

**Prestonwood Montessori at ED Walker  
PTO Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 3, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Location:** Prestonwood Montessori Library

**PTO Record Keeper:** Kellie Brown-Nelson

**Spanish Translator:** Alexandra Granell

**Attendees: (See Attached)**

**Call to Order:** 6:00 PM

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### **1. Montessori Approach Presentation**

- **Presented by:** Ms. Rincon & Ms. Delaney
  - **Overview:**  
Ms. Rincon and Ms. Delaney led a detailed presentation about the Montessori approach and the classroom experiences at Prestonwood Montessori. They explained key elements of the methodology and how students engage with learning, focusing on fostering independence, social responsibility, and academic curiosity.
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### **2. Executive Board Introductions**

- **Executive Board Members**
  - **Open Positions:**
    - Membership Chair
    - Student Activities Chair
    - Social Media Chair
    - Silent Auction Chair
    - Community Engagement Chair
    - Business Sponsorship Chair
    - Kinder Bridging Chair (needed by March 2025, preferably a non-kindergarten parent).
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### **3. Immediate Needs**

- **Homecoming Booth Volunteers:**  
PTO booth volunteers needed for the WT White Homecoming Game on October 25, 2024. This booth will raise funds and promote school spirit.
  - **Spring Carnival Silent Auction:**  
Early planning has started for the silent auction at the Spring Carnival. Parents are encouraged to donate items or services, with the Executive Board managing auction setup on the designated platform.
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#### 4. Mission, Vision, and Values

- **Mission Statement:**

*"We support our students and school staff by ensuring they have the resources to learn at their own pace as part of a community of learners, doers, and future leaders. We create inclusive events with high respect for every individual."*

- **Vision Statement:**

*"We are a group of dedicated parents, teachers, and advocates committed to fostering an inclusive and joyful educational community where every child has the opportunity to learn in a safe, nurturing environment."*

- **Core Values:**

- Accountability
  - Transparency
  - Inclusion
  - Education
  - Outreach
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#### 5. PTO's Support for Students and Teachers

- **Fundraising Efforts:**

Events like Readathon, Winter Market, Spring Carnival, and Fun Run raise significant resources for the school.

- **Volunteering Opportunities:**

Goal: Each family should sign up for at least 3 events this school year to support PTO activities.

- **Charitable Giving:**

Ongoing initiatives such as the Wolf Den Food Pantry, Cans and Coats Drive, Angel Tree, and Holiday Meal Donations. The 'Sponsor a Child' program also continues.

- **Community Building:**

Emphasis on creating a welcoming and inclusive environment through free events, affinity groups, and social events for parents and students.

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#### 6. PTO Accomplishments

- **Teacher Support:** \$9,000 allocated for classroom enhancements.
  - **Musical Instruments Purchase:** \$4,500 spent on new instruments.
  - **Outdoor Playground:** \$23,371 spent to create engaging outdoor spaces for students.
  - **Montessori Learning Materials:** \$20,000 invested in practical life and classroom tools.
  - **Primary Practical Life Tools:** \$3,200 for hands-on tools supporting Montessori learning.
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## 7. Voting Items

- **Treasurer Vacancy:**

Motion to fill the vacant treasurer position with Jalesa Harrison, who will also be added as a signer on the PTO bank account.

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved by present board members.

- **Bylaw Changes:**

- Convert Dad's Club into an affinity group.
- Merge PTA/PTO Liaison with the Teacher Liaison role.
- Clarified language in Sections 4 and 5 regarding PTO structure and role expectations.

**Outcome:** Approved with changes to take effect during the 2025-2026 school year. Sheri Axe will clarify proposed language update for the Bylaws in Section 5. (Parent request)

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## 8. Outdoor Learning Spaces Initiative

- **Presented by:** Principal Ashley Toole

The school is working towards developing outdoor learning environments to support social and emotional development. The broader vision is to establish Prestonwood Montessori as the first public American Montessori-recognized school in Texas.

- **Vision and Goals:**

- **Immediate Goal:** Create an outdoor classroom space with an estimated cost of \$40,000.
- **1-3 Year Goal:** Build outdoor access structures with a budget estimate of \$100,000+.
- **2-5 Year Goal:** Install outdoor play structures for different grade levels, projected to cost \$180,000.

- **Question from Parents:**

A question was raised about whether the school must use district-approved vendors. Principal Toole clarified that while they could explore other vendors, district liability concerns must be considered.

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## 9. Budget Approval

- The budget was approved with the understanding that amendments may be made at future meetings.

- **Key Budget Allocations:**

- **Student Support:** \$13,500
- **Community Support:** \$17,025
- **Fundraising Expenses:** \$17,701
- **Staff Support:** \$5,463
- **Campus Improvements:** \$42,100

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## 10. Principal Toole's Update

- **Staffing:**  
No changes from the previous year are expected in staff structure.
- **Title I Fund:**  
The max amount of Title I funds were used to cover the salary for 1 full-time teacher and ½ of a Classroom Community Liaison, as well as Montessori community materials.
- **Contact Info:**  
Principal Toole's email is [atoole@dallasisd.org](mailto:atoole@dallasisd.org)

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## 11. Communication Plan

- **Methods of Communication:**
  - School Newsletter
  - Social Media (Facebook & Instagram)
  - Thursday Folders
  - School Website
  - Class Dojo
- **Class Dojo Use Cases:**
  1. Calendar for school events
  2. Announcements in the Story section
  3. Monthly updates in student portfolios
  4. Class Chat for internal class communications

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## 12. Fundraising Initiatives

- **Led by:** Christina Conway, Megan Bollner, and Jennifer White
- **Major Fundraisers for 2024-2025:**
  - Fall Read-A-Thon: Goal of \$20,000 (Dates: September 12-20)
  - Spring Carnival/Silent Auction: Goal of \$5,000
  - Spring Fun Run: Goal of \$13,500
  - Business Donations & Personal Pledges: Goal of \$7,000
- **Read-A-Thon Highlight:**  
Camp Crafty Parties is sponsoring a DIY Slime Party for the top fundraising class during the Read-A-Thon.
  - Sponsoring Company Website: [www.campcraftyparties.com](http://www.campcraftyparties.com)

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### 13. Membership and Inclusion Updates

- **Membership:**  
161 PTO members have signed up, representing 420 students. The goal is to increase membership to 200 families this school year.
- **Prestonwood Pals:**  
The 'Prestonwood Pals' initiative is bridging the gap between 35 existing families and 23 new families as they transition into the Montessori community.

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### 14. Affinity Groups

- **Familias Españolas:**  
Coordinating events and classroom activities for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- **BFAM (BIPOC Family Affinity Group):**  
Hosting a Family Game Night on September 6, 2024, from 4 PM to 6 PM, featuring 50+ games and activities for all ages.
- **Dad's Club:**  
Encouraging father & father-figure involvement in upcoming events like the Rangers Game (9/18), Wild Robot Movie (10/9), Turkey Giveback (11/9), and Vitruvian Light Walk (12/14).
- **Neurodiversity Group:**  
Paula Hill is leading efforts to create a supportive environment for neurodiverse students and their families.

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### 15. SWAG Store

- The SWAG store is set to launch soon with details to follow on the school's website.  
([www.prestonwoodparents.org](http://www.prestonwoodparents.org))

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### 16. Teacher & Parent Liaison Update

- **Led by:** Rodney Gilbert (Upper Elementary Guide)
  - 80% of teachers have joined the PTO.
  - MILT (Montessori Instructional Leadership Team) will present "Parent Education" moments before PTO meetings to help bridge the gap between classroom (teacher) and home (parent).
  - 90% of teachers have room parents.

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## 17. Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) Committee

- **Presented by:** Christina Wise

Upcoming meeting dates:

- October 1 (In-Person)
- December 3 (Virtual)
- April 1 (In-Person)
- May 6 (Virtual)

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**Adjournment:** 7:49 PM

Timestamp		Name	Email
9/3/2024 18:25:18	9/2/2024	Adriana low	adcampos@dallasisd.org
9/3/2024 18:25:18	9/3/2024	Ana Priego	karent1989@yahoo.com
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9/3/2024 18:24:50	9/3/2024	Angel Johnson-Brown	angel.johnson@atriumhospitality.com
9/3/2024 18:24:50	9/3/2024	Antonio Vithe	N/A
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