

September 23, 2020 at 7 pm via Zoom

15 Attendees including three administrators, four staff, and eight parents

1) Welcome - Lauren Harton

- 1100 students
- 160 staff
- PTO is a separate non-profit organization that has existed for approximately 18-20 years and has gone through phases of having a board and being led by the school.
- PTO account has \$2,471.00
- Support A Class account has \$1400.00

2) Activities that started off our year

- Ice cream coupon reported on by Anne Miller. Every student received a free ice cream coupon from the dollar menu of Amy Cool's Ice Cream Express. Amy traveled the EES district for 2 weeks. 70 students received ice cream.
- Staff welcome back gifts reported on by April Bordley and Lauren Harton. Gift bags included mints, chapstix, gum, candy and a little note thanking them for their "commit-mint". They were very well received by staff.
- Amazon wishlists have been advertised by Sherye Nickerson as a new way to stay connected to what teachers need in their classrooms. The wishlists can all be found on our facebook page and website. One teacher reported that when amazon boxes arrive it feels like christmas at school. Donors please remember to mark on the gift tag who the gift is for because the boxes come unlabelled from amazon.
- Red folders were reported on by Jazmin Secaida. The PTO board created 600 folders to get the school year started. They are red, labelled the same way as last year, but now have the middle three prongs. The prongs increased the price so the cost of the folders is being split between the school and the PTO. The PTO will cover the cost of labels and tape and organize creating any additional folders needed for this year.

3) Introduction of board members and vote to approve executive board - Lauren Harton

- The executive board is a small group committed to running the organization. There was a unanimous vote to approve adding Jazmin Secaida, April Bordley, Anne Miller and Katie Frase to the board.

4) Principal Update - Dr. Lisa Devaric

- Huge effort by admin team to get the year started. Sincere thank you to the three assistant principals and guidance counselors
- Math books arrived the week after ipads were distributed. If children need a math book (grades 1- 5) they can come pick it up at any time.
- Encourage everyone to attend specials in the morning and the afternoon. The specials teachers are really missing seeing the students.
- Library books are available. Just send a request to Mrs. Horner or Mrs. Ward.
- The school is at capacity for the special populations who were invited back during week 2 of school. Most students are continuing their virtual learning while in the school building with teacher support for half a day four days a week.
- If you need Ipad help please call the school or email eeshelpdesk@talbotschools.org
- John Tomey (AP) covers grade 4 & 5 with Tara Blades counselor
- Contessa Cain (AP) covers grades 2 & 3 with Caroline Gopaul counselor
- Lindsey Higginbottom (AP) covers grades p3, preK, K, and 1 with Heather Plustchek
- The positive encouragement through notes, emails, and comments from parents are highly appreciated by teachers. Please keep the positive feedback coming as everyone continues to do their best.

5) Care Packs Volunteer - Lauren Harton & Christina Drostin

- CarePacks is a non profit that provides food to kids every friday for the weekend. Right now they are doing drive by pick up spots but as kids start to come back to school they will resume their school bookbag delivery.
- EES needs someone to take the lead on Care packs volunteers for our school.
- Volunteers are needed to do the food packing once per month & transporting the food from the warehouse to the school once a week

6) Support A Class - Michelle Mackall

- Support A Class is a way for individuals and businesses to donate money directly to a teacher and receive a tax deduction.

- This year letters went out to previous donors and in one week we have received 6 responses.
- Donations this year can be directed to a teacher even if that teacher has already been supported.
- Goal is to get every teacher (including specials and guidance) \$100.00
- Subcommittee is Michelle Mackall, Lauren Harton, Christina King, Lynn Aleman, and Joanna King
- You can pay through paypal on our website or mail in a check with the form printed off line.

7) By-laws first reader vote - Lauren Harton

- Unanimous vote to approve the first draft of the by-laws.
- They are based on the suggested bylaws of the national PTO organization to which we are a member.
- Creates a generalized board of teachers, parents and administrators that will collaboratively run the organization.
- Will advertise and ask for comment to the larger PTO community over the next two months and official vote to adopt them at the next meeting

8) Open brainstorm of ideas for this year - All

- Keep PTO accessible virtually if in person events start to happen
- Can parents help in virtual classrooms (breakout rooms)? - Lisa Devaric will follow up
- Spirit wear
 - ChinCheck has logo and does online ordering
 - Sweatpants, pj pants, masks, hoodies, tye dye, long sleeves, beanies
- Meal for staff around the holidays
- Stocking the staff lounges (drinks and snacks)
- Mascot visits to people's homes as rewards for attending class
 - Mascot costume went down with the old building