



# STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

6045 Stevens Forest Rd. Columbia, MD 21045  
sfespta.weebly.com

## PTA General Meeting- 9/14/16

**Quiana Holmes called meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. in the media center.**

### **Board Members present:**

President - Quiana Holmes  
Vice President for Membership – Lena Kennedy  
Vice President for Fundraising – Jessica Mahajan  
Vice President for Programs – Krista Threefoot  
Recording Secretary - Daphne Harrington  
Corresponding Secretary - Jonathan Edelson  
Treasurer – Jessie Patterson  
PTACHC Delegate – Jacqueline Jacobs

### **Administrators and Teachers:**

Principal – Ernesto Diaz  
Assistant Principal – Tracy Albright

### **Board Members absent:**

PTACHC Delegate – Reg Avery

### **General Membership Present:**

See attached sheet.

It is established we have a quorum

### **Reading and approval of the meeting agenda:**

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

**General Introductions** – went around the room for general introductions of all attendees

**Treasurer's Report** – Jessie Patterson

Beginning balance \$16,071.46

The cultural arts line of the budget was removed.

No questions.

There is a motion to approve the 2016-2017 school year budget.

The motion is seconded and approved by majority vote.

Audit results – Miriam Bell did the audit for our books last year. She found a couple of minor adjustments and the results are being sent out.

### **Membership** – Lena Kennedy

There are 80 members as of right now, with a few more registrations which were just received, there are almost 90 members

Membership goal for this year is 150 members, last year was 134 members, so there is about a 10% increase.

As incentive, if someone joins PTA by the end of September, there will be a \$25 Target Gift card drawing.

Towards the end of this school year, an election committee will be formed to help facilitate elections for next year's PTA Executive Board. Next year, all seats will be open for election or reelection.

### **Principal report** – Mr. Diaz

Already feels like we've been here a while, everything is going well inside the school.

Paraeducators are working on Friday Folders this year, so the school is printing all fliers by Wednesdays for stuffing on Thursday mornings.

PARCC reports went home this week. The State Board of Education will be receiving results of all schools. At SFES, we are improving our scores.

The Howard County Police will be in SFES again this year, like last year, for reading to students and interacting with them in school. They also will be present at times during dismissal to help discuss issues with the community they might see, such as seatbelts, carseats, booster seats, number of people in a car, etc.

There are new posters for PBS around the school hallways, with the 3 Rs . This is just a reminder for both students and staff that they know all of the basic rules and promoting positive behaviors. By increasing the positive behaviors and we'll see less of the negative behaviors.

SFES has created the Bobcat café this year as an incentive for PBIS. For 50 bobcat tickets, they can buy the opportunity to sit up on stage in cafeteria and they can choose 3 friends to join them.

5<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to design the yearbook cover this year, the theme will be "Pawsitivity".

The menu of the PBIS rewards is paw related. SFES is trying to make rewards more attainable so making things items a little cheaper.

Idea of PBIS is to reward positive behavior so they are encouraging students to spend so they see the reward. The key is rewards need to be attainable.

SFES is much farther ahead than they were last year with the completion of the Family Files.

Now families can opt in to text messages as well as email reminders. For Friday at the Ice Cream Social, the school is hoping to get people signed up for family file and text message options so they will need help at front signing people up.

Picture day is Monday.

If you can access Synergy (Connect), you can access all of students test stores.

PTA should set up a dropbox to download pictures of PTA events. Now the yearbook needs to be a school piece because of the security of students. There is a contract between the school system and the yearbook company, with the purpose being to protecting the privacy of parents not wishing to have their students photographed and published.

### **Programs – Krista Threefoot**

2 changes to the event calendar: Art Night date is now January 19<sup>th</sup> and Bingo is now February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The big program currently starting is Reflections. The description of the Reflections Program is given. The purpose of the program is to encourage kids to think out of the box. The theme is: “What is your story?”

We will need help with the program, especially with judging. The other piece of the program will be Art Night.

Last year we applied for a grant through Howard County Arts Council Board, and SFES won the 2017 Artists-in-Education grant. This will be for a Chesapeake Bay themed mosaic for the front entrance for the school. Mrs. Malihom will be working with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to design this, and then a local professional artist will come to help design and install it.

### **Fundraising - Jessica Majahan**

Amazon has a smiles.amazon.com icon that anyone can go on before shopping at Amazon and SFES will get a small percentage of profit for that shopping. This also can be tied to individual Amazon Prime accounts. Just make sure to go to the Smiles.Amazon.com link first when shopping at Amazon to earn these rewards for SFES.

Jessica is also trying to work through BJ's to get BJ's to donate money based on number of people from SFES who use it. They do have rewards programs for this, but we have to get all of the information and get it set up first.

### **Ice Cream Social – Daphne Harrington**

There is a brief discussion about the ICS. We will have membership and a welcome to new families table in the front of the school, as well as the Family Files table to complete these forms. We will serve the ice cream and basic toppings in the cafeteria, which will have open floor space and only the serving tables. The special toppings will be served in the hallway by the bathrooms, which will be provided by SFES administration for Family File completion. Finally, we'd like to encourage our families to go outside and enjoy the nice weather, where we will serve snowcones by the back door. Volunteers can show up at 6:15, setup will begin at 6.

**Bylaws –** SFES bylaws are due in November. We need to form a bylaws committee to read through and discuss any changes we would like to make to the bylaws.

**School of Excellence celebration** – There is a brief discussion about timing and who to invite to the School of Excellence celebration. A decision is made to try to hold the celebration before the October 5<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting.

A motion to approve the SOE celebration date for Oct 5<sup>th</sup> is made.

The motion is approved and seconded and there is vote approval for the celebration to be on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**PTACHC** – Jacqueline Jacobs

Dr. Foose came to the most recent PTACHC meeting and she took up most of the meeting, rest of meeting was quick and meeting minutes haven't gone out yet. She will forward notes out once she receives them.

**Closing Remarks** -

There is a brief discussion about having a Trunk or Treat event with Talbott Springs Elementary School. There are a few concerns expressed, such as hope for participation of decorating trunks not just trick or treat kids, and all candy bought by just a few, plus this all right before Halloween. But there is interest to pursue the event even after expressing the concerns.

**The meeting is adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – GT and Band/Strings Enrichment Night 6:30-7:45

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> – Ice Cream Social 6:30-8:30

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> – Board of Education Meeting and Public Hearing 6:00 @ the BOE

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – Schools and Offices Closed

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> – PTA Council of Howard County Meeting 7:30 @ the Homewood Center

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> – SFES PTA Meeting and School of Excellence Ceremony

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Schools and Offices Closed