



STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

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

PTA General Meeting- 1/4/17

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

Board Members present:

President - Quiana Holmes
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
Assistant Principal – Tracey Albright

Board Members absent:

Vice President for Membership – Lena Kennedy
Vice President for Fundraising – Jessica Mahajan
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: 12/7/16

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

Monthly Highlights: Quiana Holmes

- Author visits with Mary Amato and Marla Stahl went well and all of the grades had a visit. Marla Stahl has offered to come back to SFES to autograph books that students have purchased on their own.

- We hosted our 1st joint ESM meeting with Running Brook and Phelps Luck on the 12/14.
- The Sports Ambassador program is off to a good start, but they are still looking for parent and staff volunteers. We will have a full list of sports back at SFES in the Spring.

The goal of the ambassador program is to get every child who is interested in sports become involved in sports. They don't want cost to be a factor, just want to get kids involved. There is a scholarship fund for the sports recreation program, administration will help select who qualifies and to whom the funds should be allocated to.

- Hospitality: Claudia helped deliver teacher totes with a Christmas poem and chocolate treats to all staff; a lot of personalized Birthday gifts were given out in December.

Treasurer's Report – Jessie Patterson

Current balance is \$14,019.74

We finally got the check from the online donation for the Turkey Trot before Winter Break.

We made the payments to the authors.

We are expecting a check from Boxtops within the next 2 weeks.

Oakland Mills Community Association Presentation – OMCA Village Board Members (Ginny Thomas, Judy Gottsagen and Jon Edelson)

The OMCA village board has been impressed to see our PTA buy gloves for the students, buy playground equipment, and buy books for every student last school year. They are requesting that SFES PTA send the letter to community like we have done in the past couple of years to members of the board and community members so some board members can donate personally and maybe some community members will make donations.

Tino's Restaurant is suggested for a restaurant night. They give 10% of the entire day's profit, and these are done on Mondays and Tuesdays – Lance is the contact name.

There is a presentation of a \$500 check from the board.

Congratulations on buying books for every student

Judy Gottsagen is the safety officer for the board and they received several letters about traffic concerns during rainy days on Stevens Forest Road. Mrs. Gottsagen contacted police to advocate for police involvement in the dismissal situation.

Thank you to village board from the SFES board.

VP of Membership – Lena Kennedy

There are currently officially 151 members, which is our goal for the year.

Nominating committee – all positions will be open so we will need a committee to fill positions – contact board if interested

Principal's Report – Mr. Diaz

On January 10th, the superintendent will present the proposed budget, which they've been working on since September; she'll present it to the Board of Ed. Eventually the board will pass a budget and then it moves on to the county executive/council. May 25th usually is the end of budget process, which is when schools start working on staffing and planning for the next school year.

SFES is trying a new incentive program to encourage positive behavior. They have studied trends of past years with office referrals and minor incidents and even suspensions. During the time frame when these were more frequent in the past, they are running "booster" programs this year to encourage positive behavior.

In December, the positive behavior incentive was to attend a Lip sync battle. This month is the model magic madness, we'll probably do another one around spring break.

Positive Behavior for January: SFES is giving blue tickets to students for "respectful" behavior during the month of January. The goal is to get 15 blue tickets and then they can cash them in for Model Magic Madness, by January 26th. So far this has seemed to have worked well.

Assessment season has begun, winter MAP is getting started.

SFES is doing bubble gum goals, which is a program they trying for setting and working towards a goal. Each grade is getting a bubble gum balls and working on setting their goals, the 4th and 5th graders had to tie in strength goals for themselves.

SFES has been selected as a Take Flight School to take the NAEP (National Assessment of Education Progress) assessments in February. These assessments are taken only by 4th graders. Since we are a Take Flight School, all of the 4th graders will take this. Schools are selected at random, and if they are not a Take Flight School there are about 40 students who are selected at random to take the test, not the entire grade. But the Take Flight Schools the entire grade takes the test, although parents can opt out. Some students will take on laptops and the rest will do pencil and paper. This assessment is a way of evaluating performance of 4th graders across the county.

There was a short discussion about having a more schoolwide policy about homework during testing, mainly PARCC testing.

VP of Programs – Krista Threefoot

- 1. We just got our check for the mural grant
- 2. Art night plans are going well.
 - The event is 1/19, 6:00-8:00. We will need a lot of volunteers to help setup since there is a lot of art work to be hung up.
 - We need volunteers to set up before the event and to help serve food.
 - We will be purchasing all the food this year, because last year our donations were heavy on the cracker side and light on every other side. Related to this, I discovered when cleaning out my basement that we have 2 boxes of crackers and 2 bottles of sparkling cider left from last year. They have mid-2016 "best by" dates. Should I save them or trash them?
- Reflections: I will provide a list of the kids who went up to the county for us to announce at school/over email.

- Bingo – There is a discussion about a visual way of showing numbers called because it's so loud and chaotic. A suggestion is made of an on-line app. that is used at SFES where you can project it as well as show previously called numbers.
- Valentine's day dance – no info.
- International Night meeting is on Friday after school in the media center. The date of the event is March 16th.
- Auction is April 28th
- Tee shirts: Krista is ready to distribute the PTA tee shirts families ordered in the fall.

PTACHC Delegate's Report –Jacqueline Jacobs

Discussion was on start times and PTACHC decided that all of the options weren't feasible so they are deciding their stance is to keep it the same.

Pediatricians recommend 10-12 hours of sleep, so that would mean kids would have to go to bed early etc.

Closing Remarks – Quiana Holmes

The meeting is adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Jan 10 - Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed FY18 Operating Budget, 7:30 p.m.

Jan 12 – Rescheduled Winter Chorus Concert, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.

Jan 16 – Schools and Offices Closed for MLK Holiday

Jan 17 – Community Advisor Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Jan 18 – Band/Strings Winter Concert (at OMHS), 6 p.m.

Jan 19 – Art Night, 6 p.m.

Jan 21 – Coffee and Conversations with the Board of Education, 9:30-11 a.m., @ Running Brook ES

Jan 24 – Chipotle Restaurant Night, 5-9 p.m.

Jan 26 – Board of Education Meeting, 3 p.m.

Jan 27 – Schools Closed for Professional Work Day