

PTO Minutes: September 17, 2018

Call to Order: Pres: The Sept 17, 2018 meeting of the SESH PTO is hereby Called to order at 6:10pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from our last meeting are electronically distributed on our webpage, hearing that there are no corrections the minutes are approved as read

President Report:

-just a quick few points for those of you that are new:

-everyone is a member

-no dues for the PTO

-please attend as many meetings as you are able this is your chance to be really involved in your child's school, and make friends, and give back

-each month we have either a nightly meeting or a coffee. The evening meetings, as you will see, are more structured, with a set agenda, guest speakers, and a q and a period at the end for members. The coffees still have an agenda, and guest speakers, but they are informal and allow for q and a throughout the coffee. Coffees will be held in the community house this year.

-one of our biggest achievement is our annual PTO project, last year we funded and built the Gaga Ball Pit on the playground, the funds to build this were from your bookmark donations and auction purchases

-at last May's meeting several of you suggested ideas for this year's project and we are happy to announce we are providing materials for the SESH Community Library which will be located outdoors and look similar to a "Little Library" it will have parenting and Montessori books to help you with your journey at home

-Many of you loved the idea of a stage on the playground and we are excited to announce we are funding the materials and the DV students will be building and stage which will also be able to be converted into an outdoor chapel, it will be an ongoing project that hopefully grows yearly

-Introduce Board Members, Grade Level Reps

Executive Committee

Erin Elmore - President

Tamala Singleton - VP

Allison Kellogg - Communications Secretary

Jessica Parkerson - Treasurer

Chevonne Greaser - President elect

Advisory Committee

Orientation - Joanna Smith

Primary - Ashley Blossman

Lower EI - Stephanie Capps

Upper EI - Leigh Anne Summerlin

Middle Years - Jeanetta Thomas

Teacher rep (lower level) - Maria Rivette

Teacher rep (Upper Levels) - Ralene Corley

Teacher rep (Fine Arts) - Holli Richardson

-The grade representatives are your more "local" connection to the PTO board, they remain a part of the Advisory Committee annually per the bylaws for If you have any questions you can always email pto@ssesh.org but if you are more comfortable speaking to someone within your level please reach out to these parents and they will work with the PTO board to address your concern or answer your question.

(Old Business): Summer Updates:

*we had a successful summer play date, we plan to schedule another one over the winter holiday

*Safety was a top concern and Jerri worked hard on that over the summer

*Jeff Greer: COH summer update and Jeff would also like to remind everyone of the morning carpool procedures. Jeff, Campus Safety Chair, is not able to attend tonight's meeting but welcomes any comments or questions about the

New Business: 30 mins (15 Jerri, 10 Buddy, 3 Steve, 2 Jessica, Chevonne 1)

-introduce our Guest Speaker Jerri King

Jerri King - Head of School

Basic background - progressive education, montessori education and independent schools, from Atlanta, GA. What interested Jerri in St. Stephen's is that there is a building season occurring here at this community which is something she is very excited to participate in. Outline for this year - lots of talking and listening - Head of School coffee dates will be released very soon and we are hopeful that the dates will work for everyone to join in and feel open to asking questions and talk about the direction that St. Stephen's is heading and how we can all participate.

Incident today (9/17), Mr. Juan had a fall but is now stable and we will update everyone as soon as the family is ready for us to share information to the school community.

Safety and security -

- Open campus security can be difficult but there are ways to handle this on our campus, one of the big items for the community to help with is looking at the playground as a "quad" when moving between the houses.
- Faculty and staff all have hand held radios to help with communication, to help with any emergency or situation on campus.

Investigating a learning support program -

- Some experience in building programs for students with specific academic needs and challenges. ADHD and dyslexia are items specifically requested by families. We are hoping to provide something for those families to encourage them to see a positive impact here at St. Stephen's

Processes and Procedures-

- Our school is 50 years old and has excellent teachers and staff, but it is important to have the correct processes and procedures to run seamlessly to best support the community.
- Jerri noted "One thing I love about K-8 schools - you can tell the difference between a middle schooler who was part of a K-8 vs. a middle schooler at a K-12 and those at a standalone "pullout" 6-8 school." Distinctions show that there are higher successes and fewer dips for the students in high school levels who are coming from the K-8 schools than the other options.

Open for questions - no questions from the group.

- Issues brought up by PTO
 - Lower Elementary trip - many parents interested in the trip, there is discussion in the works to come up with something that will work for our families. Families are encouraged to share their concerns and questions with Jerri.

- Guest Speaker Buddy Verneuil - Topic : Plus Portals

- **Most importantly** we need to have everyone make sure their information is correct - when you log in at first you can easily see your demographic information. Contact Buddy if you are having difficulty logging in.

- Question - is the Plus Portals calendar automatically updated when there is a change in the school calendar? Buddy notes that the Plus Portals calendar will be updated within minutes of any changes to the outlook calendar managed by the school that is the calendar to go to for the latest information from school. *(PTO secretary notes 9.21.18 - there are some discrepancies in the calendar and is working to resolve these issues with Buddy and administration to be sure parents have an accurate calendar to reference)*

- Conference information is available before your conference at the Plus Portals app for each child, contracts are all held with your student record as well for you to reference throughout the year.

-Steve Bachica: yearbook app announcement

- getting photos in the yearbook - "replayit" - the app is undergoing maintenance right now so there is a unique address below and the [user id 410903672](#) will allow you to log in and add photos for the yearbook. The goal of the yearbook team is to get at least three photos of each student in the yearbook so the school is well represented!

<https://images.jostens.com/410903672>

www.RePlayIt.com

-Jessica: Annual Fund

- This time of year is our opportunity to give back to St. Stephen's and help bridge the gap of \$1200 per students and this allows us to take our school from amazing to outstanding.

-Chevonne Box Tops

- Box Tops is not new as a concept but it is a way to give our students a way to take ownership and help earn some money for our school (<https://www.boxtops4education.com/>) You can bring boxtop sheets or just clipped in baggies to any PTO event or meeting and we will gladly send them out!

Community Interaction -

we plan to include a few minutes at the end of meetings for discussion and interaction from the community to help build and guide the PTO. Unfortunately we went over time a bit with our speakers this time around and Erin asks that everyone please stay after adjournment for questions or send us an email at pto@ssesh.org at any time.

Closing Summary and Adjournment:

Since there is no additional new business on the agenda I will close this meeting of the PTO. A reminder if you have items you want to get on the agenda for our next meeting please email us.

Our next meeting of the PTO be the Oct 9th coffee at the Havens Center immediately after drop off. Please note the new location this year! In an effort to be more convenient we will not be meeting off campus and will be at the Havens Center instead. *(PTO secretary notes: minutes updated 10.1.18 when Havens center confirmed)*

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm