

Agenda
East Chapel Hill High PTSA Meeting Tuesday, September
14th 2021 via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Meeting Call to Order

- I. Welcome and Introductions (5 mins)** – 43 attendees, including:
May Bryan, Linda Gilchrist, Michelle Varma, Anetta Stokes Streater, Sue Sept, Gary Bird, Leslie Kelley, LiBin, Jenny, Ken Proulx, Brian Link, MTowns, Adele Kelly, Alexis, Carla Sartor, Celeste Phillips, Ellen Persall, Gaya, Hammond Sherouse, Hollie Hart, Mel Migaly, Jeanne Schwartz, Jenn Prenda, jihongwu, Juddy mair, Judkins, Karen Nicely, Katherine Leary, Kelly Walsh Adler, Leslie, Lin, Martin Palacios, Meera, Rui Zheng, Seema Garg, selmavital, Soyoung Yang, Stiber, Tracy Strong, Virginia, Xiuping, Yiwen Wang

II. Business and Announcements (3 mins)

Approve the June minutes
Gary Bird – moved to approve
Carla Sartor/Brian Link – second
Unanimously accepted

III. Principal Report (20 mins) Mr. Proulx

Handful of Covid positive cases – quarantined as necessary. Following Orange County Dept of HSS guidelines. Hats off to Nurse Quinn Campbell and Head Nurse Tracy Sanders from District – very helpful.

#1 concern is safety – started school year with tight structure. Now giving students a bit more time and freedom at lunch outside. Staff and students overwhelmingly following protocol to stay in school

Looking at other ways to open up activities outside classes. Tomorrow (9/14) is 2nd week of Covid testing for athletes, staff, students that are not vaccinated and also for students that may be vaccinated but want to be tested.

Opt-in students can show up before school or after 4 – trailer 7. Athletes started getting pulled out at 3rd period (takes about 5 minutes). May also

pull out opt-in students during the school day. Details will be announced in morning announcements tomorrow.

Mr. Link noted that BOE voted to require vaccination of all staff by 10/30/21. 93% of staff vaccinated. The 7% not counted may have only gotten 1 vaccination or didn't have a chance to respond.

Mr. Proulx wearing mask even though alone in his office – rule is mask while on campus. Modeling mask mandate.

Athletic testing only for fall season sports at the moment, but in discussion to expand to other sports (e.g., basketball is doing pre-season)

Q: Can athletes be tested elsewhere besides Mako and have it accepted? Mr. Proulx isn't sure, but would think that results from other labs would be accepted.

Q/Comment: Gary Bird – no police officers to direct traffic and traffic was unsafe at pickup. Parents are picking up students along Weaver Dairy. Mr. Proulx noted that he is usually with the buses. SRO started yesterday – SRO's just reinstated by BOE. Mr. Proulx will ask Officer Sherwin to help with traffic control.

Q/Comment: Linda Gilchrist - 4 weeks into school and opt-in students not tested yet. Agrees with Gary that traffic is really terrible with parents trying to pick up on Weaver Dairy

Q: What is the process of notifying parents if student is a close contact to a person who tests positive. If student vaccinated with no symptoms, will not be quarantined. If start displaying symptoms, self-report and submit to a Covid test. If unvaccinated, quarantine 10-14 days and can come back to school with negative test. Nurse Quinn notifies parents by phone during the day if their student is a close contact and sends documentation via email in the evening.

Q: Do you need to mask at outdoor athletic events? CHCCS expectations for outdoor athletic events is that spectators will wear a mask at the entrance and they strongly suggest keeping on the mask and stay socially distanced. Indoor must be masked and masks are provided for those that forget. No issues at home events thus far. Not sure what East will do for competitions against teams outside our district. For example, S. Alamance does not require masks. Does ECHHS want to not go to gyms that don't follow masking or distancing guidelines?

Q: How do students make up work when quarantining? Reach out to teachers. Most use Google classroom or Canvas and have the info there. Stressing compassion and grace to staff for dealing with Covid situations with students and families.

Open House 9/30 at 7 pm rather than 9/23 – More info to be sent out from Mr. Proulx

IV. Teacher Rep Report (5 mins) Mr.Link

11th year as faculty rep. Delighted to see many families of current and former students in the meeting.

Thanks to Michelle and Hospitality for all she/they do for teachers before school started and in planning for faculty meetings going forward

Thanks to Linda, et al, for relinking VIC and ease of claim process

Grateful to be in Orange County where folks are doing what they can to keep each other safe – we're a team. Remind students to wear masks.

Have not resumed clubs yet because lunch is still being sorted out. Clubs usually meet during lunch as it's tricky after school with bussing, athletics, etc. Want to make it accessible to all students.

Teachers are posting to Google Classroom or Canvas. Quizzes and tests may have to wait until students are back in the classroom. Please reach out to teachers with your particular situation

Lunch was also when teachers would do remediation. Want to be able to do that again.

Many teachers signing up to be tested even though fully vaccinated. Trying to keep everyone safe. Encourage students to opt-in.

Counselors going into senior classrooms this week to give students the info they need to get the application process started. Applications due 10/15 for UNC, etc.

Q: is teacher morale? East was proactive in recruiting for open positions this summer so in better position than some schools. Very glad to be back with students, but it is a bit stressful and overwhelming. Folks are still nervous and have more on their plates with the extra steps to keep students and everyone safe. Feel well taken care of by PTSA and that helps a lot. Please extend grace and courtesy to staff, too. If teachers feel symptoms, they're told to leave and get tested. This creates a need for more subs or teachers to sub last minute so may take a little longer to respond to requests.

Shout out to everyone who is helping to keep things going – health care workers, grocery store workers, transportation, etc.

Q: Status of EC students/EC coordinator? Previous EC coordinator (Gayle) now testing coordinator. Chandra Friend continues to be 504 coordinator. Kathy Jordan moved to CHS. Not fully staffed yet, but mostly staffed – Mr. Proulx could confirm exact status. IEP's are being processed. Room 318 dedicated room for EC.

V. President Report (15mins) May Bryan

Meeting schedule – 1st Tuesday of the month except November and December (and September!)

Virtual Open House, 9/30. PTA Council, BOE Candidate Forum, 9/28 at 7 p.m. – look for more info in the eBlast.

Website – great resource for PTSA info. Can join and donate on website.
<https://echhsptsa.org/>

Social gathering - be on the lookout for more info. Looking for creative ways to get the PTSA together. Thinking outdoor masked event with Mr. Proulx and others. Contact May if you have any ideas.

Check eBlast, Mr. Proulx's message, Facebook page for info on happenings at East.

VI. Treasurer's Report (10 mins) Linda Gilchrist

Raised almost \$14k. Goal is \$25k. 146 members. ~300 members last year.

As of 8/31, we have a little over \$25k in checking and savings.

Budget shows expected income of \$30k and expense of \$39k because we can draw from savings account to cover as needed. Last year's budget was an anomaly – student and family services usually supported by PTSA were supported through PSF fundraiser. For special projects funded by the PTSA – will discuss with Mr. Proulx to understand where he sees a need. Last year, the PTSA spent a lot on hospitality. Went back to \$4500 allotment this year, but they really do a lot on a shoestring budget.

Budget is “living document” on website – can see what's budgeted and actually spent/raised <https://echhsptsa.org/budget/>

Easy ways to support PTSA – VIC card, Amazon Smile. Also, we apply for a sales tax refund every 6 months (break out tax from teacher receipts and can get it back from the State). Over \$800 refunded over last couple of years.

Q: How is East spending emergency money that they just received? Not sure and unfortunately, Mr. Proux is no longer on the call.

VII. Standing Committee Reports (15 mins)

Michelle Varma, Hospitality

Teacher Breakfast – discount on coffee from Joe Van Gogh

Teacher Lunch – discount from chick-fil-a at Carraway village for box lunches.

Normally do something once a month for staff meetings, but we're waiting to see what will be possible once they iron out details with the schedule. Staff gets a short time for lunch so we like to be able to provide food/treats at staff meetings. Hoping to help with October staff meeting – waiting to hear what Mr. Proulx thinks will work

Michelle and Shari are “graduating” this year – would welcome a couple of new hospitality chairs to shadow them this year. Or, if you would like to be on hospitality committee, please email Michelle – echshospitality@gmail.com

Serve ~155 staff members through hospitality

Q: Hospitality meetings for planning? Not usually – just respond to what's needed. Primarily use signup Genius for donations. Volunteers for hospitality do not have to go through a District application process.

Membership – Yiwen Wang

Over 140 members.

Member Benefits – participate in meetings and get direct school updates from principal, can get involved in leadership positions, serve teachers and staff.

Dues is only \$16/year – that's \$2/month, cost of a Starbucks coffee. Easy to join online. If you were a member last year, can go to Membership page, find your name, and click on it. If new, can also join via website.

<https://echhspts.org/members/>

Be a parent/student advocate! Together, we will strengthen the East family

Audit Committee –Sue Sept

Audit committee meets throughout the year to review the PTSA's financials. Annual Financial Review and 990 tax filing completed and filed. Financials are in good order. This year's audit committee includes Gary Bird, Tanya Freeman, and Sue Sept

Mel Migaly, eBlast –

eBlast is a weekly newsletter. Mel gets family email list from the school. Having some deliverability issues at the moment. Usually 45% open rate for weekly eBlast, but for the last 4 publications, there is only a 21% open rate. May be going into spam folder. Mel is looking into it with IT at Lincoln Center.

eBlast is a great resource that consolidates info from a number of places into a concise, readable format.

Need a new eBlast editor for next year – Mel is graduating. Would welcome someone to shadow her.

Adjourn 8:22. Mr. Link motioned to adjourn. Sue Sept seconded.