

**PTSA Meeting Minutes
East Chapel Hill High
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 via Zoom**

6:00 p.m. Meeting Call to Order

34 Participants on Zoom

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** (5 mins) May Bryan
Vote to approve last meeting minutes - Annetta motions to approve; Brian seconds. Unanimous approval

- II. **Hospitality Update** - Michelle Varma
Kulwadee Yung and Lauren Garber taking over hospitality next year. Michelle's daughter is graduating.

Michelle sent out a note about collecting gift cards for teacher appreciation week. Goal is to give every staff member an Amazon gift card. Click [here](#) to donate a gift card. March staff meeting was in person. Hospitality will be doing light snacks during meetings.

- III. **Advocacy Committee** (5 mins) Annetta Streater
April 19th meeting - want to make sure parents have working knowledge of the budget process. Need parents to be involved. County Commissioners impact budget and parents can make an impact. As parents, we want to understand what the CHCCS district is proposing and how they plan to use funds next year. Dr. Nyah Hamlett, Superintendent, and Jonathan Scott, CFO, will be joining us at the April meeting. Dr Hamlett will also update on school safety and also how LC has been supporting East during our leadership transition. Email Annetta with any questions you would like addressed. astreater@gmail.com

- IV. **Administration Update** (10 mins) Mr. Brandon Patterson

Personnel update: Still have some Spanish vacancies; EC vacancy; CTE vacancy. Will be communicating with parents about how addressing the long term staff shortage. Thought had a couple of candidates, but they declined the offer. Hope to have new Asst Principal soon.

Orchestra placed second in the nation at competition last week. Robotics got top 3 at State level.

Less traffic in the hallways. 3rd quarter ends 3/24. Spring Break starts 3/25. Wishing you a happy, healthy break!

Working on canopy installation for outdoor seating. Holes have been filled! Plan is to also use the space for classroom activities.

V. **Comments and Q & A** (40 mins) Mr. Jesse Casey

Mr. Casey coming to Chapel Hill today. Will be at East tomorrow and will help interview for new AP. Impressed by what he has seen at East and can't wait to start. Wherever he is, he's very loyal and though he would like to come down sooner, he has business to finish in VA. Will be all in soon. Born in Charlotte and lived there for 10 years. Moved to Alexandria, VA after that. Has family in NC and GA. Excited to come back to NC.

4 things want to prepare for: 1) bring back safety and security to campus; 2) address achievement gap - has plans ready to implement; 3) sustain and grow the achievement/success already at East; 4) restorative practices - has had opportunity and success in using restorative practices in all parts of a building. Teach skills that students can bring with them after East.

Questions from parents

- Define restorative practices and explain how you would use. Some call it restorative justice. Also used when apartheid ended in South Africa. A way of helping to resolve conflict in a way that everyone's voices are heard and everyone feels good about and learns from the results. Main tool is restorative circles. There are particular tools used to resolve conflict. Want a culture and structure around everyone having a voice. IIRP - read more about it [online](#).
- Thoughts on how to resolve teacher shortage - it's a nationwide problem. Need to always be in recruiting mode. Need more connection with universities
- Need to find new ways to engage students
- How refooster sense of community after a tough 2 years - as community opens up after Covid, having more of the events we're used to having; bring in people in the community to our school; will be a visible principal in the school and community
- Has a red doberman. Sold house last week. Starting to look for a house with a yard in Chapel Hill
- Strategies for addressing mental health? Had a strong social-emotional support team (full time psychologist and social worker) in the school he is leaving. Will be hiring a full-time social-emotional person at East next year. Want to create a strong team that all work together to monitor and support students. Has an intervention team in his school now - for when teachers/staff feel students could use some support.
- More about Mr. Casey - took up cycling in the last several years and loves it; joined a cycling team in Richmond. Loves sports. Played football in college. Loves music and the arts. He and his wife are big foodies. Love to go out to eat. 5 children - 23, 20 (at Virginia Tech), 17 who is a graduating senior, freshman, and a 6th grader. His dad was a NC State grad so born a Wolfpack fan. Moved to VA and now a UNC/State fan. Has already gotten emails from students and others in the community. Mr. Casey welcomes email: jcasey@chccs.k12.nc.us

VI. **Environmental Club Update** (5 mins) Marin Lissy, President, EASTainability

Composting initiative - East may have done composting in the past; other schools in the district have had compost initiatives. Working with Tommy Blair (tblair@chccs.k12.nc.us), district sustainability coordinator, to find a vendor. Vendors don't have capacity to compost all that East has 5 days a week; waiting to see how many days a week they could host compost. 12:35-1:15 everyday except Wednesday; 12:55 - 1:30 on PAC days (Wednesday). Is 1 parent a day enough? Will depend on the number of bins, but at least 1. Need parents to help monitor composting bins during lunch. Difficult to get students or faculty members to give up lunch to monitor bins. Student-led effort to educate students on how to compost. A parent asks: have you considered onsite composting? Duke's environmental school does this. Traditionally, CHCCS outsources rather than do onsite composting. Tommy has grants, etc, to support the project. Will create a signup genius for parents to sign up.

VII. **Teacher Rep Report** (5 mins) Mr. Brian Link

Excited to see a former student civically involved (Marin). Excited about having Mr. Casey join East. Thx to PTSA for creating a welcoming environment for Mr. Casey. Hoping to have a summer meet and greet with Mr. Casey this summer.

Thank you to Michelle and Hospitality team for all they do. Really helps morale. Thanks to Linda and all who fundraise to provide and encourage use of PTSA funds. Excited about PTSA initiatives to update teacher spaces

Thanks to Annetta for her info and for her efforts to engage parents. 4/7 - another hearing on budget. Step 1 - Superintendent asks for things, Step 2 - Board approves, Step 3 - get funding. May 10 - first of 2 budget hearings before County Commissioners. Next is 6/2. Vote 6/21.

2014-2015 packed town hall with folks advocating for education funding. Has been 8 years since school tax raised. Last year, County Commissioners gave \$0 in additional funding to education. Chapel Hill isn't first in NC in funding any more - not even in top 3. Classified staff (TA's, bus drivers, cafeteria, office professionals, etc) severely underpaid in Chapel Hill. Teachers, coaches, counselors - supplement hasn't been raised in more than 10 years. People are leaving. Our kids aren't getting what they need and deserve - personnel no longer want to come here; no incentive. Personnel that are still here are stretched thin.

VIII. **Treasurer's Report and Vote on Amended Budget** (10 mins) Linda Gilchrist

20 members on zoom for the budget amendment.

Linda notes that it is important that we understand how education is funded in NC and that she appreciates that this is the topic for next month's meeting.

We have a generous community - biggest part of the PTSA budget comes from family, staff, and parents. HT VIC and Amazon Smile also contribute funds. Also

received \$1,000 in corporate matching funds this year. \$25k revenue budgeted; \$31k received.

Proposal: East is 26 years old and that appears to be the last time the teacher workrooms were updated. The PTSA has used special project funds to provide 3 refrigerators and a microwave and furnishings for the “Zen Den” near the library. We have \$1700 left. Need \$2,000 more to outfit the “model” teacher workroom that the other workrooms will be based on. Lotta Sjoelin, founder of A Lotta Love, is helping design the space. Because we generated more income than budgeted, we don’t need to take funds from other budget categories to fund this project.

Sue Sept motions to add \$2,000 to the Special Projects budget.
Tracy Strong seconds.
Vote is unanimous

Now that teachers are beginning to have staff meetings in person again, hospitality is looking forward to providing light snacks, etc. More funding to carry us through the end of the year and Teacher Appreciation week would be helpful.

Linda motions to add \$1000 to the hospitality budget
Laura Klein seconds
Vote is unanimous

Please email Linda Gilchrist with any budget questions:
treasurer@echhsptsa.org

President May Bryan notes that we are getting some donations and also purchasing items. This expenditure does not take away from any students or other funded/budgeted items.

IX. **Standing Committee Reports** (10 mins)

Nominating– Shannon Grabowski

We have 1 open VP position for next year. Email May if interested (president@echhsptsa.org). Application due by 4/15.

PTSA coordinates SIT elections. 2 open positions. More info to come about SIT elections after Spring Break.

Hospitality– Michelle Varma - done at the beginning of the meeting

Audit– Sue Sept - financial records are in order

7:30 p.m. ADJOURN

Upcoming Dates

April 19 PTSA General Meeting at 6:30
Topic: Budget 101 with Dr. Nyah Hamlett
& CFO Jonathan Scott

May 3 PTSA General Meeting
June 7 PTSA General Meeting