

Easton Elementary PTO Meeting
September 21, 2022
7pm @ Easton Elementary

Called to Order By: Lauren Harton @ 7:06pm

Attendees (sign in list)

Agenda

1. Welcome by the PTO Board
 - a. Introductions to the PTO board (parents and teacher representatives)

2. Welcome by Dr Devaric
 - Intro of Admin Team, including one new administrator
 - 1100 students in the school
 - Equity meeting – new changes to school statement available online
 - Build a bridge to create a community of learners by recognizing and appreciating differences
 - Student centered, collaborative & productive
 - Book fair – November 14-18
 - Grand friends evening – November 17 from 5pm-7pm (book fair will be open) – do not have to be a grand parent
 - Working with Avalon theater for donors to provide EES t-shirt to students earlier in the year to be used for field trips and other school events.
 - Securing funding for after school programs – hoping to get a band club for 4th graders; pickle ball club, ukulele club
 - Saturday, September 24 at 11 is kick off unified sports at Idlewild
 - Back to School night was a success – 550+ individuals

3. Tiger Trot
 - First fundraiser of the year
 - Will help us provide free events through the year
 - We never want a child to not come to the event because it costs money! 71% of our children live below the poverty line

4. Mrs Katie Fox – Community School Program Manager
 - 300 community schools in the State of Maryland
 - Taking a look at things that need to be done
 - Needs assessment of goals to know what resources we need

5. Volunteer Orientation – Agreements given and signed by people wishing to volunteer, full names and birthdays given so background checks can be run on each volunteer.

- Protect privacy of students – one of the most important pieces
- Bring ID the first few times you volunteer until the staff is able to recognize you
- Volunteers have set time limits and shifts – it's important to know where people are at all times – please stay where you need to be.
- Mrs Fox led volunteers through entry procedure

6. Political Candidates for the School Board

Our school is District 1 or 3 – both up for election – 3 of 4 representatives here this evening

- Donna Nizolek- District 3 – practicing veterinarian – moved to Easton in 1981 – went to Private school – masters from Yale, Doctorate from Cornell – passionate about education
 - Have had interaction with all walks of educated people
 - Special interests in academics and curriculum – reading, writing, math
 - 57% in English proficiency – 47% math proficiency
 - Only ¼ POC graduated proficient (Black & Hispanic)
 - Would like to see national civics test in high school
 - Would work hard to hear concerns and take them to the Board
- a. Jymil Thompson – District 1 - grad of Penn U in western Penn
 - first job out of college was social worker – seeing difficulty in students reading – charter school opened in DC and went into Special Ed
 - Got Masters in Special Ed after working in DC
 - Worked for public charter school for 8 years
 - Colorado Spring CO as Assistant Principal – expanded AP program from 9 to 21 courses – gave every student the opportunity to take AP classes
 - Key interests in education: Kindergarten readiness; 3rd grade reading proficiency; giving opportunity; progression; removing barriers
- b. Amy Dodson – District 3
 - Bachelor of Science in Business Admin
 - EES parent – has 3 children – PreK, 1st & 3rd grade
 - Husband is teacher in neighboring county for 24 years
 - Key interests in education – having representation for children with IEP's and special needs at the Board level (youngest child has Down Syndrome, oldest has an IEP) - schools are doing a wonderful job, but lack resources for early intervention; national teacher shortage – our students need qualified teachers to succeed in school – we need to recruit and retain teachers
 - Endorsement of Talbot CO Education Association
 - No political motivations and is not/will not align with any party

Meeting Closed @ 8:06pm

