Ilchester Elementary PTA

Minutes November 14, 2017

**In attendance:** Dr. Joy Smith, Dr. Mariah Carr, Beth Roberts, Marissa Carothers, Ashlei Pinkham, Amy LoPresti, Sunny Zhao, Tonya Sigalas, Ginny Zimmerman, Frances Keenan, Laurie George

**Call to Order:** PTA President Marissa Carothers called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Principal’s Report:** Dr. Smith made a Power Point presentation with MAP testing results. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments are computer adaptive achievement tests in Mathematics and Reading. The tests are benchmarks for a student’s reading and math growth over time. This school year MAP will be given three times for Grade 1-2 and twice for Grade 3-5. Report cards will go home on Friday Nov 17. The math results of Grade 6+ (GT students and 5th grader on above grade level) increased impressively from 90% in the spring 2017 to 99% in the fall 2017. Teachers will check with the students who are not met the benchmark.

Dr. Smith gave staff updates. IES hired two long-term substitutes. A permanent teacher was hired and will start on Monday after Thanksgiving. IES is looking for a permanent GT teacher to fill a GT vacancy.

**Assistant Principal’s Report:** Dr. Carr reported that the first Chat and Chew with IES Administrators on October 25th went well. A lot of parents participated. She was kind of surprised that some parents thought of the School Improvement Plan as building improvement plans. The next Chat and Chew will be on December 12th @ 6:30pm before the PTA meeting.

Grade 3 and grade 5 students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) on Dec 5-7. The results from CogAT will be used for Gifted and Talented (GT) programs placement. Testing will last 3-days and takes 8 to 10 minutes each day.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Amy LoPresti shared handouts with the Profit & Loss Budget Performance for July through October 2017. Amy presented the details. Membership dues met the 100% goal as planned. The fundraisings have 3% deposits. The main fundraising event Read-a-thon didn’t meet the goal. We need start a spring fundraiser to meet the budget. So far 75% of the direct donation was received. For the Grade-level Enrichment donation, Kindergarten is the lowest at $670 and 5th grade is the highest at $975. The income from the Boxtops of Education dropped from the previous years. No expenses are spent for fundraising and education yet. The 66% of Staff Hospitality budget was spent on the back to school luncheon. Donations for the staff hospitality were received for the staff conference dinner. The current balance is $9841.

**President’s Report:** According to the bylaw, a nominating committee of at least 3 persons need be formed 2 months before the next PTA election. The president, secretary and treasurer positions need be filled to have a PTA. The current executive board and committee chairpersons will have a huge turnover next year. Dr. Carr mentioned that teachers can be officers in PTA, too.

**PTACHC Delegate:** Amy McCarthy reported back from PTACHC meeting about HCDrugFree presentation. In Howard County there have been 45 fatal opioid overdoses and 141 non-fatal opioid overdoses so far this year. That’s around 20 such incidents each month. The head of HCDrugFree discussed how kids get started, what can be done in a preventive manner, etc. The current “trends” in high school and middle school include vaping in class, vodka in water bottles, and edible marijuana in the form of gummy bears and raspberry hard candies. Volunteers are needed to assist at the bi-annual Drug Take Back Days (the next will be in April).

Tonya shared the drug related information in Bonnie Branch Middle School (BBMS) and Howard High School. Parents need get educated and be aware of signs at home such as pens emptied or soda can with holes. BBMS invited a lacrosse athlete who was a drug addict talked to the kids for awareness.

**Bulletin Board and Newsletter:** Ashlei Pinkham thanked the committee chairs for sending materials for bulletin board and newsletter. The current bulletin board showcases the Square 1 Art products. Next one will be a winter theme.

For the newsletter, Ashlei asked if the contents can show up in the email body instead of as an attachment. The disadvantage will be that the format will be lost. People in the meeting praised the new format of the newsletter and thought the PDF attachment file was fine.

**Cultural Arts:** Drs. Smith and Carr commented that the performance from the Maryland State Boychoir on November 3rd was incredible. The presentation from Dr. Recess on November 6th was also a hit.

Kelly Green reported the future cultural arts events. An assembly *“Outside the (beat)box” with Mr. Max Bent* will be on January 2nd. *Sadecky’s Puppets* will give a performance for Grades K-2 on January 22nd. In celebration of Black History month, the *Smithsonian Discovery Theater* will come to Ilchester on February 28th to perform “How old is a Hero?”.

IES has been awarded a Howard County Arts Council grant to bring back Poet-in-Residence, Laura Shovan to work with 4th grade classes during their poetry unit.

**Read-a-Thon:** Heather Tom reported that Ilchester readers raised over $5,845 for our PTA and school. The total number of minutes of reading completed was 61,637. Mrs. Jenkins’ class read for the most time among all classes – 9,635 minutes. Readers will receive the prizes at school soon.

**Holiday Book Fair:** Ginny Zimmerman reported that PTA will be holding a Bookfair at the Long Gate Barnes and Noble at 5-8pm on December 6th. Five stories read by IES teachers were signed up. She will ask Ms. Maglocci and Ms. Baker to see if the orchestra or band in IES can perform. The 10% of the book sale will go to the PTA. There will be recommend book lists with gift ideas created by our reading support teachers and a gift-wrapping station.

Tonya gave a great idea to attract kids to participate. A previous event was of Pirate theme. Kids searched a box full of keys and only one key can open the treasure chest to get a prize.

**Restaurant Night:** Regina Brown reported that the IES PTA upcoming Restaurant Nights are scheduled as follows:

* Tuesday, November 28, 2017 (all day) – Tino’s Italian Bistro
* Wednesday, December 13, 2017 – CAVA
* Thursday, January 18, 2018 – Cheeburger Cheeburger
* Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Uno Pizzeria & Grill
* Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – Chick-fil-a (Executive Park Drive location)

Flyers were dropped off at Tino’s on November 5th for distribution by the restaurant. Email blasts and flyers will also be sent out to the IES community prior to the Tino’s Restaurant Night. Tino’s will donate 10% of the entire day’s sales for eat in, delivery or carry-out. For large parties, Tino’s requests that families make a reservation by calling the restaurant in advance, if possible.

**Shutterfly/Tiny Prints:** Colleen Howland promoted the Shutterfly fundraiser through email and newsletter. The IES PTA will earn 13% back on the purchases when the orders are through the link.

**Staff Conference Dinner:** Carol Scott reported the following items about the dinner that being provided by PTA on November 20th:

* Theme = Harvest Decadence
* Menu
  + Fall Harvest Salad
  + Two Scratch-Made Soups: Chicken Tortilla; Butternut Squash
  + Cornbread Muffins, Dinner Rolls, Almond Flour Biscuits
  + Entree: (Finalizing a couple options depending on final amount of money collected)
  + Delicious Dessert Assortment
* Gift Card Giveaway: we've collected an assortment of about 25 gift cards donated by 12 area restaurants and 2 nail salons. Gift cards range in value from $5 to $25 and as of right now, total $470 in value. We may try to get a few more this week. We have a couple fun quick large group activities planned to determine winners!
* PARENT DONATIONS: Sign-Up Genius Donations pledges total $900. As of right now, parents have sent in $540 total in gift cards and cash-- we've sent individual thank-you's to everyone who has contributed. Expecting a few more today, hopeful that everyone will send in what they signed up for.
* A special, huge THANK YOU to who donated for their generosity.

**Square 1 Art:** Danielle Rao reported that the Square 1 Art order forms went to the student’s Friday folders last week. So far 5% orders were received. This year we have a short deadline. People usually order at the last day. The deadline will be extended one week if needed.

**Talent Show:** The talent show performance (K-2rd grade) on November 3rd went well. Dr. Carr comments that the kids were cute. The 3rd-5th grade talent show performance will be on November 17th.

**Sweetheart Dance:** Danna Stanyard proposed to have a family dance to replace the Moms/Dads on Campus at last PTA meeting. She also volunteered for the Junior Achievement Day. Both events need a lot of volunteers. By next month, we need decide if we want to do the sweetheart dance in the spring and discuss the specifics.

**Math Night at Restaurant:** GT resource teacher Ms. Beth Roberts proposed to have a math night at a restaurant setting. It will be fun for kids to do math with the family. Problem solving activities will be provided while waiting in line or at the table. The prize can be “no homework pass” or cheetah bucks. Ms. Roberts will reach out to Regina to see if any of the restaurant night works. She will also talk to the math committee to see if the teachers are available to come to the event.

**Adjournment:** Marissa adjourned the meeting at 8:14pm.