



STEVENS FOREST  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

*Where Everyone Fits!*

6045 Stevens Forest Rd. Columbia, MD 21045

[sfespta.weebly.com](http://sfespta.weebly.com)



**PTA General Meeting- 9/3/14**

**Jill Edelson called meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in Media Center.**

**Board Members present:**

President - Jill Edelson  
Vice President for Membership - Quiana Holmes  
Vice President for Fundraising – Jennifer Sartor Anderson  
Vice President for Programs – Krista Threefoot  
Recording Secretary - Daphne Harrington  
Corresponding Secretary - Jonathan Edelson  
Treasurer – Meghan Skaggs  
Principal – Ernesto Diaz

**Board Members absent:**

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

Introductions of all meeting attendees

Treasurer update: Meghan Skaggs

Budget update – the PTA is being audited, so the books are not in our possession. So the budget has been made using the end of 2013-2014 school calendar year budget numbers

**Budget approval:**

- Motion to approve the 2014-2015 budget
- Vote: approved the budget for the 2014-2015 school year

Motion has been passed

**Membership:** Quiana Holmes

Welcome and brief details of how to register for the PTA, registration is \$10 per person, currently 102 members, our goal this year is 250 members

**School of Excellence:** Quiana – only school in MD to get chosen for this award

Several community and political figures have been notified of this achievement and have been warmly invited to attend the school celebration and banner unveiling during the Ice Cream Social on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**VP programs:** Krista Threefoot

Programs are chosen and scheduled on the calendar, committee chairs need to be chosen and volunteers signed up for their committees of interest

Artist in Residence – a local artist is going to come in and build a mosaic wall between front office and the cafeteria

The program will need donations of materials and volunteers to help younger students

National PTA reflections program- all kids can submit a piece of art “the world would be a better place if...” Students can compete on a local level all the way up to a national level

Announce the program in October, work in Oct. and Nov, and due date around Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>

January 8<sup>th</sup>, Art night unveiling, press to attend and hopefully a big event

**Fundraising:** Jennifer Sartor

Wolfgang Chocolates catalog, comes out Friday and in by the end of September, comes back in late October or early November – look in Friday folders for the catalog

Learn to Earn program – we make 85-90% donations – create website and can track student progress in reading – people can make pledges based on student reading – will start sometime around November

Turkey Trot – November 14

BJs rewards – buy a 1 year membership during 1 predetermined month of the year and it will extend to a 15 month membership for the 12 month fee, plus a reduced membership fee, and a small portion of each membership fee will go to the school – more information to follow when the month has been determined

**Hospitality:** Tawania Williams

Back to school lunch – Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – set up from 11-12 to start lunch at 12  
Help is needed for the lunch – donations and help at the lunch is needed – the goal is to keep food simple so anyone can participate – “Keeping Cool from the Summer” desserts on the lite side – sign up for gluten free and allergy ideas – an email was sent out to sign up and with details – also check the website and facebook page for details.

**Committees:**

Ice Cream Social – chair: Quiana

Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> – come out for fun, also will have a school of excellence banner unveiling and maybe have some special people to come – volunteer for food donations or help that night

**Community Update:** Jonathan Edelson

Made sidewalks wider in the front of the school

No progress with the car traffic doing crazy things on the road – Jonathan is planning to discuss this with the police

Pedestrian Crosswalk, hopefully will start in the next few weeks – will be across from the Stevens Forest Community Center area

Also take out the roll curb between the 2 driveways the roll curbs in favor of standard 6 inch curbs– still no changes to curbs past the driveways

September 17 – the Columbia villages will hold a Board of Education candidates’ forum at the Other Barn– 1<sup>st</sup> hour the candidates will supply written responses to all 5 questions sent to them while choosing 1 of the 5 to talk about in the first hour. The 2<sup>nd</sup> hour will be question and answer format

Oakland Mills will advertise for the Artist in Residence event – advertise material donations  
Ice Cream Social and School of Excellence celebration – Other Barn will have a container for donations of materials such as tile, etc. - invited a lot of community people to attend

PTACHC meeting – anyone can attend or join

Teachers union (liason of superintendent, teachers union, and PTACHC members present)

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 K/fun run Howard County education (HCPSS website)

New HCPSS website – family mathematical help website

Superintendent - Let PTA know anyone who wants to be on committees to contact Jill or Reginald (ie calendar, policies, etc)

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) – good to have every PTA have a representative on this committee – first or 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month

PTA website link – HCPSS are adjusting the schools’ websites so that the PTA's web link is on the main page and not a few clicks down on a separate link. They are still in the process of re-configuring the websites to make them more user-friendly.

**Principal’s Update** – Mr. Diaz

Continuing conversation about getting involved with other committees - HCEA, certificated staff, HCEAS- all staff including secretaries

Also a custodian association

Encourages everyone get involved on CAC

First week of school students came in and had a good week – departmentalization is working well, adjusting to that – ironing out details with dismissal and schedule etc.

Mr. Diaz and Mrs. Lannon visited each grade team – gave presentation about their PBIS and administration and what they do etc. – dependent on the team grade on how detailed they got

Storm water management – winding down, water in parking lot will drain slowly instead of gushing down storm drains – also cement stops installed at the end of each parking space and permanent fencing around the new storm drain

Small playground is up and running – larger playground hopefully finished in October sometime

School Improvement team – quarterly meetings – targeted school plans – very focused on staff and student engagement, support etc – first meeting is Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – benchmarking year for us with testing

Dismissal policy – rain and/or storm – dismissal policy is the same so please have students prepared for inclement weather so dismissal will be unchanged – only exception is for extreme severe weather

MAP testing – 1 of last schools added to MAP testing – grades 1-5 for both math and reading – info sent home with results beginning and end of year with option of midyear testing as well

PARC – grades 3-5 done in March and May both math and language arts

Everything is on computers – getting 2 new laptop carts for all of the testing

5<sup>th</sup> grade still taking science MAP test

This year no snacks for testing – too complicated with new Healthy Howard food plan and all of the allergies etc, plus the tests are on computers so don't want food and drink near computers

Interest in SIT (Student Improvement Team) contact Mr. Diaz

Traffic/walking concerns – HCPS and CA people got together and also Reg and Jon to try to build a plan – a lot of it is CA property

Question about weather and portables – covering for kids/teachers to walk

Treasurer amendment: during the meeting Meghan noticed a typo - Total disbursements = total receipts – didn't match on sheet so she made it match

Motion to approve amended budget

Vote: motion is approved.

**At the end of the general meeting, the Executive Board voted for a candidate to fill the newly vacant seat of Hispanic Liaison**

Motion: vote to elect Melanie Garcia as Hispanic Liaison

Vote: motion carried for Melanie Garcia to be Hispanic Liaison

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:50 p.m.**