



Minutes from ESS PTA Membership Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 2025 - 7:30pm to 8:30pm
Held via Zoom

Attendance: Erin O'Brien, Margaret Vice, Mada Gray, Jessica, Katie McCaughey, Kristen Pisani-Jacques, Sarah Crowley, Genet Nibret, Mlisha Ayana Nash, Haile D, Anne, Allison Kirk, Delphine, Ariel Bierbaum, Messi, Sarah Edelman, Claudia Grossmann, Grace Fordman, Wubalem, Kaylisa Bendu, Hillary Catlin, Amy Molina-Moore

Meeting called to order at 7:35

Overview of PTA's mission and executive board.

1. ESS educator + volunteer kudos

SO Many thank you's! Thank you to the teachers who go above and beyond for our students. So many people are showing up and supporting our community. We see you and appreciate you!

- Ms. Gray expressed her gratitude for the ESS PTA and says the administration sees and appreciates the PTA community's efforts.

2. Upcoming events and reminders

- a. Book Fair and Reading Night - Presentation from Jessica Smith.
 - i. New vendor, online book store.
 - ii. Proceeds going to gift cards for kids in need, Ms. Madden to replenish the library and to the PTA to continue to fund PTA activities.
- b. Erin reminded us to send notes of gratitude and appreciation to teachers directly because it helps with teacher retention... also it's a nice thing to do.
- c. Volunteers needed:
 - i. Panda Club Registration for families who need technical assistance
 - ii. Teacher Treats - either venmo or bring in treats for teachers
 - iii. Playground Painting - Peaceful playgrounds
 - iv. Fundraising
 - 1. We could use more funds to do things like: monthly assemblies, science demonstrations, theater, support teachers ideas/ classroom needs, or fun cool new events like a Hip Hop presentation for Black History Month, etc.
 - 2. How we could do it--help start business/corporate sponsorship programs! Invitation for volunteers to kick-off our corporate sponsorship program.

3. Fundraiser update:

- a. Please donate if you are able and ask family to donate too. We're about 3/4s of the way to our \$6,000 dollar goal.

4. General updates

- a. Share the assembly coming up- Interactive assembly with Ada Ari

- b. Updates on boundary and regional magnet program changes from Sarah Edelman. Here's the basic timeline of where we are: MCPS put out three new options in the latest survey. December is for community feedback. February 5th superintendent will make final recommendations. February & March BOE will hear input and vote on a final choice in March.

Two things to note: Two options increase the FARM share and ELL populations at TPMS. Eastern option decreases the FARM rate from 70% to 50%

- c. EBB update for Ms. Bodre-Woods - Currently taking applications from staff and others who want to be part of program. They're gonna start with 96 students grade 2-5. Started with students 10 - 15 points from being on grade level. EBB reaching out to families; Invited students will begin the first weeks of February.
 - d. Updates on Community School activities from Ms. Gray
 - i. Parenting Classes are starting soon. Ms. Gray would like us to help get the word out about the parenting classes. There's incentives for parents who complete the course.
 - ii. Steering committee getting off the ground at ESS. To meet first year community school goals. PTA can help support by helping us collect or input data. Needs assessment will be complete by end of May, early June.
 - iii. December 17, parent-coffee to preview parenting classes
5. Ethiopian Eritrean Special Needs Community overview: Navigating Special Education by Azeb Ataro Adare (in Amharic). Lots of wrap around parenting support. To learn more their website is <https://eesnc.org/> and for particular questions Azeb can be reached at: eesncdmv@gmail.com

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.