



**STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY
PTA**

6045 Stevens Forest Rd,
Columbia, MD 21045

<http://sfespta.weebly.com/>



PTA Board Meeting 10/5/2021

Maya Green called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. Meeting took place in a hybrid format.

Board Members Present:

President - Maya Green

*Vice President for Programs – Nadia Herron

*Vice President of Fundraising – J’Ne St Cyr

Vice President for Membership – Andre Neuland

Treasurer - Mike Elser

*Recording Secretary – Sylvia Hennessie

Corresponding Secretary - Mary Amponsah

*PTACHC Delegate – Nina York

*PTACHC Delegate – Rikki McCoy

*denotes that board member was present virtually

Other Members Present:

Dr. Joy Smith

Mrs. Katie Carter

Jennifer Flores

Samuel Pearson-Moore

Elizabeth Lakey

Kimberly Arndt

David (did not get last name)

Rose BrownEagle

Megan Williams

Nathan BrownEagle

Board Members Absent:

none

We do have a quorum. It is established that we have a quorum for this meeting.

Agenda

Motion to approve meeting agenda at 7:10pm by Sylvia Hennesie

Seconded by – Mike Elser

Call to vote; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of past meeting minutes

Motion to approve past meeting minutes at 7:12pm by Mike Elser

Seconded by – Andre Neuland

Call to vote; motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report – Andre Neuland

- We had 39 members as of last meeting, we now have 57
- Recruitment efforts - flyers to be sent home with students and slips for teacher mailboxes, going home in near future

Action Item(s): sign up on MemberHub if you have not already, **Andre** to create flyers for students and teachers

Administrative Report: Dr. Smith

- Celebration of Family Fun Night - wonderful feedback about event from families and staff who attended
- Administration sent out a [survey](#) for feedback about [School Improvement Plan](#) following the first PTA meeting - one question was about participation in restorative justice and education book club, *The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education* by Katherine Evans and Dorothy Vaandering
 - Dr. Smith asked if it would be possible for PTA to purchase books for book club participants if the decision is to move forward? Books are \$5.99, Dr. Smith has all information to share about purchasing books, once more parent responses are received we will decide how to move forward
 - Proposing two sessions for book club with evening time frame - would include reading book on your own and coming together to discuss and summarize, and then repeating once more
 - School would bring in Shannon Keeney to facilitate process, county facilitator from Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Halloween - pre-March 2020, included costume parade during instructional hours. Going forward, SFES is moving toward being more inclusive and recognizing the diversity of our student body, and will no longer be hosting Halloween parades or celebrations during the school day. SFES will still support PTA's Trunk or Treat - Friday, 10/29. However, we will not be excluding anyone and no instruction will be stopped during the day. Teachers may choose to read Fall related books as part of their instruction.

- Question was asked about whether field trips are being planned? Teachers are planning field trips for fall and spring, both in-house and out of the building. Dr. Smith said message went out last Friday re: vaccine and testing procedures for HCPSS. We are still able to do field trips outside of school, and can still invite guest speakers in the building. Any guest coming in would be considered a volunteer and required to show proof of vaccination. Dr. Smith recommended all to go back to email that was sent out and go through information carefully, it will be sent out in the Friday newsletter too.

Action Item(s): complete feedback [survey](#) about [School Improvement Plan](#) if you have not already, review information about COVID Vaccine and Testing Requirements

Administrative Report: Mrs. Carter

- October is National Principals Month, a huge thank you to Dr. Smith!
- Mrs. Carter also thanked PTA for providing bagels for custodial team, for Custodian Appreciation

Treasurer report: Mike Elser

- Reviewed budget updates, spending and fundraising
 - Teacher Back to School Lunch - spent \$884.00
 - Popsicles with Administration - spent \$76.72
 - Family Fun Night - spent \$111.18
 - Teacher Treats - spent \$40.01
 - OM Fall Festival - made \$425.31
 - Shop with Scrip - made \$143.42
 - Other donations - \$1644.73
- If you are owed a check, Mike has it; let him know so he can get it to you. Some checks have not been posted yet.
- Question was asked if amount made is what was projected to make for Fall Fest? PTA projected \$400 in earnings, made \$425. This is the first year we had competition with a food truck, but we were still able to make more than projected
- Dr. Smith mentioned that Fall teacher conferences have the option for teachers to be remote, so requesting that meals be boxed lunches that can be picked up at 12pm on the day PTA is providing

Action Item(s): reach out to Mike if you are owed a reimbursement check

Committees

VP of Programs - Nadia Herron

- Family Fun Night update
 - Good turnout, board members were able to come out and network with parents while community resources (HC Library, Columbia Association, DJ) helped with the rest
 - Trunk or Treat - this year's theme will be a reading village/children's storybook theme. There will be a costumed read aloud at 5:30pm
 - Nadia is going to the Book Bank with Jenny this weekend for books to be handed out
 - HCLibrary Pop Up van will be there, able to help with sign-up for library memberships
 - Kids will be able to trick or treat

VP of Fundraising - J'Ne St Cyr

- Restaurant Nights
 - October is Sonoma's - flyers going out this week, reminders will go out next week
 - November is Panera
 - December is IHOP
 - Will update this information on website
- OM Fall Festival Update
 - We spent \$400, made \$825; about the same gains as previous years
 - Hoping for next year to sell things that are more enticing, need to get application in early
 - We do have some things left over to use for trunk or treat
- Mental Health Film Festival
 - working with Oakland Mills Online (OMO)
 - Mary will put information out to promote online and via messaging
- Scrip/Raise Right fundraiser
 - still trying to get people enrolled, goal is to get everyone to be aware of it and see it as an easy way to make money for the school
 - could have field trip enhancements with funds earned
 - reach out to J'Ne about any questions
 - most restaurants for restaurant nights are scrip eligible
 - this is a nationwide accessible program - other family members can enroll, just need to provide J'Ne with email so they can be enrolled
- spirit wear coming up later this month

Action Item(s): *J'Ne to get flyers out for Restaurant Night, Spirit Wear; Mary to update website with Restaurant Night dates, promote Mental Health Film Festival*

PTACHC Rep – Nina York & Rikki McCoy

Rikki shared meeting was last night, MD delegates as guest speakers

- Bill for virtual learning and inclement weather being discussed
- delegates gave info about money being received for HCPSS schools, we are getting a lot of money from the state

- law in the works for PreK, still income based, but would allow for parents to pay for PreK who would not normally qualify based on current criteria
- County is focused on teacher retention and clear pathways for teacher development
- redistricting is coming, trying to create ways to make the process “more fair and less emotional”
- PTACHC revenue is low, PTA dues need to be paid by Nov. 1
- There are no virtual options for quarantined students to participate in instruction at this time

Other Updates

- **SECAC Rep - we are still looking for a representative, please contact Maya if you are able to fill this role!**
- OMMS/OMHS deferred maintenance update
 - Board of Education voted to move up OMMS renovations to 2024 and to add OMHS for renovations beginning in 2026
 - Planning Board meeting is Thursday, 10/7/21 at 7pm - Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) has submitted written testimony advocating for schools to remain in the capital plan going forward

New Business:

- Books for Bobcats
 - Jenny - not as many distribution dates for MD Book Bank, Nadia and are Jenny going this weekend, have reached out to Mrs. Ferrara about a list of books to look for for teachers
 - Question came up about families donating gently used books from their homes - not sure protocols with Covid, administration will discuss

Action Item(s): PTA/Admin to discuss protocol about families donating books

- Reflections Contest
 - Jenny - program designed to highlight artistry of students, our school is typically underrepresented at county level
 - more info coming, Maya has been working with Krista on that
 - Teacher Treat of the month - fall treats for October

Action Item(s): Maya and Krista to share more information about Reflections contest

Meeting Closure

Motion to adjourn by Maya Green at 8:00pm

Seconded by Mike Elser

Call to vote; motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm.