

PTO Minutes: January 14, 2019

Call to Order: Pres: The January 14, 2019 meeting of the SSESH PTO is hereby Called to order 6:06pm, 1 14 19

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from our last meeting are electronically distributed on our webpage. Since there are no corrections the minutes are approved as read.

President Report:

-Buff Burger proceeds about \$200 each time so remember to save the date for upcoming spirit days.

Old Business:

-DV Lab will begin building the stage on the playground in the Fall!

New Business:

Buff Burger - Feb 15 and Mar 1 will be our spirit days coming up - just mention that you're there for the Spirit Day when you check out and SSESH PTO gets a donation!

Looking for parents to volunteer as parent ambassador for our upcoming tours: sign up sheets are being passed around, you can also sign up via the link in the Hallway and on the PTO page

Holli Richardson - Fine Arts update

Seussical - can seat 450 each night - located at the Rice University campus. Cast family tickets will be available first and then beginning on February 15th the tickets will be open to the public.

Look for the Auction - special walk on roles will be available for the musical! April 25 and 26 are the dates and the school Art Show will also be at the Hamman Hall in conjunction with the musical.

-Chevonne:

-Box tops - this is a great way to get your community involved, we are always collecting them at the PTO.

-Community Library - Amazon wish list will be in the hallway "SSESH Community Library" - consider sharing this with your friends and community and gift a book to the school. We ask that you will borrow with care and return the book for someone else to use.

-Seeking PTO leadership for the 2019-2020 school year - please contact pto@ssesh.org if you are interested.

Guest Speaker: Maria Rivette on How to Make your home a Montessori environment

Maria Rivette provides handouts regarding the Montessori at Home resources as well as a pamphlet of tips for things you can do at your house to reduce stress and struggles for being a functioning family that inspires independence. This principle carries through what is happening at school to your home which can support what they are learning. The home is much more fluid but there are some tips that can help support your efforts. (NOTE: Maria has handouts available if you contact her directly and will likely have these available at the Montessori Journey day as well)

Examples -

- The right size furniture, items accessible for their height
- A range of activities and time to work independently
- Less is more - everything should have a place to go when it is put away.
- Take a deep breath before acting when something unexpected happens and see things through their eyes.

Questions from the audience

- When something happens - do you stress “oh, it’s ok!” or how do you handle dealing with a broken dish for example?
 - Take a moment and acknowledge what has happened calmly and work together to come up with a plan to clean up or fix the issue.
 - When able discuss how to avoid a problem in the future.
- Restoring space -
 - Try to work on having one item out at a time.
 - Modeling this behavior of restoring your area will be helpful
 - Noting what is happening in terms of whether or not they are going to be too tired to clean up and give notice before everyone is too tired and it becomes a battle.
 - Consider what is best for everyone - sometimes you will help more, or family members will help accomplish the task outside of the routine and it will be a more peaceful environment for the greater good.

Community Interaction: Q and A with Jerri 10 mins

Tuition increases and simplification - and simplification of extended care: 1/31 at 8:15 am roundtable discussion regarding the changes to tuition and the extended care. This discussion will also involve security changes and updates. Look for an email regarding this meeting.

Room Parent coffee 1/25 with Jerri, save the date.

Camp will begin Orientation, Primary and Elementary on June 3rd. Faculty and staff planning and debriefing will occur on the week immediately following school and camp will not begin until the first full week of June as a result. Look for the hallway announcing registration information.

Middle School updates for online courses and trips. Latin course is one of particular interest for Middle Schoolers.

Thank you so much for your support of Juan Rodriguez. Thank you also for your support of the Annual Fund and our amazing Chairs that helped us reach our goal and the entire school will be

Closing Summary and Adjournment: 6:50pm adjourned