



**TALLEY STREET UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION, INC.**

**2617 Talley St
Decatur, GA 30030**

MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2023 6PM

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Talley Street PTO Board of Directors was held via video conference on January 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Co-President Sara Weathersby and seconded by Co-President Kelly Brown.

I. Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting

The Board reviewed the November PTO meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting was made by Sara Weathersby and seconded by Yara Haddad. The minutes were approved by a show of hands. Motion carries.

II. Treasurer's Report

Co-Treasurer Hetal Rathod presented a financial summary to the Board based on the November and December treasurer's reports. For November, the PTO accrued expenditures in the amount of \$987.76. These expenses primarily related to books and refreshments for the DEI book club, as well \$300 in book fair bucks, and costs for a Talley staff meeting under the principal's discretionary fund. Receipts for November totaled \$478.85, primarily due to reading rally, spirit wear, and passive fundraising.

The December treasurer's report reflected expenses of \$3,320.66, largely due to holiday gifts \$2,535.64 for staff. (Room parent funds are focused on classroom teachers). Other expenses related to DEI activities (the Diwali event and book club), crossing guard appreciation gifts, Talley student of the month, and principal discretionary fund. Incoming revenue for December totaled \$541.54, consisting of member donations, passive fundraising, spirit wear and reimbursement of petty cash from the book fair. Following the report, the Board discussed whether to reallocate additional funds to staff appreciation for end of the year planning.

Sara moved to approve November and December treasurer reports, Secretary Lindsay Hodgson seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Reports were approved by a show of hands. Motion carries.

III. Principal's Report

Principal Heaton provided several key updates to the PTO. He recently attended an administrative council meeting of school leaders and the superintendent's council. Soon, the principals will receive updates about the projected number of students and the corresponding teacher/staff allocation for school year 2023-2024. Currently, Talley has approximately 666 students overall, and 24 students in each of the 4th and 5th grade classes.

Talley staff and students are excited for the Lunar New Year parade, which will occur next Tuesday morning. Students have practiced extensively. Several events are planned for Black History Month including a wax history museum. Staff are enthusiastic about the new program to support teachers “TREAT” whereby parent volunteers will monitor students and provide planning time for teachers.

Mr. Heaton is encouraged by the energy and feedback from our two new assistant principals. Students received compliments for their presentation to the CSD board on the House system and the positive attributes demonstrated at Talley this school year.

Other updates from Mr. Heaton included a summary of a focus group discussion with Black students led by Talley faculty of color. During the event, students were able to talk about their perspectives and experiences at Talley in small discussion groups. Another annual “tripod survey” will occur this spring. The survey seeks information about school culture, student interaction with peers, as well as interaction with staff and administrators. Data from the 2022 survey prompted the recent focus group. These surveys seek to address concerns that might not otherwise be addressed by existing programming. The board discussed efforts to address perspectives of other demographic groups within the school.

Co-Presidents Sara and Kelly offered more details on the TREAT program. Today, PTO leadership, alongside AP Nichols and Ms. Edwards, lead the Tigers Relieving Educators at Talley (TREAT) orientation. About 20 parent volunteers attended this initial orientation. Additional parent trainings will occur as needed. The plan is for parent volunteers to provide one hour of support to teachers during non-instructional time on the following schedule: Tuesdays 5th grade, Wednesdays 4th grade and Thursdays 5th grade, beginning next week.

The House of Amistad Friendship Dance is slated for February 2nd 5:00-6:30pm at Ebster gymnasium.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

Fundraising

Fundraising Co-Chair Kimberly Mohl spoke to the board regarding TigerFest planning. The discussion largely tracked a planning document managed by the Fundraising Co-Chairs. The committee sent out an interest letter to potential vendors, which includes event guidelines. A brief discussion ensued to re-confirm current Covid protocols. The event is not currently subject to social distancing restrictions.

TigerFest Committee Chairs:

Artists – Tiffani Edney

Music – Alex Arnett and Dotan Harpak. Talley House Band confirmed. Additional performers TBD.

Carnival Games – Michael Shahriari and Seema Lakdawala

Prizes – Sheetal Junghare and Wendy Shaw

Food – Sara Weathersby and Kelly Brown

Sales – Gehan Botrus and Lindy Miller

Volunteers – Amy Hoying and Megan O’Keefe

Middle school and high school students can volunteer, and this would fulfill service hour requirements.

Communication – Nydia Almond and Dania Harris

Silent Auction – no chair currently

Transformation – Wendy Shaw and Nydia Almond – coordinate logistics

Square sales – Michael Shahriari

Third Grade Parent Volunteers – Aimen Muneer, Odufa Aburime, Yara Haddad

TigerFest will be held on April 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm, rain or shine. TigerFest seeks to build community among families, Decatur organizations and businesses. Last year, TigerFest raised \$25-25K. This year's goal is \$12K. TigerFest 2022 sold approx. 550 wristbands (Talley has 666 students currently). LexTex and Intown Stars Gymnastics are presenting sponsors. King of Pops is also a sponsor.

Kim has shared promotional materials and is coordinating with PTO Communications Chair Nydia Almond. Local after care and camps saw an increase in enrollment last year following their participation in TigerFest. Committee chairs are asked to reach out to volunteers and begin working on milestones. Discussion of prize distribution for carnival games. Discussion of managing the process to check in participants and day of sales.

The planning committee has confirmed a Greek food truck and sandwich options. A BBQ vendor is not finalized. A pie in the face activity may return. The committee is working on a barricade. Hetal reminded everyone of the reimbursement and purchasing general rules. The planning committee will re-use some event supplies from last year, including signage, which will be reflected in the budget. Kimberly has files and budgetary documents for committee leads. Discussion of photo booth, selfie station and printing options.

Ticket sales will likely start mid-March. Planning and communications will account for spring break. TigerFest takes a tremendous amount of planning but as one of our two largest fundraisers, has the potential to significantly impact Talley programs and students.

DEI/DAC

DEI Co-Chair Micah Lewin and PTO Co-President Sara Weathersby shared multiple event updates with the PTO board.

1. DAC Online Fundraiser

The PTO encouraged parents to make donations in January 2023 to support the Talley Staff Diversity Activities Committee. Approximately \$400 has been raised thus far in January. Funds will support ongoing DAC programs.

2. Lunar New Year Parade

This year's Lunar New Year parade will begin at 8::45 on Tuesday. The PTO is funding the lion dance troupe. Other activities are being organized by the staff DAC committee.

3. Black History Month

The PTO DEI committee is organizing a culinary event to align with Black History Month. Additionally DEI is planning a two-part series on affordable housing and "missing middle" housing. Monday's event will be lead by a Talley parent facilitator.

Room Parent Coordinators

Co-Coordinators India Epps and Lynda Kim lead a discussion about Teacher Appreciation Week dates and activities. The current plan is to support teachers the week of March 20-24. This timeframe is thought to be easier to manage than holding a teacher appreciation week in May.

V. Committee Reports from Committee Reps or the Board

Yearbook

This year's yearbook theme will be "Six Houses One Talley". Information about yearbook sales will be distributed to families soon.

Garden

The Garden Committee reports that some of the existing plants survived the recent cold temperatures. The committee is working with teachers to create sensory features for students to enjoy. The committee is working with Talley administrators on a plan to replace tables in the garden area. The tables near the drop off side of the parking lot are not a good fit for the garden. A price quote has been submitted. Replacing the tables should be a budget priority for fall 2023.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjourn

There being no other pending business, Kimberly Mohl moved to adjourn the meeting and Michael Shahriari seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm. The next meeting of the Talley PTO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, at 6:00 PM.

PTO Board Members Present for Meeting:

Principal Billy Heaton (virtual)
Co-President: Sara Weathersby (virtual)
Co-President: Kelly Brown (virtual)
Co-Vice President: Michael Shahriari (virtual)
Co-Vice President: Gwendolyn Shaw (virtual)
Co-Treasurer: Hetal Rathod (virtual)
Co-Treasurer: TCee Bell (virtual)
Secretary: Lindsay Hodgson (virtual)
Communications Chair: Nydia Almond (virtual)
Fundraising Co-Chair Kimberly Mohl (virtual)
Fundraising Co-Chair: Tiffani Edney (virtual)
3rd Grade Member at Large: Briana Dayton (virtual)
DEI Co-Chair: Micah Lewin (virtual)
Room Parent Co-Chair: Lynda Kim (virtual)
Room Parent Co-Chair: India Epps (virtual)