

## **\*\* Pending \*\* Minutes East Chapel Hill High PTSA Meeting December 3, 2019**

### **7:00 p.m. Meeting call to Order**

**Attendance:** Elizabeth Welsby, Greg Dixon, Jinot Qian, April Harrison, Traci Adams, Kulwada Yung, Rachel DiSantistefano, Alexis Poss, Michelle Varma, Grayathri Bala, Alexandra Fleury, Eric Vuillermet, Sue Sept, Juddy Mair, Viviane Ackall, Ibraheem Ackall, Laura Kline, Yiwen Wang, Hua Zhong, Wenqin Pan, Jihong Wu Kari Hamel, Alyse Levine, Kathryn Chan

### **I. School Safety and Procedures - Presentation and Q&A (30 mins)**

Mr. Proulx introduced Scarlett Steinert – CHCCS District Director of Safety and Security. Every school has an individualized school safety plan but for privacy and security they are not able to share specific plans. Ms. Steinert shared how closely the Principal and District Heads work together and the communication flow during an emergency.

Soft lock down- something happening in the neighborhood or outside the school. Teaching can continue during a soft lock down but teachers and students cannot leave the campus.

Hard lock down- Teachers sweep the kids and they are held in a classroom. Most hard lock downs are weather conditions. DART Team- District Area Response Team, Safety Team (Coordinator, Safety, Communication and Out Reach). Every school has an SRO backed by the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Safety is not convenient but kids need to speak up, the proactive pieces... **if they see something, say something if they hear something, say something.**

Mr. Proulx addressed the group. He said he called the soft lock downs because he chooses to err on the side of safety. After every situation, he does a debrief with the response team and Lincoln Center. This summer the teachers and staff had additional training to review the safety procedures.

-Every classroom has a magnetic strip to lock their doors.

-As soon as an incident happens, Mr. Proulx will send out a phone tree to announce the situation, a proactive measure to circumvent parents calling and jamming the school phone lines. It's important for the students and families to trust staff and admin at school.

-Encourage students to use the anonymous tip line to report any threat.

-Subs in the building will be separately updated by Mrs. Hartfield if an emergency situation occurs.

## **II. Principal Report (5 mins)**

Mr. Proulx gave an update on the Starters Program. 60 students were chosen to lead conversations among their peers. First, they will be divided into teams and together decide which topics will be discussed to make East Chapel Hill High School a place of inclusion, helping every student reach their potential.

## **III. Treasurer Report (10 mins)**

In the general donation category, we are \$3k short of our goal of \$25K. This shortfall has been offset by about \$1k due to the significant increase in membership this year. YTD we have only spent \$2k of the \$12K Teacher Assistance budget. We'll have another push in early in 2020 to encourage teachers to spend however if this underspend continues, next year we might consider increasing the allotment from \$120 to say \$150 or reconsider this category entirely. This year the PTSA introduced a Special Project category as an effective way to allocate excess surplus and we're likely to do the same next year.

Sue Sept gave an update on the first Q1 audit with our new website. The process went smoothly and they will continue to work toward the goal of reducing time while still meeting the requirements of the NCPTA

## **IV. President Report (5 mins)**

Thank everyone for voting on mtg topics. No PTA meeting in Jan, but instead we will be focused on legislative advocacy, and example being the National PTA is asking local chapters to support their push for universal background checks for gun purchases. The NC legislature closed session without passing a budget which directly effects teacher's pay. We will target the NC legislature with education budget advocacy when they return to Raleigh in January. Additionally, there are some curriculum changes that are being discussed on the state and local level which we will need to monitor. We will discuss GPAs, APs and class rank at the February meeting.

Teachers Report- Mr. Link thanked all the students and parents who participated in Wednesday's Red for Ed.

## **V. Advocacy Report (10 minutes)**

Carol and Tracey met with Ms, Dellicker the Mental Health Specialist. They addressed student stress and lack of school spirit. One idea coming from CHHS was implementing mindfulness lunches. A school climate survey will be coming out to get a baseline on the situation.

#### **VI. Hospitality Report (5 minutes)**

Michelle gave an update on her committee, big thanks to the generosity from all the parents. In November, Hospitality hosted the first Chili Cook Off during Parent/Teacher conference night. The three teacher celebrity judges took their job seriously and chose the winner to be Jennifer Johnston for her Pork Chili Verde. The following week, the group hosted the Thanksgiving Staff Luncheon and tomorrow, the Holiday Luncheon.

#### **VII. Announcements**

Project Graduation is selling SilverSpot Gift cards

Social workers are collecting gift card for students in need during the holiday.

Motion to adjourn- Yiwen Wang

**8:15 p.m. – Motion to Adjourn**-Rachel DiSantistefano and Michelle Varma

#### **PTSA Meetings**

February 4

March 3

April 14

May 5

June 2

\* note: no meeting in January