



Casa Esperanza Montessori

September Parent/Faculty Meeting

September 5, 2018/ 8:30 AM/ Faculty Lounge

Executive Officers:

Ghenet Mogos, Co-President; Cari Combs & Ghenet Yosief, Co-Vice Presidents; Bryan Lanspery, Treasurer; Kristen King, Secretary

Members Present:

Dr. Julie Jailall, **Ghenet Mogos**, **Bryan Lanspery**, **Ghenet Yosief**, Lucretia Griffiths, Sutapa Das, Sindy Salcedo, Sandra Rodriguez, Claudia Huntanar, Teejay Lanspery, Teresa Lockhart, Diana Marshall, Sarah Slipsky, Jennifer Fuller, Jason Justice, Paulina Bohorquez, Adrienne Scigliano, Julie Stevenson, Elizabeth Press, Veronika Bismark, Rachel Banyal, Laura Chapman, Erica Tetteh, Zenobia Simmons, Connie O'Marry (sp?), Erin Dietsch, Jenny Harrison

AGENDA

Welcome and Call to Order

G. Mogos called the meeting to order at 8:30.

Open Comment

G. Mogos informed everyone that **Kristen King, Secretary, had her baby boy last night**, and **Laura Chapman will be filling in as Secretary** until she returns.

G. Mogos mentioned that the **PFA plans to have its own logo**, different from that of Casa. She expressed a desire to **make sure that PFA information goes out in Spanish as well as English**. Currently Teresa Lockhart is translating for the PFA.

A parent has requested **evening PFA meetings**. S. Salcedo and S. Slipsky reported that last year's evening PFA meeting was the least attended meeting of the year. J. Fuller suggested that perhaps there could be one evening meeting per quarter, and to also consider moving the morning meeting to Fridays to capture attendance from those who come to the school to help with Friday Folders. G. Mogos suggested sending suggestions for meeting times to the PFA email. J. Stevenson and J. Fuller suggested putting link to meeting minutes prominently on Casa website (rather than several menus down under Get Involved>PFA>PFA Meeting Minutes as they currently are).

Votes were taken for replacement in the office of Co-President. Candidates were Jason Justice and Teresa Lockhart. There were 10 votes from the Executive Board; R. Banyal collected and counted the votes. **Teresa Lockhart won the vote 7-3.**

NEW BUSINESS

Copy/Laminating Team Update: L. Chapman is to head the effort to train and run a Parent Copy Team to provide teachers and staff with regular help for making copies and laminating teaching materials. T. Lanspery clarified that this team will be in addition to any Room Parent who might also be helping her child's teacher with these tasks. Teachers will not have to use the Parent Copy Team; it's just an option for them.

Fall Festival: G. Yosief stated that emphasis is being placed on spending money on the students rather than on the venue. The top choice is Hill Ridge Farms in Youngsville, with a date of Friday, Oct 26. There is a multitude of activities for families, and HRF is offering a shelter area for Casa's use as well as the option of a later closing time. J. Fuller expressed concern that working parents may not be able to attend if HRF closes at its regular time of 6:30pm. HRF so far is willing to stay open until 7, but until 8 would be ideal. Formation of a committee is needed to finalize details such as the extended hours for Casa, ticket pre-sales to cover the entrance costs for Casa families, and raffle baskets.

PFA Budget: B. Lanspery stated that there is \$5700 in the checking account, about the same amount as at the start of the year. There was a good collection for the Teachers' Luncheons. Casa Gear is showing -\$1400 because \$3500 in inventory was purchased. Yearbook Pictures brought in \$2400. The PFA renewed RazKids and BrainPop accounts for the Media Center to distribute to teachers, and there is a teacher request to add on the BrainPop Science account for an additional \$200.

Square 1 Art: G. Mogos thanked all the volunteers who have helped so far. Many have volunteered, both at the school and at home and the art is nearly done. The early start was great as the empty art/music room was able to be used for a good part of the project.

Volunteer Forms: Many forms have been returned with plenty of volunteers signing up. L. Narvaez has compiled the names and contact info from the forms.

Casa Gear: G. Mogos said that the inventory program is not sufficient for keeping track of sales. Casa Gear will be listed on the Casa website instead.

Passive Fundraising: B. Lanspery talked about the Shoparoo app. It provides market research for companies. Participants download the app and then take and submit photos of their shopping receipts from participating stores. Participants earn "roo points" for their school, which translate into a donation at certain point levels. The school is also entered into a raffle for a cash prize given at various intervals. Currently there is a waitlist to add Casa to Shoparoo. B. Lanspery asked if the PFA wants to pursue adding Casa to the waitlist. T. Lockhart mentioned there is a 15% donation to Casa option at Tea Collection (clothing brand). E. Press mentioned that there is a donation to Casa option at the Teach Me Store, but there was some confusion among meeting attendees over whether that program is still active. S. Slipsky said parents have been told it's not, but L. Griffiths said that there are actually 2 accounts for Casa at the Teach Me Store, 1 for the PFA and 1 for the school, and in addition the store has said in the past that there is money waiting to be claimed by Casa.

New Play Structure: L. Griffiths said that PFA needs to be ready to solicit many volunteers to help with demolition of the old play structure. There should be about 1 week lead time to ask for volunteers; the goal is to have little to no time without a play structure. Can the old one be donated/salvaged? Maybe just some of the wood can be salvaged? Scrap Exchange? Junk Doctors? Or just take it to the dump?

United Artists Program: Update from W. Pineda via written note to G. Mogos. Casa is currently talking to 2 artists. The program will happen the last 2 weeks in Oct. The cost is \$4500; there is a grant for \$375. Per S. Salcedo, the United Artists program will consist of a presentation (a play) about peace, which will connect to the winter cultural event that the students will perform in Dec.

New iPads: Per V. Jong, the Media Center needs specific cases for the 10 iPads purchased by the PFA as well as for the 15 iPads bought by DPI. The preferred cases cost \$20 each and a single sample will be ordered

from Amazon to ensure it's correct before committing to buying the remainder. If possible 27 cases total are desired.

Teacher Luncheons: J. Stevenson reported that the first luncheon went very well, though the budget of \$265 per lunch is very tight. She is hoping to get restaurant donations of food in the future to supplement what she can buy with her budget. J. Fuller suggested offering free ad space in the yearbook in return for donations of food. S. Slipsky offered to make a graphic for the Facebook page soliciting more parent monetary donations. T. Lockhart and E. Press suggested getting grocery stores to donate both supplies like plates and cutlery as well as food from their buffet section. The number of parents who have already donated to the Teachers' Luncheon fund is not known.

Book Fair: J. Stevenson said the theme is "Enchanted Forest," and that she has had a good amount of volunteers sign up. The scheduled date for the Book Fair is the last full week before Thanksgiving Break.

Marine Club (Touch Tank): J. Stevenson will help with signage desired by T. Lanspery and R. Banyal, who are planning to schedule sessions with students.

Yearbook Photos: G. Mogos extended thanks to E. Tetteh for her first time volunteering to help with this. E. Tetteh said that she will let parents know that retake day is Oct 23 once the photos go home, and that photos must be returned in order to have a retake done. S. Slipsky said she will make a graphic for the Facebook page closer to the retake date.

Facebook Page: S. Slipsky reminded everyone that there needs to be an effort not to overwhelm parents with last minute reminders and information. She needs enough lead time to make the graphics for various events. She said that email is the first and best way to disseminate information, as not everyone is on Facebook. G. Mogos agreed that there are many emails from PFA, room parents, teachers, etc, and parents may get overwhelmed. T. Lanspery suggested using front door space to showcase information, and J. Fuller reminded everyone of the stash of already-made event posterboards stored in the back of the main girls' bathroom. More event posters in Spanish are needed. T. Lockhart mentioned as PFA's translator.

G. Mogos asked that everyone in the room introduce him/herself, after which the meeting was ended at 9:25am.