



STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

6045 Stevens Forest Rd. Columbia, MD 21045
sfespta.weebly.com

PTA General Meeting- 12/7/16

Quiana Holmes called meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the media center.

Board Members present:

President - Quiana Holmes
Vice President for Membership – Lena Kennedy
Vice President for Fundraising – Jessica Mahajan
Vice President for Programs – Krista Threefoot
Recording Secretary - Daphne Harrington
Corresponding Secretary - Jonathan Edelson
Treasurer – Jessie Patterson
PTACHC Delegate – Jacqueline Jacobs

Administrators and Teachers:

Principal – Ernesto Diaz

Board Members absent:

PTACHC Delegate – Reg Avery

General Membership Present:

See attached sheet.

It is established we have a quorum

Reading and approval of the meeting agenda:

1. Motion to approve the agenda
2. Vote: approved the agenda

Reading and approval of the Meeting Minutes: 11/9/16

1. Motion to approve the minutes
2. Vote: approved the minutes

Monthly Highlights: Quiana Holmes

The Turkey Trot was a lot of fun and a big success. It was beautiful weather, and the kids had a lot of fun. Thank you to all of the volunteers. A special thank you to Tracy Downard for chairing the event.

The teacher dinner during conferences was also a success. There were lots of volunteers and plenty of food, enough food to provide leftovers for lunch the next day for the staff. Thank you to Claudia for organizing this.

The fall Rec and Park Programs have just ended, and basketball has just started. There will be a meeting to assess the fall programs and to decide how to allocate the scholarship funds, as well as how to proceed with future programs.

Treasurer's Report – Jessie Patterson

Current balance is \$13,144.24.

All the Turkey Trots money isn't in yet, Jessie is waiting for the money from the online submissions.

Jessie notified the board that there are several unspent gift cards in the safe box, and asked what should be done with them. They obviously need to be spent, but on what?

Wegmans- \$50

Giant- \$25

Food Lion- \$17.39 (remaining balance)

\$200 visa card from Labels of Education

It is decided that we should use the money for immediate activities first such as possibly clothes for the health room, hats and gloves, and supplies for art night or the Valentine's Dance.

VP of Membership – Lena Kennedy

Currently, we have 147 members, and Lena is waiting on 2 more to come in. This will put us at 149 members, which is only one membership away from this year's membership goal. Lena is wondering whether we should drop the incentive since we have essentially reached our goal, and use that incentive money towards something else.

VP of Fundraising – Jessica Mahajan

BJs Fundraiser – Advertisements out in the school and community and waiting for the applications. The incentive is that when you apply, you get 13 months instead of 12 and \$35 instead of \$50.

Amazon Smile – no update

Auction meeting will be on Friday right after school

Principal's Report – Mr. Diaz

Oakland Mills High School was highlighted in an article in the Baltimore Sun Newspaper. OMHS students held a walk-out in response to multiple racially charged incidents recently. This was to focus attention on the Board of Education to modify policies for more transparency and to increase communication of racial threats between the administration and community. During the walk-out there was a call to the high school which was threatening in reference to the walk-out, which ended the walk-out and the school was put on a modified lockdown until the threat was investigated. The threat was considered a low-level threat of incident.

There has not been anything similar at SFES, but there was a heightened sensitivity among some students right after the election, but really nothing was needed.

While Mrs. Carlson is out on maternity leave, Mr. Wentz is the substitute counselor and is in knowledge of everything that is going on.

When a nearby school is on any sort of lockdown, what happens to surrounding schools? Depends on the level of threat. If there is a credible serious threat, then will lockdown of surrounding schools will be initiated, but again it depends on the level of threat.

Walkie talkies have a channel to high school, middle school, and Talbott Springs communications so these schools can communicate with one another if and when needed in an emergency.

BOE – school start and end time adjustments

These conversations have been going on for a long time, they are finally being proposed and voted on for implementation. There are several chances for feedback at several meetings, with presentations etc. There is also an opportunity to fill out a survey for input.

Feb 7th at BOE meeting is the vote for the start and end time adjustments.

Extending the elementary school day by 15 min is also being proposed.

There will be a school start time presentation at the Jan 2nd PTACHC meeting.

The start date of school will probably be a separate meeting, not at the same time as the start and end time meeting.

SIT team – 1st meeting already took place

Snapshot of school improvement plan is on the website in the “About” section. Every school has a plan.

Our 2 areas are Language Arts and math. Our focus is K-2 and benchmarks with reading (our goal is to increase from 67% to 73% in being where they need to be).

SFES showed good growth in PARCC, but still have a lot of growth to go.

SIT is not a closed meeting, so someone can still come to the next meeting if you'd like to come (Feb 9th).

The Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) walkthrough was about 2 weeks ago. The school system is starting a new process, they did a walkthrough in the entire school, every closet and inch of school, looking for IEQ concerns.

Several mice were found during the walkthrough. There were multiple work orders put in and the school system got people out right away to get the work/changes done. Information is also on the website.

Teachers/staff have been going through their rooms to get rid of items that can't be there, such as bean bags in rooms, stuffed animals, pillows, bookshelves that aren't under regulation, etc.

Also the Fire Marshall visited, and discussed needing better clearance with ceilings etc.

Our gymnasium now has a max capacity sign, so this impacts the winter chorus and choir chimes concert for this year.

Also the design of the chair layout is a hazard as far as the pattern etc. For the immediate situation, they are giving family tickets of performers to control attendance in the gym.

Hispanic Liaison position has been approved, but has not been published. The liaison position needs a bachelor's degree but not a teaching degree. Need English and Spanish reading, writing, and speech skills.

There is a full team of custodial staff now.

VP of Programs – Krista Threefoot

Reflections – Krista is getting ready to submit everything to central office. There are 12 students moving on with 16 submissions to the county level.

Art Night is a little later this year, so we have a little extra time to plan. There is a planning meeting on Monday after school.

Inauguration Day – we still have school – not anticipating large absences

PTACHC Delegate's Report –Jacqueline Jacobs

Next Generation Science Curriculum – some written information is handed out with the agenda but not discussed at the meeting.

Committee Updates:

Turkey Trot – Tracy Downard

As of 12/6 we have raised \$3800.50. Online donations were \$2045 and cash donations of \$1755.50. We had one large community donation of \$930 which was included in the cash donation. After expenses we have a total of \$3069.80 raised. Online donations and t-shirt incentive seemed to help this year so we will add those for next year.

International Night – Quiana Holmes

Nothing to report yet, other than some contacts have gone out.

Dinner and Auction – Jessica

There is a planning meeting on Friday after school in the media center.

Bertucci's – donate food for 150 for the auction

Valentine's Day Dance –

DJs were researched and contacted, and the average DJ costs around \$300. We were able to contact a parent of a SFES student who offered his services before, and he offered to DJ the dance for free.

There will be some sort of photo booth at the event.

Closing Remarks – Quiana Holmes

The meeting is adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Dec 13th – Community Advisory Council Meeting, 7:30-9:30pm

Dec 15th – Board of Education Meeting, 3pm

Dec 21st – Interim Progress Reports Issued

Dec 22nd – Winter Choir Concert, 6pm

Dec 26th – 30th – Winter Break!

Jan 4th – PTA Meeting