

**KES PTO Meeting**  
**December 6, 2022**  
**7:55 A.M.**

**Attendees**

Kathy Tucker (Principal)  
Lindsay Niewoehner (President)  
Jossy Taylor (Treasurer)  
Megan Barlow (Vice President)  
Channi Higgins

Alison Neumark  
Catherine Williamson  
Katie Mahon  
Lourdes Ramon  
Lisa Desai

**Opening Remarks**

Lindsay Niewoehner opened the meeting and welcomed the group.

**Principal's Report**

- Principal Tucker noted that the second round of FAST testing was going on throughout this week. She also noted that participation in after school clubs has been great this year. Several in the group discussed how much their students were enjoying the clubs.

Due to the departure of Ms. Defalco, kindergarten has been consolidated into three classes instead of four. Principal Tucker noted that students and families affected were informed of the transition and the classes all remain within the class size limits for number of students.

The First Annual “KES Turkey Trot” was a great success! Participation was great and the students enjoyed earning prizes. Future challenges are in the works to help motivate students over the upcoming break. Details will be going out to families soon.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Jossy Taylor informed the group that the PTO account balance is about \$43,608. Square One Art raised a total of about \$1,800! Funds from Huey Magoo's spirit night will be deposited soon.

**Old Business**

- Acknowledgements

Lindsay thanked PTO volunteers for their continued work on our many initiatives. The Fall Festival was a success thanks to everyone's hard work. And a huge thank you to the KES staff for all their help in making it happen. We had great turnout with about 400 attendees and the kids really seemed to enjoy it. Aylas's Acres was very appreciative of the donations collected. Not counting Spirit Wear sales (which go toward the general fund), we covered costs, which was the goal. The event was planned as an opportunity to bring KES families together. November's Thank You Note Project has wrapped up; the kids did a great job decorating and “mailing” their notes to teachers and staff throughout the month. Thank you to Channi H. for delivering the notecards each week!

- Status Update
  - Spirit Nights: Family participation has been great at Spirit Nights and we appreciate the support from local businesses who have agreed to host! Our next two Spirit Nights are at Cantina Louie on January 9 from 5 – 8 p.m. and Uptown Scratch Kitchen on Thursday February 9 from 4 – 7 p.m.
  - Fill the Fence: Our Fill-the-Fence has raised \$2,000 this year thanks to the support of our local business sponsors!
  - Spirit Wear Sales: Spirit Wear sales are going well so far this year and we sold a lot of items at the Fall Festival. The sweatshirts seem to be a hit. Thank you to Alison N. for continuing to head up this effort!
  - Custodian and Bus Driver Appreciation  
Custodian and bus driver appreciation gifts discussed at the last meeting were delivered right before the Thanksgiving break. Thank you to Jessica M. and Channi H. for helping with this!

## **New Business**

- Volunteer of the Year!

During the meeting, we had a welcome interruption from Donna Ott and several members of the KES staff...Jossy Taylor was presented with the 2022-2023 KES Adult Volunteer of the Year Award! The KES PTO congratulates Jossy for this well-deserved award and is grateful for all that she does for the students and staff at KES!

- Upcoming Activities / Volunteer Opportunities
  - Magic Show  
Principal Tucker inquired as to whether the PTO would be interested in co-sponsoring a family night magic show at Sebastian Middle School. In addition to the evening performance for the families, she is hoping the magician will be able to come to the school and do two shorter “mini” shows for the kids during the day. After discussion, the group agreed to move forward. It will be fun for the students and families and we may also be able to use the event to start to get the word out about the Fun Run.
  - Jingle Cart  
The Jingle Cart is coming up on December 16! Jossy T. explained this annual KES tradition to the group. Volunteers decorate carts and stop by the classrooms to deliver treats and coffee to teachers and staff. Volunteers should dress in their most festive flair and plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. in the media center that Friday to set up the carts. The group agreed that we should also get candy canes for the students. Lourdes R. volunteered to pick up the candy canes and organize them by classroom so they can be easily delivered.

- Hallway Decorating  
The group discussed getting volunteers together to decorate the KES hallways before the holiday break, as PTO has done in previous years. Everyone agreed that after dismissal sometime next week would work best. An email will go out in the next couple of days with details on a meeting date/time.
- Staff Lounge Wishlist  
Lindsay asked if the PTO would be interested in posting a staff lounge “wish list” (similar to the one posted at the end of summer break) on our social media page in advance of the holidays. The group agreed and decided that a Sign-Up Genius would probably be the easiest. Principal Tucker agreed to get back to us with some items that the teachers and staff would like. Donated items will be distributed to the staff lounges the week of December 19.
- Fun Run
  - Planning Meeting Recap  
Fun Run planning has kicked off! Megan B. provided a recap of the planning meeting that was held December 2. The event will be on February 8 at Francis Field, which has already been reserved. Fundraising will start the week of January 23. Jessica M. has agreed to administer prizes again this year. Ms. Sturm has agreed to administer the 99 Pledges Website. We will provide periodic updates on fundraiser stats during the KES morning news during the two-week fundraising period. We will also use our spot in the monthly KES Newsletter to promote and inform families about the Fun Run.
  - Goal Setting  
Thanks to the support of the volunteers, staff, and community, we are able to keep the administrative costs of the Fun Run very low. The group discussed that it helps to be able to explain to donors how the Fun Run proceeds will be put to use. Megan asked Principal Tucker about the areas currently of greatest need. Principal Tucker informed the group that technology needs, especially laptops, continue to be significant as the students rely heavily on them and they eventually become obsolete and have to be replaced. She also mentioned that there continues to be a need for funds to supply the music program. The school has received grants that have been a big help, but there is still a gap. After a brief discussion, the group agreed that Fun Run proceeds would be put towards supporting both technology and the music program.
  - Volunteer Opportunities  
We need help with hyping the event during the fundraising period. Please reach out to Megan if you are interested in this. The group also discussed possibly reaching out to community members or Flagler College students to help get the kids excited for the big day!

We will also need a number of volunteers on the day of the event to help with organizing the classes, marking and tallying laps, and of course cheering on our Dolphins! We will send a Sign-Up Genius request out to KES families. Volunteers will need to be approved through school access.

## **Upcoming Dates**

- Spirit Night at Cantina Louie January 9 from 5 – 8 pm
- Next PTO meeting: January 10 @ 7:55 am
- Fun Run: February 8 (Fundraising Kicks off January 23)

## **Adjournment**