Ilchester Elementary PTA

Minutes October 9, 2017

**In attendance:** Dr. Joy Smith, Dr. Mariah Carr, Carrie Jenkins, Marissa Carothers, Amy McCarthy, Danielle Rao, Ashlei Pinkham, Amy LoPresti, Sunny Zhao, Christine Case, Regina Brown, Danna Stanyard, Kelly Green, Katie Keefe, Momina Malik, Fran Keenan, Jen Furst, Kelley Flesher, Jeanene Reeves

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

**Principal’s Report:** Dr. Smith noted that she and Dr. Carr intend on bringing the Junior Achievement (“JA”) program back to IES. The plan is to schedule a tentative date by this Friday, hopefully to occur sometime in the Spring, likely March or April. JA involves a day of financial literacy lessons for all students K-5 involving parents, staff, and community partners. The curriculum for JA is aligned with common core. The last time that JA was done at IES, a teaching intern handled the scheduling and volunteer aspect. Dr. Smith asked for a parent volunteer to recruit other volunteers and handle such matters for this year. Danna Stanyard volunteered.

Staff is excited about the Read-a-thon kick-off. Mrs. Legambi worked with the Technology Department and created a fantastic video that was shown to students to motivate them to read as part of the fundraiser. Morning announcements will include Read-a-thon reminders twice a week. Staff requested that reminders be sent out to parents once each week until the completion of the fundraiser on October 31.

Dr. Smith happily reported that she has been having lunch on Wednesdays with students. She is currently meeting with 10 5th graders for lunch (2 from each class as selected by the teachers). They share information about themselves and discuss ways to improve the experiences and environment at IES. Dr. Smith plans to move on to 4th grade once 5th grade is completed, and so on.

**Assistant Principal’s Report:** the next Indoor Environmental Quality (“IEQ”) walk through for IES is scheduled for October 25 from 10am – 12pm. It involves some brief training as to what to look for to ensure that the building is environmentally sound, such as cracked floor tiles, stained ceiling tiles, and the like. She requested a parent volunteer to participate as part of the process. Fran Keenan volunteered her husband, Greg.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Amy LoPresti did not present a written report as no transactions have taken place since the last produced report. The 2017-2018 budget was approved at Back to School Bingo. Teachers with line items will soon receive an email from Amy regarding the amount available to them to spend, what the money may rightfully be spent on, and how to seek reimbursement. The audit was completed successfully.

**President’s Report:** Now that the “Student Hospitality” has been approved, the next step will be for the administration to determine how to best proceed. Drs. Smith and Carr will discuss and report back. Marissa attended the Howard County Arts Council awards ceremony in place of Kelly Green. The PTA is still in need of a 1st VP, ideally someone that will focus on fundraising, as well as a Secretary. In December or January she hopes to have a nominating committee formed to assist with recruiting parents to serve in vacant positions. There is an opportunity for a parent to serve on the Community Advisory Council (“CAC”), which meets once each month for 2 hours to discuss concerns and ideas for what goes on within HCPSS. The next meeting is on the 17th of October.

**Moms and Dads on Campus:** Danna Stanyard met with Drs. Smith and Carr to share concerns about MDC, and found that they had similar concerns (including, but not limited to, it being a low-value activity, conflicts with testing schedules, volume of people and noise, and challenges for working parents). She is proposing that we discontinue this program. In place, she is proposing a family dance. This is in the very early stages of planning, as she wanted feedback from the PTA prior to investing a good bit of time. Danna consulted parents at Rockburn, who have a Halloween dance in lieu of a parade. All come in costume. She also consulted parents at Worthington, who have a sweetheart dance. She suggests each student bring a family member or members, it be held on a Friday evening from 6-8, and be open to all grades. Kids can dress-up, there would be a DJ in the gym, crafts, food, and photo opportunities in the cafeteria, prizes, etc. She estimates a required budget of approximately $800, including $350 for a DJ, a craft budget, a decorations budget, perhaps a food budget, though there was talk of food being donation-based. Unsure if we would like to charge for tickets. Looking for approximately 20 volunteers the evening of, perhaps to include middle school siblings? She was advised to talk with Tonya Sigalas as she puts on successful dances at BBMS. There was also a suggestion of involving a dance instructor at the event. Someone raised food trucks as an option, to which Dr. Smith responded that HCPSS’s determination is that food trucks can be used, provided they are County-approved.

**Teacher Representative:** Carrie Jenkins passed on many thanks from teachers Kettering and Hedden for the headphones provided by the PTA. She also said that teachers have asked how they can best help with and support the Read-a-thon.

**PTACHC Delegate:** Sunny Zhao noted presentations given at the most recent PTACHC meeting by the Special Education Citizen Advisory Committee (“SECAC”), Howard County Autism Society, and Howard County Office of Children and Families. The presentations included meeting dates and services offered.

**Talent Show:** Momina Malik said that she is getting ready for the upcoming auditions and talent show. She would like to find a way to tie it in to Mrs. Maglocci’s school play needs, perhaps through concessions or direct donations. Amy LoPresti will review whether or not additional need remains, given the recent increase to the play’s budget.

**Box Tops:** Terri Jones’ proposal for the winning grade is an additional 15 minutes of recess time, which Dr. Smith approved.

**Coat Drive:** Reminder given regarding the coat drive

**School Directory:** Will likely be distributed next Friday. IES’ family file is at 80% completion

**Cultural Arts:** Kelly Green reported that, at the end of September IES had its first assembly of the year. It centered on an anti-bullying theme and was put on by Omegaman. There are two assemblies scheduled for November. On November 3, the Maryland State Boys Choir will perform for grades 3-5. On November 6 Dr. Recess will do two back-to-back assemblies, and then spend time outside with the children during their recess periods to show them how to implement what he discussed. Dr. recess was requested by the P.E. teachers. Kelly proposes that an assembly be scheduled for the first day back from Winter Break. She also received another grant this year to be put towards the Poet in Residence who is coming in March and will be here for 3-4 weeks.

**Membership:** Katie Keefe reported 195 current PTA members, approximately 40 of which are Staff.

**Read-a-Thon:** Heather Tom reported that, as of this date, $2,446 dollars have been raised, with $1,834 of that going to the PTA.

**Coupon Books:** Heather Tom reported that, as of Monday we have received 23 orders for books, from which the PTA has earned $230.

**Restaurant Night:** Regina Brown reported that the next restaurant night is November 28 at Tino’s, and that Cava has been added to the roster for this school year.

**Shutterfly:** Heavy promotion for the Shutterfly fundraiser will begin in November

**Spiritwear:** Marissa reported that the deadline to order spiritwear may be extended. She will research and report back.

**Square 1 Art:** Danielle Rao reported that the art teachers are both involved in the artwork for the fundraiser and that the children’s projects are underway. Her deadline by which to ship the artwork is mid to late October.

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