaga Ball as this year's PTO project fund after determining it was safe, Montessori friendly, and would allow a lot of children to play at one time!

-Each year the PTO will take suggestions for our project fund and decide on the one that most benefits our school and maintains the Montessori spirit and furthers our mission of supporting the school

We are beginning to think about goals for the PTO for the 2018-2019 school year and we welcome any ideas.  
[Interactive session - Ideas collected for future PTO project fund items. See details following meeting minutes.](#)

### **More completed tasks:**

-another exciting development is the school has ordered a shade structure for the play area.

-after hearing your requests, Juan has installed the first of our new keypad gates

-Jeff Greer, as incoming Campus Safety Chair, is working with COH to ensure the city gets to work over the summer

### **New Business:**

-this week is **Teacher and Custodian Week**. This is our first time to recognize the custodians and it is something I feel passionate about. Our sweet team of 3 lead by. Mr Juan keep this whole place clean and Mr Juan also does all Campus maintenance and improvements, a huge job

-if you haven't had a chance yet there is a donation box for a monetary gift for them in the front office, this is discretionary of course, but we know they would be extremely appreciative. Our kids will be writing letters of gratitude in their classrooms to present to them at the end of the week.

### **Honoring and Thanking this Year's Volunteers**

Thank you to everyone of you that is here tonight, PTO attendance is huge because our PTO cannot grow and continue to help our school grow without each of you

We have so many exciting ideas for helping SESH next year but it takes a village please continue to support your school by attending our meetings and please try and bring a friend with you next year!

We know there are so many people to thank and we couldn't have done this without all of you - but we had very big goals of things we wanted to accomplish this year and these people made it possible. These are the folks that took on positions with the PTO this year - we hope that you all will continue to support the PTO and school in the years to come - we have so enjoyed working with you!"

[Individuals who served on the PTO board, as committee chairs or reps were honored along with some SESH staff members and parents who went above and beyond to help the PTO throughout the year.](#)

Chevonne and Tamala - offered a special gift and card thanking Erin for leading us as we launched into this first year of the PTO.

### **Announcement of 2018-2019 Advisory Board Grade Level Reps:**

Orientation Grade Rep: Esti Hall

Primary Grade Rep: Yomi Awobokun

Lower EI Grade Rep: Stephanie Capps

Upper EI Grade Rep: Leigh Anne & Helen Martell

Middle Years Grade Rep: Jeanetta Thomas and Kim Gagne

Our calendar of PTO meetings for next year has been set and we would like to provide them to you so you can get them in your calendars for next year

### **PTO Dates to remember 2018-2019**

September 17, 2018 6:00pm

October 9, 2018 8:15am

November 5, 2018 6pm

December 11, 2018 8:15am

January 14, 2019 6pm

February 12, 2019 8:15am

March 4, 2019 6pm

May 6, 2019 6pm

-please note we heard your comments about Tuesday nights being difficult so next year we are moving our evening meetings to Monday nights. We will continue to have child care and bring in more guest speakers, but we also want to hear from you what you want. [Interactive session - Ideas collected for future PTO meetings.](#) See details following meeting minutes.

### **Closing Summary and Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

## **Interactive session details**

**Brainstorming sessions in this meeting provided the opportunity for attendees to make recommendations for items for the PTO board to consider when making plans for the 2018-2019 school year. These items will be considered over the summer as we finalize plans, any additional ideas are welcome - please email [pto@ssesh.org](mailto:pto@ssesh.org).**

### **PTO project fund ideas**

NOTE: This does not have to be an item for the playground like the Gaga Ball pit or something that is a big structure, just something that follows the PTO's mission to support the school

- Basketball goal
- Education events or conference opportunities for faculty
  - PTO potentially covering part of travel or registration fees
  - Ms. Mary offered a note about an upcoming seminar focused on "parent infant facilitator training" at the end of May. Contact Ms. Mary for information.
- Outdoor structure for students to use that would act as a performance area (playground theater)/ Outdoor structure that could act as a space for outdoor chapel
  - Kim Gagne offered to seek sponsor for this project and will report back
- "Spinning thing" for the playground (equipment noted as loved by students at the Robert's elementary play space)
- Subscription to Tomorrow's Child magazine for every family.
- Kiln (possibly already in process with Da Vinci Lab)
- Teacher treats or a luncheon provided by PTO
- Firetruck visit, station 19 on Richmond
- "Little Free Library" style spot where parents could access Nahla's Montessori suggested readings
- Bring a group in for a performance
  - Collaborative practices was mentioned
- Bring a speaker to the school, possibly partner with a parent group from another school for special event
  - Michelle Obama
  - Oprah
  - Peter Brown as a speaker From a Parent in attendance "An artist who became a children's book illustrator then an author. The Curious Garden is so montessori! Then he wrote a middle grade book called the Wild Robot that had my stoic child in tears, latest is The Wild Robot Escapes, combines beautiful art and creative writing with montessori appropriate messages."

### **PTO meeting ideas**

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- Bring in speakers for meetings for more information available to parents about Montessori education
- Alumni Panel to speak and answer questions at a PTO evening meeting
- High School students as well as College age students

- Possibly graduates who are working
- Ms. Maria to offer a special talk about “Creating a Montessori Home Environment”
- How to best incorporate Montessori practices at home and through parenting

**Other ideas offered not specific to meetings or Project fund:**

- Bring more outside groups for community involvement at Back to School Night in August
  - Neartown Little League - available extra curricular activity that students might enjoy.
- Work with groups (like the Neartown Little League) on service projects to help us complete our goals with volunteer help. Often looking for projects at the end of the school year so keep that in mind.
- St. Catherine’s Sociables - parent events set up sort of as a fundraiser but also a friendraiser. Explore offering something like this for SESH Parents next year. Parents or families offer their talents and interests to open up a session that is limited to what they can handle.
  - [https://www.stcathmont.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=209583&type=d&pREC\\_ID=517786](https://www.stcathmont.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=209583&type=d&pREC_ID=517786)