



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



PTA General Meeting- 3/2/16

Quiana Holmes called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the media center.

Board Members present:

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

Administrators and Teachers:

Principal – Ernesto Diaz
Assistant Principal – Tracy Albright

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: 2/3/16

General Introductions: Quiana Holmes

General directory has been published and distributed via Friday folders. Special thank you to Jon and Richard Smallwood for putting it together and printing it.
Marijory has started in her Hispanic liaison position and has already started reaching out to members of the Spanish-speaking community
Teacher dinner during conferences went well

Treasurer Report: Jessie Patterson

Current ending balance is \$14,778.52. This number is changed slightly because of slightly more money was spent on Bob Evans Restaurant for the teacher dinner.
Some money came in for Turkey Trot and Books for Bobcats

VP of Programs: Krista Threefoot

Bingo Night: March 18, 6:30-8:30. Cost is \$1/4 bingo cards. I met with Brigitta (OMV) to plan the event. There will be more tables this year. Brigitta will provide water, snacks, and bingo prizes. They also have raffle tickets for Battle of Books kids to sell, but we (Battle of Books) will have to come up with a raffle prize. Battle of Books kids can also sell cupcakes/baked goods and should make posters, etc. to help spread the word about the event. We might need to help with calling, handing out prizes, and helping anyone with questions but there won't be too much other work. Should be fun! Mr. Diaz and Mrs. Albright can call the numbers for bingo.

International Spring Festival: (Jessica Mahajan) The International Festival committee met on Monday. Will be combining International Festival with Spring Fling to have a week of international activities and then on Saturday will have a festival. PTA is responsible for getting volunteers/managing sign up for event on May 14. Plans for that date include food in cafeteria, tables with information/art on different countries set up around the school (like last year), soccer outside. Also, we will be looking for performers, martial arts instructors, etc. to perform in gym or outdoors. We also discussed having international children's games in the front of the school (bocce ball, etc.) a temporary tattoo booth with flag tattoos, a photo booth, etc. Another meeting will be in mid-April after spring break.

Special welcome to Marijory

PTACHC Delegate Report: Reg Avery, Jacqueline Jacobs

No gambling of any kind for PTA events

There is a PTA charter that might be taken away by PTACHC due to this particular organization not keeping up in good standings.

Please make sure that the SFES PTA remains vigilant about our good practices.

This Thursday, March 3, BOE meets with PTA Presidents & CAC 7:30 pm at the Dept. of Education. Quiana, if you cannot attend, please send someone else. I will be present.

March 7, Before the monthly PTACHC General Meeting, at 6:30pm, HCPSS representatives will be giving a presentation regarding the new SAT testing which will be tentatively held at the Homewood Center. Following that session at 7:30 the General Meeting session will begin. Discussion of Superintendent contract process as well as the situation and response at Mt. Hebron.

March 8 at 7 pm - At Reservoir HS their PTSA and the HoCo Police Department will be hosting a meeting on Stopping Human Trafficking. All are invited.

The topic will be a difficult but important one about the exploitation of teen girls. It is a goal of HoCo police and others to stop this from happening. Speakers will let parents and teens know of the acts

(what is done), means (how it's done) and the purpose (why it's done) to protect families from this growing trend. Pass the word on this event. Thanks.

March 17 - Coffee and Conversation with BOE 7:30 pm at Dunloggin Middle School 9129 Northfield Rd, Ellicott City

March 19 - League of Women Voters Candidates Forum 1 -5 at Banneker Room, Geo. Howard Bldg, 3430 Court House Drive EC This will also be televised on Channel 95/42 or will be available online. <https://lwvhc.wordpress.com/>

March 25-Apr 3 - Spring Break - enjoy with your children and families

April 4, 7:30 pm at Homewood - PTA Council meeting - I am toying with allowing BOE candidates to come and giving a minute of two to introduce themselves and say what they believe in and why. They will have some set questions and then open for general public questions.

Many people are asking about how the 8 inclement weather days will be made up. Read Dr. Foose's letter at: <https://superintendent.hcpss.org/2016/02/planning-ahead/>

Committee Chair Updates:

Dinner & Auction: Daphne Harrington and Jon Edelson –

We are continuing to contact businesses for donations and also make arrangements for the dinner. We have gotten a few more “committee” members who are broadening our ideas. We had 2 meetings for the Spanish speaking population to try to reach out and explain to them the details of the auction to make sure that they feel included and welcome at the event. Please contact Daphne if you would be willing to start contacting restaurants and other last minute places.

Hospitality: Tawania Williams

Conference Dinner – Bob Evans dinner – went really well

For March, Tawania would like to go back to celebrating teacher birthdays

General Discussions:

Wellness Policy Discussion: Lena Kennedy

The 3 issues discussed will be the issue of running a lap at the beginning of recess, kids being disciplined during recess and losing some recess time, and seating requirements during lunch.

Mrs. Albright and Mr. Diaz did a lot of background research for all of these issues, and met with paraeducators as well as teachers and staff to understand what is being done and why they were started. They discovered that running the lap at recess was started with the Healthy Howard policy, which was to encourage physical activity for structured physical fitness and get kids active during recess. As a group, they decided that this doesn't need to be a requirement as part as recess and this will be taken out of recess as a requirement. Although it will no longer be a requirement, the desire is still there to keep kids active and therefore the lap will

still be encouraged as an option, but not as a requirement. Information on this decision will be sent home to parents very soon.

The discipline policy during recess is that recess cannot be taken away from students unless a student is exhibiting a behavior that may be creating an unsafe environment. There was a specific concern about a certain incident, which Mrs. Albright said that they can meet again and more clearly define what behaviors are identified as unsafe.

As part of the elementary school model, we have transition times during the day that needs to be accounted for during classes as well as recess and lunch. The last two especially, there is a crowd management element that needs to be considered. Staff needs to take into account that there are both fast and slow eaters, and we need to focus on making sure that kids eat to get through rest of day and get fuel for their brain. SFES has a large number of students who buy meals at school and of families who qualify for free and reduced meals, so they have to account for a large number of kids to get through the lunch line to get their food and then to eat. This can take a fair amount of time, and kids need to make sure they get every opportunity to eat. Therefore, the policy at the school is that lunch needs to be treated as business not social. Therefore, it is up to the discretion of the lunch staff and paraeducators how they want to handle seating to make sure the focus is on kids eating.

Principal's Report: Mr. Diaz

PreKindergarten expansion to universal preKindergarten – there are a lot of details that are not known yet, there are a lot of details are still being worked out so we don't know anything at this point. The board voted to fund the program for the next school year, now it goes to the county level.

Staffing has been worked out for next year, but things change so much during the summer based on registration numbers etc., so they remain flexible.

March 11 – 10 am, ribbon cutting for the canopy and bike rack

Meeting is adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

March 7th – PTACHC Meeting 7:30-9 pm

March 10th – Board of Education Meeting 4:30 & 7:30 pm

March 11th – Interim Progress Reports Issued

March 16th – Uno's Restaurant Night

March 17th – Coffee and Conversation with the BOE, 7:30pm at Dunloggin MS

March 18th – Family Bingo at the Other Barn, 6:30-8:30 pm

March 24th – FIT Family Night 6-8 pm

March 25th-April 1st – Schools Closed for Spring Break