



**STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY
PTA**

6045 Stevens Forest Rd,
Columbia, MD 21045

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



PTA Board Meeting 6/5/2023

Maya Green called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m. Meeting took place virtually.

Board Members Present:

President - Maya Green

Vice President for Membership – Andre Neuland

Treasurer - Mike Elser

Recording Secretary – Sylvia Hennessie

PTACHC Delegate – Rikki McCoy

Other Members Present:

Dr. Joy Smith

Michelle Clar

Jenny Flores

Tara Jackson

Jonathan Shin

Sandi Weaver

Megan Williams

*full name not given

Board Members Absent:

Vice President of Fundraising – J'Ne St Cyr

Vice President for Programs – Nadia Herron

Corresponding Secretary - Mary Amponsah

PTACHC Delegate – Nina York

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

Agenda

Motion to approve meeting agenda at 7:06pm by Sylvia Hennessie

Seconded by – Mike Elser

Call to vote; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of past meeting minutes

Motion to approve meeting minutes at 7:06pm by Mike Elser

Seconded by – Sylvia Hennesie

Call to vote; motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report - Andre Neuland

- no membership number updates
- Reminder: members will need to rejoin PTA after July 1 because membership will expire

Administrative Report - Dr. Smith & Mrs. Carter

- Mrs. Carter is at summer school orientation
- Thank you! Staff is grateful for support of teachers and school community
- Looking forward to end of year events, opportunities to celebrate bobcats and meet new bobcats
- Thanks for a great school year!

Treasurer report - Mike Elser

- We are good budget wise for remaining events
- Budget needs to be under \$20,000 by July 1
 - Currently a little over \$22,000 in the bank
 - Currently a little over \$1,000 in outstanding checks
 - We need to spend a little over \$1,000
- Mike's recommendation - purchase banners for school lights
 - J'Ne worked with Mrs. Crocamo to get information about cost and installation
 - Estimate is \$1,554 for 6 banners (choosing to install 6 versus 7 flags because one is covered by overgrown trees, we are able to add an additional flag in the future if needed)
 - Remaining budget would be a little over \$19,000 (leaves wiggle room for any additional money earned, e.g. via Raise Right)
 - We need to vote to spend the funds, doing so now would clear a budget item for next year
 - *Motion to add \$1600 to purchase banners for school at 7:13pm by Mike Elser, seconded by Tara Jackson, motion passed*
- Reminder: reach out to Mike for outstanding reimbursement checks

Committees

VP of Programs - Nadia Herron

- Spring Fest is tomorrow, June 6, 6-8pm,
 - balloon art, crafts, snow cones, strings/band/chorus concert
 - arrive at 5:30 pm for set up help
- Popsicles on the playground, June 14 at dismissal

- Reminder: early dismissal day!
- Thank you for your support! If you have any suggestions for future family events, email Nadia at sfesptaprograms@gmail.com

VP of Fundraising - J'Ne St Cyr

- RaiseRight Gift Card Program
 - MAY: \$90.78
 - YTD: \$1,825.20 - (10 PARENTS & 4 TEACHERS)
 - Reminder: Raise Right can be used over the summer and year round for upcoming vacations, etc..

PTACHC Rep – Nina York & Rikki McCoy

- no report

New Business:

- Budget Excess - discussed during Treasurer's report
- School of Excellence
 - application shared, will be submitted before June 15
 - Write up that was shared:

During this school year, we focused on collaborating with the school to promote participation in the fine arts. The PTA collaborated with the art, band, music, and strings teachers to support student success (standard 3) in these areas. This partnership led to improved turnout for concerts and increased awareness of families with younger students about the options for participation in music education. Art was also incorporated into our annual STEM night with demonstrations of how color impacts things such as lasers, water, and light absorption. We also collaborated with the art teacher to hold an art-based fundraiser. Students created an art project that was able to be purchased on items such as shirts, bags, keychains, water bottles, etc. The money from this fundraiser was used to host a paint night with the support of the art teacher and approximately 80 people attended (standard 1). The STEM night committee included members not on the PTA board of directors and guest judges from local employers such as the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (standards 5 and 6).

In addition, the PTA has worked to advocate for the safety of our students, especially before and after school. Due to our advocacy, we were able to secure a crossing guard to enhance safe arrival and dismissal routines. Our PTA is currently also advocating to reinstate bus service for the next school year. This is due to a change in transportation policy which would take away the only bus route our school currently has. These two issues for which our PTA has/is advocating are in response to concerns raised by members of our community (standard 4).

Another example of collaboration with our school is partnering with the school for Title 1 math and reading nights. Immediately after the math/reading nights, the PTA hosted events such as a school dance and a bingo night. This resulted in increased family attendance to the Title 1 math and reading nights. The administration requested that the PTA continue to partner with them for these events, which the PTA readily agreed to.

With our advocacy efforts, our PTA has been collaborating with the community and speaking up for every child (standards 1 and 3).

Through continued collaboration within the school community, more families are becoming involved and for our next board of directors, we have 3 members who have not previously served on the board. This promotes a smooth transition and the ability of the PTA to ensure that sharing of power occurs.

Inclusive: All PTA communications are provided in both English and Spanish.
Impactful: PTA programming and advocacy support students' participation in extra-curricular learning opportunities and ensures student safety during arrival and dismissal.

Other Updates

SECAC Representative

- We are in need of a SECAC representative (Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee), if interested please reach out to Maya ASAP: sfesbobcatspta@gmail.com
- meetings are typically the second Monday of the month from 7-9pm
- website for more information: <https://howardcountysecac.com/>

Meeting Closure

Motion to adjourn by Maya Green at 7:26pm

Seconded by Tara Jackson

Call to vote; motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.