



STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL PTA *Where Everyone Fits!*

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PTA General Meeting- 1/7/15

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

Board Members absent:

PTA Council of Howard County Representative - Reginald Avery

Committee Chairs:

Boxtops – Tracy Downard

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 December 3, 2014 meeting minutes
2. Vote: approved the December 3, 2014 meeting minutes

question of how we establish vote decisions during PTACHC meetings (ie wellness policy)

Treasurer update: Meghan Skaggs

Total income as of 1/7/15 for the fiscal year 2014-2015 is \$11,141.

Use of Principal Fund - \$1,082.51 - need of parameters - parameters were for students with needs of coats, gloves, hats - also field trip funds or forgotten lunch funds

Vice President of Membership report: Quiana Holmes

- Total Membership is 181

There is a brief discussion around the time of the conclusion of the meeting about whether we should have honorary members from the community. An example is giving out membership to community members who make donations without them registering to become members. In general it is felt that we should not do this.

- NPTA Every Child in Focus, January:

The Suburban Child

- Over the last 20 years, suburban communities have experienced a rise in poverty and homelessness. (Source: [Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness](#))

- Poverty in suburban communities has been growing at a faster rate than in urban areas. (Source: [Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness](#))

- PTACHC voted to appeal portions of the Wellness Policy (please refer to the item's mentioned in Jill's email for exact content)

- HCPSS no longer notifies News Stations/Radio Stations, please sign up for text or email alerts, check website or cable channel

Vice President of Programs Report: Krista Threefoot

Reflections Summary: We had about 35 eligible entries and sent 13 of those to the county competition. In several categories, there were only 1-2 entries. Overall, we had a lot of support for the program. The kids seemed to like it and all of the parents I spoke to were very supportive. I was happy to have the support of Ms. Whye and Mrs. Rodriguez and I plan to work more closely with them in future years. I was very pleased with how the program turned out. I plan to apply for the "[Mary Lou Anderson Grant - For Members - National PTA](#)" which is a grant that supports in-school and after-school art programs. I feel like the best way for us to promote Reflections in the future would be for us to host some sort of workshop during or after school for students to help them develop their ideas and translate them into art. This grant would certainly help us accomplish that.





[Mary Lou Anderson Grant - For Members - National PTA](#)

The National PTA Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant provides matching dollar funding to local PTAs to support in-school and after-school arts ...

[View on www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) Preview by Yahoo

People might be interested to know that the most popular theme among all of the entries was protecting the environment. I was pretty proud of our students for being so green!

Should we continue Reflections next year? There is positive feedback for it but it is decided that the future board needs to decide this when they meet over the summer months and plan programs/events for the upcoming year.

Art Night: Art Night is tomorrow. So far, planning has gone well. We have gotten a decent response from people who have volunteered to help and the last-minute details seem to be coming together pretty smoothly. PTA had a plaque made.

We will be unveiling the mural and recognizing 2 sets of students: those whose artwork was selected to be framed and hung in the school and those who participated in Reflections. All the students will be called up to the stage and presented with a certificate. For the Reflections students, we will be recognizing students in 4 categories: Those who will be represented SFES at the county competition, those who demonstrated outstanding interpretation of theme, those who demonstrated outstanding creativity, and those who demonstrated superior master of skill. I will attach a copy of the Art Night Program.

Take Your Family to School Grant: I submitted all the paperwork for that before the holiday break and got an email from the National PTA that the documents had been received and were forwarded to the proper people. A few days later, I got an email from someone else at the National PTA office (Erin) saying that our documents had not been received. I re-sent them (along with the original e-mail string.) and have contacted Erin twice to confirm that she got my emails. I haven't heard back from her yet and plan to contact her again tomorrow or Friday if I still haven't gotten a response.

After Art Night is over, Krista will start contacting teachers about TYFtS week, asking them to ask their students to talk to their parents about coming into their classes during that week to talk about their cultures (read stories, dress in traditional clothing, bring in food, etc.) I can create a document that can be sent home to children communicating the same request.

Corresponding Secretary: Jonathan Edelson

Art Night

-Sent invitations to county elected officials, BOE, village board, and Arts Council board. County elected officials are unable to attend due to busy schedules as the new government gets started. BOE has a meeting the same night. Village board co-chairs and others will attend. Arts Council has not responded.

-Notified education beat reporter for Tribune papers (Sun, HC Times, Flier, etc.) He said he will note it in this Thursday's education column. Also sent him a picture of the mural in case he can use it.

Learn2Earn

-Thanks to Mr. Diaz and Mrs. Lannon for promoting it on the announcements each week. Every Friday we do a L2E summary on the announcements.

-L2E has updated the site to limit daily reading logs to no more than 480 minutes. It appeared to be unlimited before and some kids were entering thousands of minutes in a day.

-Went in as administrator and cleaned up some of the obvious problems (e.g., more minutes read than there are minutes in a day, the same book read multiple times in a day for the same number of minutes each time totalling an impossible number of minutes, etc.)

-Still some work to do and may never be perfect, but things look reasonable enough that hopefully kids won't get discouraged thinking they are way behind.

-\$1,051 in pledges (as of Wednesday morning)

Other

-Save the date: State of our Schools Education Town Hall, April 29 @ The Other Barn. All schools that ultimately feed into OMHS will be represented; Dr. Foose and other HCPSS officials will attend and speak.

Committee Updates:

Hospitality: Tawania Williams - thank you for the sweet treats in December

Jan 26th - something smaller - healthier, cracker and cheese and fruit

\$1,000.00 still in hospitality budget

International Night

Fun Drum circle – committed to come, also traditional Indian dancers, traditional Hawaiian dancers, and Korean fan dancers or drummers

library coming and bringing books

flier went out about posters or items if families want to bring in

snow date March 6th

Community Update – Oakland Mills has an update on the 2007 Master Plan - general meeting on Jan. 20th for group discussion - education portion is now added into the Master Plan

Principal's Update: Mr. Diaz

New traffic pattern - it has improved pretty smoothly - extra staff out there, director of transportation out there at times, Mr. Eastham was here at one time - will paint lines in the parking lot when it gets warmer - but everyone thinks that it's slowly getting warmer

Elementary school model - strengths - look where students strengths are and try to focus more on that rather than focusing on "what's wrong" with a students - 4th and 5th graders took Gallop tests - parents will get a playbook and discuss how to encourage their child's strengths and work with them - each grade will be done in a different way - strengths are in these categories:

confidence, relating, future thinker, discoverer, competing, organizer, presence, dependability, achieving, caring

students will also be getting their own play book to work with - staff is going to be having a bookclub - Mindset is the book they are going to read the growth and fixed mindset - maybe a parent bookclub or pamphlet - a way of communicating to the parents how to work with your kids

Save the date:

Jan. 8- Art Extravaganza Night 6:30-8:30
Jan. 14 - 7-8 pm Band & Orchestra Concert@ OMHS
Jan. 17, 9-11 am – Food Giveaways
Feb. 4, 6:30 pm PTA meeting
Feb. 12 Staff Dinner during conferences
Feb. 26, 6-8 pm International Night
Apr. 10, 6:30-7:30 pm Family Bingo @ the Other Barn

Jan. 12, 3-8 pm Chipotle Night
Jan. 15, 7:30 pm BOE/PTA Council Gen Meeting
Feb. 2, 7:30 pm PTACHC Meetings
Feb. 5 author Priscilla Cummings comes to SFES
Feb. 23, 5-9 pm Burger King Night
Mar. 20, 6-8:30 pm Dinner & Auction
May 23 Spring Fling

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.