



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



**PTA General Meeting- 5/4/16**

**Quiana Holmes called meeting to order at 6:34 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  
PTACHC Delegate – Reg Avery  
PTACHC Delegate – Jacqueline Jacobs

**Administrators and Teachers:**

Principal – Ernesto Diaz  
Assistant Principal – Tracy Albright

**Board Members absent:**

Jessie Patterson

**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: 3/2/16**

**General Introductions – Quiana Holmes**

Thank you to the auction committee for the hard work and including the whole school population

**Treasurer's Report – Jessie Patterson**

I just paid Knight Insurance \$204.00 for 7/1/16-7/1/17 coverage.

**VP of Membership** – Lena Kennedy  
Currently 133 members

Books for Bobcats  
Discussion about how to best do the program

Mr. Arbelaez is working with the teams to find the best way of getting a book for each student, and trying to fill in Lena along the way and let her know of what the PTA involvement will be as far as actual physical presence and help and organization etc.

**Guest Presentation** – Goldfish Swim School: Manager: Suzannah Zachos, assistant manager: Jillian – plus Bubbles  
May is Water Safety month, presentation of water safety  
Swim lessons year round  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 2-4 pm – free open swim, open to the public – safety presentations but also fun and games and open swim

**VP of Programs** – Krista Threefoot

Staff Appreciation Week  
The week is going really well so far, the goodies seem very popular and appreciated by the staff.  
The flower sale is very successful again, we will most likely sell out a day early, so there possibly no flower sale on Friday.  
The lunch on Friday still needs lots of food supplies, so Jon will send out email asking for supplies.

A motion is made to transfer funds from the auction expense line to the teacher appreciation line to buy the additional flowers for the week. The motion is seconded and approved.

**PTACHC Delegate** – Reg Avery and Jacqueline Jacobs  
Monday night at the PTACHC meeting we were asked to discuss with our PTAs the concept of having more of a voice in the 8080 policy (technology) than we currently have. We (PTACHC) submitted a suggestion of re-wording to the Superintendent but it was not approved. Currently the Superintendent has all authority in the technology policy which includes all the details about the use of technology by our students. Please read below for more information.

**May 12th Public Hearing on Policy 8080: Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media**

PTACHC's representative on the policy committee worked with the committee chairwoman to get language put into the Implementation Procedures that would require the Superintendent to develop future technology guidelines "in coordination with community recommendations from appropriate stakeholders" (Guidelines detail when/where personal technology devices are allowed during the school day.)

This language was in the policy when it went to the Superintendent in January.

In her revised version, released on April 14th, the language has been removed. In its place is the original language: The Superintendent has full authority to develop technology guidelines.

Regardless of your position on current technology policies, we all can agree that PARENTS SHOULD HAVE A VOICE in future policies.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Speak about this injustice at the BOE's Public Hearing on the policy on May 12, 2016, at 7:30.

Given recent election results, there is a good chance to get this important language back in if parents make it clear that it's important to us!

Howard County Stem Festival is Sunday, June 5 from 1 – 5 at Howard County Community College.

APFOO – committee – Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance – taskforce will look at the development of guidelines for school and road construction to ensure the county has proper capacity for future growth.

This year, instead of giving out individual donations and receiving many requests, Wegmans donated a lump sum of money to the HCPSS, and the HCPSS Partnership Office has split this money and is giving it to every PTA in Howard County. The gift cards were given to PTACHC to get to all of the PTAs.

### **Committee Chair Updates**

Dinner and Auction – Jon Edelson and Daphne Harrington

Results of the auction – \$5457.13 total

Thank you to the large number of volunteers who helped organize this event, especially Daphne and Jon, and Mrs. Albright and Mr. Diaz.

There was some discussion about ways of improving the event for the future as well as comments about what people really liked and thought worked for this event.

International Spring Festival – Jessica Mahajan

Teachers have been putting together a good plan – posters made by class to line the halls

Contact Mrs. Connor if you would like to help at the festival, or the week of the festivities come to school to see the posters and visit your child's classroom to share something about your culture. There is a parade on Friday at 2:45. The festival is on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11-2.

### **Principal's Report**

Staff appreciation is going very well, very good feedback by staff

SFES is currently emphasizing car rider safety, they are trying to advertise on the marquee and by emails, as well as newsletter. They need help advertising this. They may get a police community officer who may come out and help for advertising.

There is additional support for Universal preK, which will be for those at 300% poverty threshold. This will most likely mean a 3<sup>rd</sup> preK class, and the school will need to reshuffle classrooms if this happens.

Survey/feedback from parents about kids and needs for next year will be sent home shortly, the articulation process has already started at the school

Telehealth – The schools are trying to advertise the system more, and try to determine why it is not being used more by the schools and why more families are not enrolled.

PARCC assessments have started, and the MAP testing is going to occur simultaneously.

Hosting May 25 – volunteer breakfast – 8:45 a.m.

The Yearbook is finished for this year, but Mrs. Albright is requesting help in order to do this again. She needs volunteers to take pictures at events. The pictures need to be relatively close, and mainly head shots in order for the picture quality to be good enough to use in the system. She spent a lot of time going through pictures, and finding many that weren't high enough quality so that when you zoom on them to actually see them, the picture quality is not good. So she's asking for volunteers to help do this next year, or possibly not have an annual yearbook.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn at 8:04 p.m. – Quiana Holmes

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Staff Appreciation Luncheon

**May 12<sup>th</sup> – Progress Reports Issued**

Board of Education Meeting, 4 & 7:30 pm

**May 14<sup>th</sup> – International Spring Festival, 11-2pm**

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Board of Education, 4 & 7:30pm

May 19<sup>th</sup> – Night of Excellence 6:30-7:30 pm

**May 20<sup>th</sup> – Schools Closed**

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Spring Band and Strings Concert 7-8:00 pm

**May 27<sup>th</sup> – Field Day (all day)**

**May 30<sup>th</sup> – Schools Closed**