



Casa Esperanza Montessori

# Parent Faculty Association Meeting

**September 4, 2019, 8:30 a.m. Faculty Lounge**

**Executive Officers:**

Co-Presidents: Ghenet Mogos and Teresa Lockhart  
Co-Vice Presidents: Kristen King and Laura Chapman  
Treasurer: Ghenet Yosief  
Secretary: TeeJay Lanspery  
Head of School: GeRita Connor  
Board Members: Monica Dixon Perry

**AGENDA:**

General welcome and attendance  
Playground Update  
Skate Party Fundraiser Update  
Sponsorship  
Fall Festival  
Yearbook  
Clubs  
Casa Gear  
Education Committee Updates  
Financial Updates  
Family Night

**MINUTES:**

- The PFA and all attendees gave introductions.
- **Playground Committee** *Skate Party* success (350+ attendants and about \$2300) and updates they've made. Play areas were repainted, the playhouse was stabilized, trellises were repainted in the garden and over the water-box area. The new dome is awaiting barriers and new mulch. Possible attachment for the dome is under discussion. Note: parents/research hours/administration narrow ideas down to present to Casa's Student Council who then vote for the final idea(s). A parent asked for a ball cage outside as well as a trash can.
- **Sponsorship news:** We got about four more sponsors so will be getting a new banner made to hang and post on Facebook.
- **Fall Fest** is scheduled Sunday, October 27th from 1:30-5:30 p.m. and will remain about \$10 per person or \$30 for a family of four. The option is available again to let families of three donate their spare ticket to a general fund for those needing them. We are working on MG providing pizza again and UE running a photo booth. The plan is to do Halloween dress-up again as that was great last year for photos.
- **Casa Gear:** Great success in Casa Gear this year with sweatshirts, magnets and cups. Non-PFA t-shirts from UE is going great too.

- **Yearbook** is transitioning over the course of this year to be a Casa-run endeavor integrating Staff/Club and volunteer members. There will be Yearbook Advisors. Club time runs once a week for 45 minutes. The Yearbook will eventually be student led/run/produced.
- **Education Committee** Volunteers led a presentation to the faculty about the *Symbolic Migration Project* and Senora Connor approved each classroom to participate with the nominal fee covered by the PFA. Volunteers discussed the *Marine Club* opening sessions upcoming and the need for more dedicated volunteers. *Garden Committee* updated attendants about changes: weeding/clearing debris, removal of fire ants, modifying the rain-spout to end the seasonal flooding, leveling the grounds, carpentry work to repair boxes, amending the soil, applying a weed barrier and hauling in 50/50 top soil and Chapel Hill grit sand mix.
- **Student Council** was discussed by the Head of School as they will be Ambassadors/Leaders nominated by Teachers to be faces of outreach/marketing and greeting the public.
- A parent volunteered to assist streamlining the volunteer information for various causes.
- **Room Parents** are all entered into a ListServ for messages from the PFA. Room Parents are to send their own messages to parents per classroom via that room's Teacher to go out using SwiftReach. This new procedure has been discussed in e-mails to Room Parents.
- **Budget:** closing PFA run Scrip and switching to a more passive style still allowing parents to register with Scrip and order their own gift cards to donate a percentage to Casa.
- **Teacher luncheons** run approximately \$390 per lunch.
- **Sensory Path** was discussed. Colors are finalized and will be installed soon. The application of the path is to encourage more sensory outlet and activity or exercise.
- **Book Fair** will be November 18-22nd and the particulars went out via e-mail earlier and a Sign-up Genius was attached. There is room for many ways to be involved with the application of this year's concept. The 15th is set to be a decorating day.
- **Family Night** starts at Chipotle this year on September 17th from 4-8 p.m. A percentage of money spent at family nights goes to Casa.
- **Sra. GeRita Connor:** Planning Fall Family Night for our Montessori/Immersion dual language school with rotations like we had at Meet the Teacher. Funding discussions. Nights at school will start at 4 p.m. now and go until 6 p.m. Two rotations: 4-5 and 5-6. No more late nights. Discussion is still ongoing about clubs. Some possibilities from Staff: Magazine (digital), Dance, Crochet/Knit, Cooking, Nature, Chess, Culture/History, Social/Emotional, Self-Defense, Lego, Yoga. There should be a rotation and exhibition periodically. The Sensory Path areas are underway. Work is also underway to develop a school mascot. MG classes (which are 6, 7 and 8th grades this year) design mascots and narrow their ideas down to five. Those five ideas are then shared with UE who then narrow the ideas down to three. Those three ideas are then shared with the community who votes on one. Longevity of programs was discussed and the star is a redesign of the MG. This is a planning year with a kick-off planned for February of 2020. Casa community is under development.