

PTO Meeting Highlights: September 5, 2024

PTO President Luis Rivera called the meeting to order at 8:21am and introduced the PTO officers and SESH Staff present. He gave an overview of the PTO's purpose and activities. The PTO supports the teachers and staff at the school through gifts of time and treats. All parents are automatically members of the PTO, and there are no dues. Donations are always welcome to help fund the special breakfasts and seasonal treats throughout the year, and gifts can be made here:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/teacher-appreciation-61140>.

The PTO also helps fund projects to improve the school, such as the gaga ball pit on the playground and the shelving and storage system in DaVinci. If you have suggestions for a school improvement project for 2024/2025, please reach out to info@sseshpto.org.

In the absence of **PTO Treasurer Eva Fuentes**, Luis Rivera gave the report that the financials of the PTO are in good order, and we have completed the tax filing for the year.

PTO Vice President Leslie Delcid promoted volunteer opportunities for the PTO and the school, including encouraging parents to sign up to volunteer for the Block Party on Sunday. The PTO will need volunteers for the Pies and Flowers distribution day before Thanksgiving and the Holiday Wrap Up in December. There are level playdates scheduled through the room parents, and everyone is encouraged to attend those events. Looking forward to October, we will be supporting donations of socks to Grace Place, a non-profit here in Montrose that provides clothing and services to housing insecure LGBT+ youth. To support our teacher appreciation efforts, we have a BINGO night scheduled for October 16 from 6-8pm at Betsy's (4400 Bellaire Blvd). This event is cash-only, and BINGO cards are \$1 each. Prizes include free drinks for the grownups and ice cream for the children.

SSESH Director of Development Kate Booth spoke about the plan for the Annual Fund over the next few months and encouraged donations to the teachers' holiday bonus fund at the end of the year. She also called for volunteers for the spring gala.

SSESH Director of Community Engagement and Student Enrichment Liz Newchurch encouraged attendance at the upcoming Montessori Parent Education Seminars. These are a great opportunity to see a day in the life of your student and think ahead to their school journey through the different levels at SESH. Especially if you are new to Montessori, these events are a great way to learn the terminology and materials your student uses in the classroom every day. Liz also spoke about the outpouring of support for our art teacher, Ms. Margie, who has suffered a tremendous personal loss. There is a basket on the front desk to collect sympathy cards, and please reach out to Liz at newchurch@ssesh.org if you would like to get on the list for the meal train.

Head of School Dr. Troy Roddy gave an update on enrollment. SESH has about 170 students, and that is on track for where they expected to be at this time. Enrollment is ongoing for first through eighth grade, so encourage your friends to apply if they become dissatisfied with their school experience mid-

year somewhere else. Nurse interviews are ongoing, and they have four strong candidates. Pending background checks, he expects to fill the position in the next two weeks. Additionally, if you haven't filled out your student's health form, please do that ASAP. This is a state-required form, and the school is mandated to have the information on file. The school is working on renovating the building across the street from the primary houses. New banners and signage are up. There is a SSES App in the testing phase, and he's hoping to roll it out soon. A parent asked what "full capacity" at SSES looks like, and Dr. Troy said approximately 200 students. Another parent asked about student retention, and Dr. Troy said the school has about 50 new students a year, with most of the fluctuation in the lower age groups. He said that he wants SSES to do a few things very well rather than many things mediocre, and that's possible at the level of 170 students or 200 students.

President Luis thanked everyone for attending and encouraged attendance at Campus Beautification Day on Saturday, October 26. A reminder if you have items you want to get on the agenda for our next meeting, please email us at info@sseshpto.org. Our next meeting of the PTO will be on October 3 at *Community House* at 8:20 after drop off. Luis closed the meeting at 9:03am.

Help out with the September Teacher Appreciation breakfast by donating here:
<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/teacher-appreciation-61140/items?cart>