



STEVENS FOREST
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Where Everyone Fits!

6045 Stevens Forest Rd. Columbia, MD 21045

sfspta.weebly.com



PTA General Meeting- 2/4/15

Jill Edelson called meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in Media Center.

Board Members present:

President - Jill Edelson
Vice President for Membership - Quiana Holmes
Vice President for Programs – Krista Threefoot
Treasurer – Meghan Skaggs
Recording Secretary - Daphne Harrington
Corresponding Secretary - Jonathan Edelson
Principal – Ernesto Diaz
PTA Council of Howard County Representative - Reginald Avery

Committee Chairs:

Boxtops – Tracy Downard
Hospitality – Tawania Williams

General Membership Present:

See attached sheet.

It is established we have a quorum

Reading and approval of the meeting agenda: Jill Edelson

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

Reading and approval of the meeting minutes:

1. Motion to approve the January 7, 2015 meeting minutes
2. Vote: approved the January 7, 2015 meeting minutes

Treasurer update: Meghan Skaggs

Any suggestions for an auditor – we can go with Mr. Martin again if we need to

1099 filed, all future pays \$600 or more we need to file W9 form – please fill out one if you are going to be spending more than \$600 for something PTA related.

We need to have someone other than the treasurer to balance the checkbook - Reg volunteered to do this job

Discuss whether there is a contract for take your family to school night – International night – there is no contract - Krista needs to watch a webinar and fill out a survey etc, but that's the extent of the grant responsibilities

Qualify what line in the budget the treasurer should put the check under that we were donating money to new school PTA.

Vice President of Membership report: Quiana Holmes

182 members at this time –

All PTAs have slowed down

Every Child in Focus, February – The African American Child

About African American Children and Families

- In 2012, there were more than 10.2 million Non-Hispanic Black children under age 18 living in the United States or 14% of the U.S. child population.
- Approximately 40% of Non-Hispanic Black children under age 18 live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.
- In 2011, 84% of Non-Hispanic Black 4th graders scored below proficient in reading level.

Vice President of Programs Report: Krista Threefoot

Reflections results – haven't gotten back yet, but we know 1 student has been selected to the state level

Meeting with Brigitta Warren – April 10th for Bingo Night

Take your family to school week – one event is the International Night –

The other idea is during the school day of the International Night, we could invite families into the school and watch/participate in the parade and festivities – parents can come to an assembly

Vice President of Fundraising:

Learn to earn – still some concerns over the accuracy of the program – there are still students who are logging in a large number of minutes, we aren't able to correct minutes retroactively

Penny Wars – Ms. Davis – team leader for the Special Education team – she has offered to lead this program – proposal to run it mid-April to mid-May and have the activity at the Spring Fling – need to

allocate where the funds should go – broader the parameters the better – classroom needs - should be an item that is not “consumable” – used year after year – ex. Build up the math manipulatives, items specific to elementary school model, on-line access to a program

Corresponding Secretary:

- PTA needs to select a nominating committee for upcoming elections.
 - Current by-laws call for a five member committee including a chair
 - President may not serve on nominating committee
 - Principal may advise nominating committee
 - Nominating committee should nominate candidates by no later than 10 days before election and report these to the general membership
 - Nominating committee should submit one name for each office but can submit multiple names and submit their report to the Recording Secretary at least 30 days before election
 - Only current PTA members may be nominated or elected
 - If a position remains vacant after general election, the new board may fill the position per the by-laws (Board-only election)
 - Members of the committee may be nominees for office but must excuse themselves from the committee meeting when that office is discussed
 - Cannot elect two people to one office
 - Can nominate one person to multiple offices, but the person must choose what office to accept
 - Officers elected at May general membership meeting
 - Officers are elected by ballot and majority vote. If only one candidate for a position, a voice vote is permissible.
 - Term is 2 years starting July 1.
 - Officers limited to 2 consecutive terms in the same office.
- Upcoming community education events:
 - March 3, 6 - 7 p.m. at The Other Barn - HCPSS will provide the community an update on progress since adoption of the Strategic Plan in 2013
 - April 29, evening time TBD at The Other Barn - “State of Our Schools” education forum with Dr. Foose and leadership of schools feeding up to OMHS

Hospitality: Tawania Williams – Feb. 12 – dinner for staff – does she need approval to spend funds for catering? Answer – no as long as we’re under the budget – Bob Evans is going to cater at a good discount – up in the air is the menu – breakfast for dinner is a good option

Committee Updates:

International Night – February 26th – still not a lot of volunteers yet who have signed up for help - the event will be spread out through the school – there will be a lot of teacher support, helping with the

setup and cleanup of the night

Community Update – Reginald Avery

PTACHC meeting- a couple of students from the student body board came to start a discussion about the dance policies – They been asked to look at all the dance policies for all the schools and come up with one that is standard for all.

HCEAA Report- Contract negotiations are more positive than last year and hopefully will come to a conclusion soon. They have concerns over the HCPSS Budget and their report lead into the main discussion which was the Operation Budget....

HCPSS wants to remove 31.5 K Para-educators and 32 media support professionals from middle and high schools in the next Operating Budget

Proposed Kindergarten Para-Educator Allocation Formula

.5 for 1-2 Kindergarten Teachers

1 for 3-4 kindergarten teachers

1.5 for 5-6 kindergarten teachers

2 for 7-8 kindergarten teachers

Para-educator Staff will probably be moving to Pre-K's, but no one really knows

69 para's total reallocated

36 Kindergarten, 20 MS media para, 12 HS Media secretaries, 1 AHS Tech teacher

These cuts do not affect special education para's, but we could not find out if they will affect title 1 schools.

Middle school ratio of students to teachers

Current 24:1 proposed 24.5:1

High School ratio of students to teachers

Current 27:1 proposed 28:1

The board will be making a decision based on several work sessions, but you can send comments on the Operating Budget- that way it is kept on PUBLIC RECORD boe@hcpss.org

in Kindergarten there are MANY children who have yet to be identified as special education- this dramatic drop in Para's I feel will negatively affect the classrooms.

Board members can specifically address the RATIO of the Kindergarten Paraeducators

Wellness policy- Chairwoman Siddiqui said that the Board is waiting to hear back from staff on the Wellness Policy and they won't open up the policy until that has happened.

Superintendent's report

HCPSS Connect- tweet or email questions and the staff person will answer them live- next one is on PARCC March 4 at 3pm and March 10th noon

Wellness policy – waiting to hear from staff before they release any info on that

Superintendent report – if you want to contact the BOE or Superintendent, feel free to do so; PARCC will be next topic march 4th 3 pm and march 10th at noon

CA news: Ponds a topic right now- there was a suggestion to make the ponds a wetland and not maintain (manmade ponds for storm drainage maintenance) – email CA board for comments

Principal's Update: Mr. Diaz

Operating budget – zero based budgeting in the central office level – elementary schools themselves don't operate in a budgeting system, budget themselves, but the education system does operate on a zero based budget

Budget – Dr. Foose works with board staff to build a budget, then gives it to the BOE for them to work through –

For Stevens Forest, how the paras are impacted – we have a lot of para positions at our schools compared to other schools – positions were created due to redistricting and for the increase of students – if our enrollment numbers decrease, we may have a para surplus and therefore the school may need to put paraeducators in the surplus pool to be reassigned to a different school where there is a vacancy – the main factor in this situation is enrollment - secretaries etc may not be impacted – school system won't hire new until all of the surplus are placed (also affecting middle and high schools) offering early retirement benefit packets

Testing – check website for overview of different testing going on for all grades

Feb 10th at 12 – PARCC livestream –

Finishing Access testing (for ESOL students) – about to start PARCC testing – new PC laptops – take about 3 weeks to get through all of PARCC testing for grades 3-5 - grades 3 and 4 – morning teacher, grade 5 will be afternoon teacher – have 2 hour block to do the testing – performance based assessment first – will be about 2 days per week for 2-3 weeks (month of March) –first testing sections are longer assessments, end of April to mid May (second stage) will be much shorter - results will not be distributed until at least November or December

Links for practice on the HCPSS website

Save the date:

Feb 5 – Author Patricia Cummings comes to school
Feb 21, March 21 @ 9-11 am Food Giveaways
Feb 26, 6-8 pm – International Night
March 4, 6:30-7:30 pm -PTA meetings
March 24 – Unos Night
April 21 – Red Robin Night
May 23 – Spring Fling

Feb 12, 5-6 pm – staff dinner during conferences
Feb 23 – 5-9 pm – Burger King Night
March 2 – 7:30pm PTACHC Meetings
March 20 – 6:00-8:30 pm Dinner and Auction
Apr 10 , 6:30-8:30 pm – Family Bingo Night
May 4-8 – Staff Appreciation Week, lunch 5/8

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 pm