

Escuela Key General PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

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

22 attendees, including guest presenter/speakers: Principal Marleny Perdomo,

The meeting started at **7:06** pm

Escuela PTA President shared the agenda for the meeng

- Welcome / Bienvenida
- PTA Nominations / Nominaciones para la junta ejecutiva de la PTA
- Treasurer: April Updates / Actualización de la tesorera para abril
- Mark Your Calendars! / ¡Marca tu calendario!
- Movie Night! / Noche de cine – Encanto!
- Discussion with Sra Perdomo / Conversación con Sra Perdomo

Apicultores April winners:

3rd Grade Team! We'll post in the teachers lounge and team lunch for the group!

Nominations can be sent to apicultores@keypta.org

PTA Executive Board Nominations

See nominations process on slide 4. Presentation of the slate tonight, vote at the May 17 PTA meeting.

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) – Erin is also translating in the Spanish interpretation room. 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.

Other roles open: see slide 6 in the slides. Thank you to Erin Freas-Smith for adding the work of heading the nominations committee to her plate. Thanks for the leadership in this process.

Review of the Calendar for April and May

See Mark your Calendar slide (slide 7 in the [PTA meeting presentation](#))!

Movie Night - Encanto

Exciting event on Friday, May 6. We're kicking off with food trucks at 6:30pm. Rocklands will make pre-order available about a week before the event so lines can be minimized. RSVP at the Eventbrite link! 300 have already registered!

Movie starts at 8pm and runs until 10pm

Games and photos – it will be fun! Bring a blanket to sit and watch the movie – please no alcohol!

Treasurer's Report

- Presented by Key PTA Treasurer Patty Spencer (please see information on slide 9 of the [meeting presentation](#))

Principal's Report:

It's been a fun Spring! Able to do more "normal" things like the first assembly in the gym, which was a hit! We used the stage, it's big and fun!

Shout outs:

- Gaga pit! – hopefully kids have shared the fun, it's something that was missed from the last location. We have an inflatable pit, which was donated by a parent.
- Jump Rope for Heart (Kids Heart Challenge for AHA) – Ms. B shared that so far more than \$15K has been raised in donations from the community. Thank you for your generosity!

Announcements:

- We are back to holding onto our current schedule of starting at 9:00pm.. We are no longer moving forward with the bell schedule change that was proposed for next year (which would have had Key starting at 7:50pm). We'll be staying with the current 9am start time, with an additional 10 minutes in the day. We'll see the final schedule when it's released.
- We had asked for alignment in time with Claremont. For now, we think Claremont will be starting with the earlier time. We hoped to have alignment to facilitate staff collaboration, and did this year, but will need to work through the difference in bell schedules.
- Lottery:
 - o VPI and Kinder: healthy number of applications – 174 apps for Kinder (including 28 sibs and 14 VPI students). We have 134 new families – with 96 spots total available for Kinder, subtracting out siblings of current

students and VPI kids, there are 52 available spots which will be given out through the lottery.

- o 33 students applied to attend Key for First grade; we'll continue to have 5 first grade classes so will be able to accept a good number of these students.
- o There will be 5 second grade classes next school year, up from 4 currently – that means we can accept students for second grade and can keep classes a little smaller. We'll tear down a wall during the summer to make space for this additional 2nd grade classroom (current extended day and isolation room).
- Military families breakfast tomorrow. This is part of being a purple star designation school (friendly and reaches out to support and celebrate military connected families). Wear Purple tomorrow to show support!
- Friday April 22 is the Dia del Idioma! Kids are excited and practicing and preparing and rehearsing! This is the first time we're going to have families in the building. Please join us.
- Next week we will host a visit by a Puerto Rican delegation of superintendents of public schools, to learn about us and from us. They wanted to learn more about dual language instruction. Dr. Duran is going to come meet them too; they will be touring the school on April 28.
- June 9 is going to be the 4th and 5th grade music concert. This is the first one live and in school... in two years!
- Information and communications about (Standards of Learning) SOL testing will be shared this week in Principal Perdomo's Friday message, as well.
- Please talk to children about helping with the trash problem that we have. Please pickup trash (food wrappers, masks, napkins, etc...). We had complaints from our neighbors. Please leave a place as clean as you found it or better.

Q & A

Q: Good news I think about the bell schedule. Option schools starting at the first bell time

would mean more families driving (causing traffic and safety and air quality concerns). It's great the Key isn't recommended to be in the early start time, but Campbell and Claremont still are. Did Sra. Perdomo hear about this concern?

A: Sra. Perdomo only provided feedback about the program – it would have been nice to have planning time at the end of the day to collaborate and plan (supporting the earlier start time). But it's good not to have another change.

Q: SOLs week of May 16?

A: May 16 – June 10. Last week is for retakes.

Q: Is it normal to have 4 classes in Kinder and 5 for first grade?

A: We're not adding a first grade class, we have 5 first grade classes now. We are keeping the same structure, but it's allowing us to admit more students to the program, which is good for the program. So even though we don't have kinders to fill 5 first grade classes now, with more enrollment (kids can apply to enter Key in grades K and 1 without having to demonstrate Spanish proficiency). It gives us a broader base. We are also getting transfers from Claremont.

Q: Did school board want to "right size" our program? If we don't propagate the smaller kinder class to the upper grades, we'll continue to be overpopulated.

A: The SB wanted to accommodate families in the near geographic area, which is why they authorized adding the fifth second grade class. We will be maxed out with this second grade class added. We're projected to be around 600 students

Q: Do we know when the lottery will happen for new families?

A: April 22 lottery – April 29 notification – May 13 Accept/Decline

(<https://www.apsva.us/school-options/>)

Q: APS is recommending masks again, can we advise families– with numbers going up–to continue to have their kids wear masks.

A: Majority of staff still wear masks, a good number of kids still do. The school has a lot of masks available. We cannot require, but can advise and recommend. I will add this reminder to my Friday message.

Q: iPads are staying at school now across all grades?

A: I told the teachers to make sure that there is an instructional purpose when kids have the iPads, whether in the classroom or sent home. Discussed weaning the kids off of the ipads, kids don't NEED to have ipads to learn. If you have a project for instance and would like the ipads to come home, teachers can have the ability to make exceptions. We also had violations of the acceptable use terms... it belongs to the APS and not for entertainment purposes. So it's like the pre-pandemic policy, iPads stay at school.

Q: What happens if the student is quarantining? Will the parent be able to pick up the ipad?

A: Yes. So the student can use it for instruction.

Q: Will iPads be given to kids over the summer?

A: This will be a decision by the district.

Q: Some kids are still coming home with ipads. Is this a case by case situation?

A: There needs to be an educational reason to bring ipads home. There may have been a substitute, in which case it may have needed to come home. Sra. Perdomo can remind teachers.

Q: Dia de Idioma attire for the students? What is required for what grade? Can we help advise parents?

A: Kinder wants kids to wear white. Second is wearing red t-shirts. Sra. Perdomo will let teachers know this was asked so that teachers can communicate with parents about the requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.