



STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

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

PTA General Meeting- 10/5/16

Quiana Holmes called meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. in the cafeteria.

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
PTACHC Delegate – Reg Avery

Administrators and Teachers:

Assistant Principal – Tracey 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: 9/14/16

Monthly Highlights: Quiana Holmes

The Ice Cream Social was a big success, thank you to Daphne for chairing the event. Thank you also to everyone who helped with the event. The kids had a lot of fun playing outside.

Currently, we have 136 members, which is already more than our membership last year and just a few short of our goal for this year.

Thank you to Jon and Glenda for the writing and translation of the weekly News and Notes, that's great to have the weekly correspondence to the school community in both English and Spanish.

Thank you to Glenda and Claudia for attending the Hispanic Family Meeting, it was great to have them represent the PTA that night and the PTA did get several new members that night.

Treasurer's Report – Jessie Patterson

The PTA has a Beginning Balance of \$26,071.46 and End Balance of \$12,976. Some of this is reflective of payments and checks that went out this summer but was from last calendar school year.

VP of Programs – Krista Threefoot

Reflections – Krista is planning to meet with the kids in their classes, so she is moving forward with that program.

Trunk or Treat – we are planning the event on Friday, Oct. 28th at the Oakland Mills Middle School. Possibly from 5-7 pm. Krista was thinking that maybe we should have a table from the PTA with cider and maybe little trinkets or something the kids could stop by and grab. There was more discussion about the prize ideas for the best cars, but the overall feeling is we should only give a smaller reward for 1 SFES car and 1 TSES car. There was discussion about the PTA funding candy for all SFES cars, but it was decided that might be too much, so the decision was made to have a fund up to \$300 and buy either cheap candy or little trinkets that the PTA can have on hand and can supplement people in the cars who may run out of their own candy.

A motion is made to add the line to the budget for Trunk or Treat event for \$300.

Motion is seconded and approved.

Principal Report – Mrs. Albright

The yearbook contest is under way with 5th grade for designing the cover of the yearbook. Mrs. Albright has been brainstorming with the different classes with ideas since initially they were thinking more basic with online designs and ideas. Now the students are becoming more creative and submitting more SFES themed creative ideas.

The 4th grade students came up with the theme for the yearbook, Celebrating Pawsitivity. This will be the annual process, to have the 4th grade students create the yearbook theme and the 5th grade design the yearbook cover.

MAP testing is starting at SFES. These are the math and reading assessments which take place 3 times a year, in the fall, winter, and spring. One change for this year is in 1st grade. The 1st grade will take the MAP primary grade test which will have the system read the questions for them, and they will not be moved to the test where they need to read on their own until they reach a level on the test. Before they were benchmarked on their reading and moved up to the other testing once they reached a reading level, and there was a drop or change in their test results because of the switching of testing. By doing this now, it should hopefully be a more smooth transition and we will not see the changes in scores when they switch.

Another change in the MAP testing is that students in the 5th grade advanced math will take a 6th grade + level so they are more aligned with what they are learning in class.

Report cards will look a little different this year. Where they used to record if a class was GT, it will now only indicate "Above grade, On grade, or Below grade" levels. GT will be indicated in the comments section of the report card.

PTACHC Delegate's Report – Reginald Avery and Jacqueline Jacobs

Jacqueline – The Homewood School is asking for donations and they provided a list of supplies which they are requesting.

Reg – There will be a presidents meeting again, probably in November.

PTACHC has been researching Canvas, and there is a presentation of Canvas. PTACHC is publishing presentation on the PTACHC website for anyone to take a look at. If families have questions about Canvas, there will be a contact number on the website to use.

Trainings session dates were sent out for future leadership roles and treasurers for local PTAs.

PTACHC is looking into suspension data results. They have been discussing the statistics of suspension data findings. These findings indicated that statistics of female vs male suspension percentages, as well as racial percentages. One such statistic is that in Howard County, Black and Hispanic children were given more suspensions than White and Asian children for similar offenses. This data came from a new system (Synergy). One reason some of this data is not published is that there are privacy related issues with using small subgroups that could identify the students more readily. African American males 4 times more than any other subgroup likely suspended for similar types of offenses.

Committee Updates –

Turkey Trot – Tracy Downard

They are looking into adding an option for on-line donations. Tracy found a website called 99 donations and is considering using this website to set up online donations. There was more discussion about student privacy issues and what HCPSS will allow for these kinds of things.

As an incentive for fundraising for the turkey trot, T-shirts will be given to those students raising \$25 by November 4th. The t-shirts will cost the PTA about \$7 per shirt, so this will cut into cost of the fundraising but hopefully will offset this with more participation.

Closing Remarks –

There was a discussion about the booster-thon fundraising program, both the pros and cons with using a program like this.

The Columbia Baptist Church offered to support the school with hats and gloves for the winter for recess.

Villages of Columbia Board of Education Candidates' Forum is next Thursday, Oct. 13th. Please attend if you can.

Jessie is paying the \$170 for PTACHC dues, and discussed briefly the scholarship fund setup by PTACHC. Would we like to donate to this fund? The discussion is tabled for now, it can be readdressed at a later date.

There is a discussion about the Spring Auction and Dinner date. Currently the date for the auction is Friday, April 7th. The Friday is a half day of school, and is the Friday before Spring break. There is a discussion about changing the date,

but as previously discussed, the Fridays available are very close to teacher appreciation week and International Night. So there isn't any resolution, just discussion.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Oct 8th – Oakland Mills Fall Festival; 11-4

Oct 12th – Schools and Offices Closed

Oct 16th – HCPSS 5K and Fun Run

Oct 17th Chick-fil-a Night

Oct 20th - Board of Education Meeting: 3 pm & 7 pm

Oct 31st – Schools Closed

Nov 1st – PTA Council of Howard County Meeting; 7:30-9:30 pm

Nov 2nd – PTA Meeting