

Escuela Key General PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Please see the meeting slides posted on the [Escuela Key PTA meetings website](#) for more information about specific agenda items.

19 attendees, including guest presenter/speaker: Principal Marleny Perdomo

The meeting started at **7:05** pm

Escuela PTA President Erin Lester shared the agenda for the meeting

- Welcome / Bienvenida
- In Memory / En Memoria: Holly Rodriguez
- Hurras / Hurras
- Election of the PTA Executive Board for the 2022-2023 School Year / Elección de los miembros de la junta ejecutiva de la PTA
- Treasurer: May Updates / Actualización de la tesorera para mayo
- Mark Your Calendars! / ¡Marca tu calendario!
- Movie Night! / Noche de cine – Encanto!
- Discussion with Sra Perdomo / Conversación con Sra Perdomo

In Memory / En Memoria: Holly Rodriguez

Sra Perdomo shared a few words about Ms. Rodriguez, who she met when Sra. Perdomo was teaching Kinder and Ms. Rodriguez's son was in her class. When Sra Perdomo took the Principal job at Key, Ms. Rodriguez was the voice of reason representing all the assistant teachers – she was always polite but direct in delivering messages about how the situation could be improved. Ms. Rodriguez was at Key for 30 years. There are so many stories from the kids who she taught over those years, including a family whose adult son insisted on stopping at Escuela Key during a road trip down the East Coast so that he could say hello to his beloved Kindergarten assistant.

Marleny also shared a lot of other stories about Ms. Rodriguez, including how she adapted to virtual school and the technology required. Ms. Rodriguez's funeral was yesterday and fellow Key teacher Jeremy Sullivan officiated.

Erin Lester shared the information for those who would like to donate to support Ms. Rodriguez's family (see slide 5 in the meeting presentation for information on how to donate).

Erin L asked how else the PTA and the community can support the family and the staff.

Sra. Perdomo indicated that they would like to plant a tree in memory of Ms. Rodriguez, which the community can support.

Hurras for Escuela Key / Hurras para Escuela Key

1. Arlington Rotary recognized Sra Serrano (3rd grade) as Teacher of the Year

Erin L.: We have a wonderful relationship with Arlington Rotary and Sra Perdomo and Sara Bryant were able to be there to celebrate with Sra Serrano.

2. **Three student films by 5th Graders at Escuela Key Win Arlington Student Film Fest Honors**

See slide #6 in the meeting presentation for details on the winning films.

Erin L: Thank you to Coach Pond and Mr. Man for their support of the students.

3. **Escuela Key received the “No Place for Hate” Designation -**

Sra. Perdomo: Involved the “Change Sings” book and related curriculum conversations during classroom morning meetings.

4. **Escuela Key is close to receiving a second national designation as a Purple Star School** (which shows our support for military families)

Sra. Perdomo: This involves steps such as training the staff in understanding how to work with the children of military families given their unique circumstances. It also involves having an activity that shows military families how much we appreciate them, which was a special breakfast for military families earlier this month (about 20 families attended). And then there will be another training with the staff, and adding a page to the Escuela Key school website that is specific to military families to give them more information about the school, especially the lottery process (to eliminate any hurdles for families that might want to come to Escuela Key). Sra Perdomo wants to make the military families breakfast an annual event, and also “Wear Purple Day” to show the school community’s support for military families.

5. **Teacher Appreciation Week** - Erin L. shared photos of all the great things that Erin Freas-Smith and the Teacher Appreciation Week volunteer team did to appreciate the teachers (Slide 7 in the meeting presentation). Erin F-S said that the theme this week was to give teachers “the gift of time” (lunch for the teachers, a big push for parent volunteers at recess). The team also put together for the teachers a popcorn box of goodies (coupon for an Amazon streaming movie, movie theater candy, etc.). The PTA provided breakfast on Monday and lunch Tuesday through Friday. Erin F-S gives a big thank you to the volunteers, including Susana Carpio , Megan Krug (both on the call) and Erin Mascarella who put together the popcorn boxes.

PTA Executive Board Elections for the 2022-2023 School Year/ Elección de los miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva de la PTA para el año escolar 2022-2023

Erin Lester reviewed the election process timeline on Slide #8. The slate of officers appears on Slide #9. Sara Bryant was our president-elect for the 2021-2022 school year and will be our president for the next school year. Erin L. invited Gigi Peterson (President-Elect candidate) and Erin Aylor (Secretary Candidate) to introduce themselves (Patty Spencer was not able to join tonight), which they did.

Erin L. asked for a motion to vote.

Erin F-S moved to vote.

Erin Aylor seconded.

The vote was taken in the Zoom conference room chat.

The vote was passed by a vote of 13 (10 was required for the quorum).

Nominees

President-Elect: Gigi Peterson – 2 kids at Key, 2nd and 4th graders Marissa and Jack. Has always been involved since starting with Key. Looking forward to providing what the community needs, and working with Sara next year.

Treasurer: Patty Spencer (continuing): 2 boys at Key, 5th and 2nd graders Noah and Nicholas. Enjoyed being Treasurer this year and looking forward to continuing helping out next year. Her profession is as an accountant so this was a natural role.

Secretary: Erin Aylor (continuing) – She is the existing PTA Secretary and has volunteered to help in that capacity next year. Erin has 3 kids at Key: twins in first grade and a third grader. She's been active with the PTA, starting as a room parent, and excited to continue in this role!

More information on roles on the keypta.org website.

Erin L. then went on to review the additional volunteer opportunities needs for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Communications (Rachel Chang to continue as Comms Chair but would love support)
- Internal Affairs (Teacher Appreciation and everything else that happens inside the school)
- Fundraising and Auction
- External Affairs (educating and advocating for immersion, representing the Escuela Key voice at School Board meetings, community meetings, etc. – such as school moves, bell study report, transportation studies)
- E-mail Sara Bryant at president-elect@keypta.org or come find a member of the PTA Exec Board at Encanto Movie Night or Field Day

Review of the Calendar for May and June

See Mark your Calendar slide (please see slide **11** in the [PTA meeting presentation](#))!

Movie Night - Encanto - May 27, 2022

- **Event starts at 6:30 pm**
- **There is a pre-order link for Rocklands and Lebanese Taverna** – please use that so that you don't have to wait in line.
- Sra. Perdomo: Let's communicate to families to carpool and to be respectful of the neighbors as they park, arrive and leave the event.
- Erin F-S will be sending a SignUp Genius request for volunteers soon.
- Sara Bryant question: For those who did not sign up for the first date, how do they RSVP? A: The EventBright link in the email invitation. Please delete your RSVP or change it to NO if you are not attending.
- Question from the audience: Will there be another sign up for Encanto?
 - Answer: If you already reserved a ticket (for the original date), you don't have to sign up again, but if you are coming and didn't reserve for the first date, please do reserve a ticket.

Edukits – Order by JUNE 30. Order Edukits by June 30 for the best price and delivery to the school instead of your house. The teachers work really hard to identify the items included in the EduKits (all the items in the EduKit are hand-selected by the teachers to support learning in the classroom)

Field Day - June 10 – A SignUp Genius has been sent around for volunteers by Erin F-S – it is by grade, so check the timing of your child's grade before volunteering! The PE teachers are running it and it's going to be

great. The rain date is Monday June 13.

Sara B question: In the past, we tried to do a group photo of everyone at 9:00 am in the field. Is there a plan to try to do that again this year? With Mike Weinstein?

Answer from Sra Perdomo: I'm not sure that there is a plan for that – I met with Coach Fava and he didn't mention that. That morning we won't be able to have morning recess in the field or the blacktop because it will be set up for Field Day. Getting the kids together for a photo might not be so feasible...If we do it, it might have to be in the afternoon/end of the day. 600+ kids plus staff...can we accommodate everyone and where? Timing with the buses might be tough, too – there is one that arrives just before 9:00am. Sra Perdomo will check with Coach Fava on ideas.

Treasurer's Report

- Erin L. presented the report as Treasurer Patty Spencer is absent (please see information on slide **14** of the [meeting presentation](#))

- Sara comment: The PTA budget runs from July 1 to June 30. This is the time of year when reimbursement requests really start to come in, so we'll be seeing more expenses hitting the budget in the next few months.

- Erin L. added that everyone can see what is happening with our budget at any time on the [Treasurer's Page](#) of the PTA website.

Principal's Report (see slide 16 in the meeting presentation for details):

1. Welcome to Sra Sanchez, our new Assistant Principal effective July 1
2. Next year there will be 4 Kinder classes (all the spots have been offered) – Sra. Perdomo says thank you to everyone for talking about Escuela Key within the community, because all the incoming parents are very excited. There will be 5 classes in the 1st and 2nd grades. We were able to offer 17 spots to families from Claremont, divided between English and Spanish-speaking students (there will be a waitlist for the remaining [Secretary note – I believe this is school-wide]). There will be 4 classes in 3rd through 5th, and five classes in 1st and 2nd grade. They are going to add a new physical classroom in the building to be able to add that fifth second grade class (which will be a bilingual teacher who will teach both switches). For 4th and 5th grade there are just a few spots to offer, but they were able to accept all the transfers from Claremont created by the change in boundaries. Sra Perdomo knows that the families are very excited for summer playdates.
3. Staffing: Hiring under way – there is one retirement (Sra Rosalda – assistant to Ms. Webb). One resignation – Sra. Verdesoto (4th grade) will be moving to FL at the end of the school year (please keep this confidential from your students until Sra. Verdesoto can share it with her students). Additional staff for the Spanish side of the program – Sra Perdomo had requested that from Superintendent Duran and he approved it. So Sra Perdomo will be hiring that person to strengthen Spanish language instruction, especially for students without Spanish at home. Sra. Perdomo is grateful to Superintendent Duran for support for this position.
4. There will be an immersion program coordinator (APS-wide) – interviews happening this week.

5. Summer School will be at Key – probably about 150 students (Frances Lee is organizing that, and new Vice-Principal Sra Sanchez will take over from her in July)
6. We are having some work done over the summer – replacing the gym floor, carpet replaced in the trailers, painting the trailers, work on the grounds.
7. Hoping to offer a summer “Lee Conmigo” program – come to the Escuela Key library for an hour, once a week, to listen to a story in Spanish and/or English.
8. Volunteer Recognition/Celebration June 15th at 9:00 am in the Library – Sra. Perdomo and the staff want to welcome volunteers from this past school year in the library on that day to thank all the volunteers. Sra Perdomo: We are so grateful for the hours and hours of support that the volunteers give to our school. When I think about the support that you give, and the challenges that we have, I don’t know how we could do this job. Sra Perdomo will be sending an invitation for that event soon.

Q & A

Q: How many people applied for the lottery for K and 1st?

A: We had about 150 people who applied using the portal, but that includes all of the siblings and all of the VPI families (of which 90% are staying). The final number of seats that we could offer was 47. Those go out and then families have a certain date by which they can accept or decline – if they decline, that spot goes to the waitlist. For 1st grade, they were able to offer 17 seats (those classes are capped at 24 students – K, 1st, 2nd and 3rd).

Q: Are they still separating out the applicants into Spanish at home and English at home? Are we getting more Spanish speaking applicants?

A: I would have to look at the data to get that.

Q: I know we have a small number of VLP students who will be coming back in the fall – is there a way to get them into the Field Day fold, perhaps by putting them in touch with Coach Fava ?

A: Yes, a parent reached out to me about that, and we want to make sure that the VLP students are included. And also for playdates. And a tour for the school. Sra Perdomo is going to call the parent who contacted her about that and give her the schedule. VLP students are welcome to come.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.