



**STEVENS FOREST  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA**  
6045 Stevens Forest Rd. Columbia, MD 21045  
sfspta.weebly.com



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**National PTA** | **SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**  
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2016-2018

**PTA General Meeting- 3/1/17**

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

**Board Members present:**

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

**Administrators and Teachers:**

Principal – Ernesto Diaz  
Assistant Principal – Tracey Albright

**Board Members absent:**

PTACHC Delegate – Jacqueline Jacobs

**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: 2/1/17**

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

**Monthly Highlights:** Quiana Holmes

Bingo Night went really well and we had great attendance. Thank you to the callers (Mr. Diaz, Jon, and Claudia). The kids all seemed to have a lot of fun that night.

Valentine's Dance –

Thank you to the Valentine Dance Committee. It was very successful event, with a very large turnout. For future planning of this event, it should be in the gym for dancing with maybe some sections roped off for people to dance and separate space for people to stand and talk. It would be good to have more staff to monitor kids running around and make sure every student had adult supervision in the building.

Great to have different families involved in attendance and great to have someone outside of the board to chair the event

**Treasurer's Report** – Jessie Patterson

Current budget is \$16,438.89.

There are no major changes from last month except we got a check for \$20 from BJs and \$16.31 from Amazon Smile.

Box Tops- We raised total 1538 (\$153.80) box tops from November to February. We also got \$100 from the 1 Million Box Tops Sweepstakes and \$50 from Box Tops Bonus App Sweepstakes. So, we should get a \$303.80 check from the Box Tops in a few months.

The first graders collected the most Box Tops in this round.

1st- First Grade

2nd- Fourth Grade

3rd- Pre-K

4th- Kindergarten

5th- Fifth Grade

6th- Third Grade

7th- Second Grade

Jessie discussed a program called SoundSHAPE as an option to come to the school. Kyle is already approved by Howard County Public Schools so the program is preapproved by the school system. They come and set up an incredible sound system and light show. Then they put on an amazing workout for the kids which consists of body weight fun exercises, dancing, and letting loose! Kyle will also talk to them about good morals and habits, and listening to our parents and teachings and working hard! It's only for 30 minutes, and is \$500 per session. At SFES, we'd need at least 2 sessions with the number of students that we have. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/kylesefcik/videos/vb.769445248/10155698202755249/?type=3&theater>

**VP of Membership** – Lena Kennedy

Nominating Committee – So far Krista, Lena, and Jon are already on the nominating committee. Jessica and Erin joined the committee at the meeting.

Motion to approve the nominating committee members of: Krista, Lena, Jon, Jessica, and Erin.  
Motion is seconded and the committee members are approved by majority vote.

### **VP of Fundraising** – Jessica Mahajan

We are in another sign up period for BJs memberships. Complete your application and get it to Jessica by March 16. She will send out an email to teachers tomorrow and a message for N&N.

-The Dinner and Auction is proceeding nicely. Diane focused on "experiences" for our families (trips, evenings out). Jon will be contacting the big local sports teams for more donations. Jessica will be visiting local businesses to round out the donations. If we get the donations she expects to have, they think they will be doing the balloon pop for the small items.

### **Principal's Report** – Mr. Diaz

Good news, SFES has a new Hispanic Liaison, Anna Velasquez. Ms. Velasquez started about 1 week ago, and she's settling in and starting to reach out to members of the SFES community.

Day Without Immigrants – About 2 weeks ago, during the Day Without Immigrants demonstration, SFES did see a high absentee rate. The PTA discussed current anxieties and reaffirmed its inclusiveness goal.

Kindergarten registration has started, prekindergarten registration starts soon. Please let neighbors and friends know to register now so that the school has an accurate registration number idea for staffing as early as possible.

Staff numbers are in, so mid-March is when we start with staffing meetings and April 1<sup>st</sup> is when teachers need to put in transfer orders.

Friday Mr. Diaz has a meeting with walking school bus program.

### **VP of Programs** – Krista Threefoot

International night is 3/16. Planning is going well. We will have food and performances in the cafeteria; displays in the gym. Performances include Chinese yo-yo, Bollywood dancing, Mexican dance, and Peruvian music.

We have a LOT of countries represented. The only continent not fully represented is Europe, so if anyone wants to volunteer to do a European country, please let us know.

There will be a fashion show at the beginning of the event. All kids are invited. They don't have to wear traditional costumes; just national colors or tee shirts with flags, etc.

Also, Krista created the folder in our Google drive for event notes to help with planning in the future. Krista is updating notes from past events and as she completes them she will put them in the folder. Here is a link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5a1VrqmxUz6QWZSbXV6LVZDVOE?usp=sharing>

Teacher Appreciation week is coming soon, so we need to start planning. Krista asked if we should continue to sell flowers this year, and if so, how many she should order. There is a brief discussion about the flowers and a decision to order 2,500 flowers is made.

## **PTACHC Delegate's Report – Reg Avery**

PTA Night in Annapolis already happened, and there were a lot of Howard County people who attended. This was a night to meet and talk with state legislators.

Maryland State Legislation currently of interest is: Board of Education Elections, School Daily Start Times, and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO).

Howard County Board of Education voted to pass a change to the daily school start times. PTACHC position of this issue was that the 4 models presented were unacceptable and therefore they support to leave daily start times as they are currently.

Support of Homewood and ARL School – These two schools don't have PTAs, so PTACHC is trying to figure out how to ask for donations to support teacher appreciation in these 2 schools. The two options PTACHC is presenting are: to raise the PTACHC membership fee and PTACHC will give that extra money to those schools; the other idea is just to ask for monetary donations from all PTAs. The vote will be on Monday, so SFES needs to figure out our position.

There is a brief discussion and description of the 2 schools. These 2 schools can't have PTAs, so there is no way for families to do any hospitality or formal teacher appreciation. These 2 schools are located both behind and next to the Board of Education building. The Homewood school is mainly for high school students, but there are some middle school age students who attend as well. These are kids who may or may not have IEPs, and have special needs and skills that they are working on and need extra support they cannot get at their regular school. These students have specific targets or goals to reach, and if they achieve these, they will return to their "home school". Some students do return to their "home school" for sports or other activities. Some students attend the Homewood School for a partial year and can return to their "home school", some are there the whole time, and the range depends on how much time the students require to achieve their goals.

ARL is only for high school students, and has very specific interest based courses. They are not there all day; they just go there for their specific courses. Such courses may be technology, automotive, math, etc.

A question is asked about how these funds that PTACHC are requesting will be administered. PTACHC will be setting up a hospitality committee to allocate the funds.

A motion is made that SFES PTA position is to make a donation directly for the hospitality cause.

The motion is seconded and passed by majority vote that SFES chooses to make a donation to the cause instead of the option of PTACHC raising membership fees and using those funds.

Next month's PTACHC meeting we will have a presentation on redistricting, what it is and future plans etc.

Question is raised about the PTA position to lower capacity thresholds for schools. Does PTACH support including PreK toward this capacity threshold since it's a full day preK and they are bodies in the school.

## **New Business/Member comments –**

This is a continued discussion about anxieties and inclusiveness from earlier in the evening under the principal report.

There will be a FIRN table at International Night.

### **Substitute teachers**

Total teacher substitute days last year (2015-2016): 1,052 days

679 substitutes last year to this date (but this does not account for the snow days that we had in January and February)

726 substitutes this year to date

Entire school system subs last year– 90,000 sub days

ESM perspective – about average our school vs other ESM schools

**Closing Remarks** – Quiana Holmes

**The meeting is adjourned at 7:48 p.m.**

### Upcoming Meetings and Events:

March 6<sup>th</sup> – PTA Council Meeting; 7:30-9:30 pm

March 8<sup>th</sup> – Interim Progress Reports Issued

March 9<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences (PTA Staff Dinner 4-6 pm)

- Board of Education Meeting; 6-10 pm

March 10<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Community Advisory Committee; 7:30-9:30 pm

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Uno's Restaurant Night (to benefit Simulated Congressional Hearings)

March 16<sup>th</sup> – International Night; 6-8 pm

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Board of Education Meeting 4-8 pm