

PTA General Meeting May 3, 2019
ES Cafeteria 10am - 11:30am

Attendance: Benton, Jill, Gretel, Irene, Enibel, Flavia, Tatiana, Nancy, Vanessa, Tiffany, Mette, Maria Cobo, Tomi, Maria da Costa, Mehdiya, Jimena, Martin, Ingrid, Olga, Pilar, Dawn, John

Jillian opened the meeting with a discussion of the year's PTA highlights, from Dolphin Appreciation to the Holiday Gift Shop to the Family Fun Fair.

Jill noted that this is the first year the PTA has been an active part of Pink Shirt Day -- as part of anti-bullying efforts and she stated she "hopes it's something we can continue working on next year."

Jill followed that with a review of the work the bylaws subcommittee has done to revamp the PTA's bylaws. She said the revisions were an effort to update the bylaws, and segued to discussion of the upcoming PTA elections, where five elected officers will be chosen.

Balloting will be held on May 29, and Jill said all positions are open, and the ballot will include, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and Secretary. Jill shared that she will run for president again next year and that Gretel will run for VP. At the time of the meeting these were the only candidates running. Next year, Jill proposed that the executive team of the PTA to meet every Wednesday, and she said the overall commitment would be 2 - 3 ½ days per week.

Jill also discussed that following the election other PTA officer positions will be appointed by these elected officers. There are many different opportunities to get involved on a committee or as an officer and Jill emphasized that anyone willing to contribute some time and energy will be gladly welcomed. Committees include Elementary School, Middle School, High School, STEM, DAC, VAPA, Sustainability, Honor Roll, Panamun, International Day, Holiday Shop, Fun Fair, Appreciation, Community Outreach, Communications, and more.

Gretel offered some further updates on the bylaw revisions. She noted that the old bylaws were old and was largely a copy from the pta.org website. She noted that the revisions had been presented to the Board and approved and will be voted upon by all at the PTA AGM..

Viki followed with her update. She talked about the school's happiness survey, and she noted that the survey got 216 respondents. Overall, she said parents "felt this is a very modern school, very inclusive with a very progressive curriculum -- parents feel students are being shaped for the future."

But she said the survey showed there will still things the school needs to work on, including the social and emotional wellbeing of some students. According to the survey, some 10 percent of students felt alone or isolated, and Viki said that "every single student that feels invisible is a problem," and she promised to work on this.

She said that the survey showed some differences between the Spanish-speaking and English-speaking families at the school. She said some Spanish-speaking families would like more curriculum support at school.

She also said parents were frustrated by communication from the school. However, Viki noted that fewer people are reading the Dolphin Dispatch, and she said she was open to input and suggestions from parents to increase readership.

An update on ASA and sports programs followed, and Matt and Jen said the school planned to focus more on quality of activities rather than beginning a raft of new clubs and activities. They also said they were planning to make the programs more self-sustainable with fees added to ES and MS competitive sports programs.

Matt said next year would also see a change to the schedule for after school activities and sports. Elementary school students will have sports from 2:55 to 4:15, while High School will have their club activities from 3:00 to 4:00pm and their athletic activities from 4:15 to 5:45, meaning high school athletes will have a break between the end of classes and the start of their activities but also that they will be able to participate in activities in addition to their competitive sports.

Joe Cruz followed with an update on changes to the transportation system. Those changes were more fully explained in a letter that was subsequently sent from the school.

The meeting adjourned with a reminder to attend the AGM, May 29 at 10am.