**Ilchester Elementary School PTA Board Meeting**

**May 21, 2014**

**Board Member Attendees:**

David Adelman, Maryann DellaRocco, Paul Norfolk, Glenna Deekle, Beth Benoit, Amy LoPresti, Momina Malik, Regina Brown, Amy Rice, Tonya Sigalas, Danielle Rao, Carrie Jenkins, David Walter, Heath Tom, Judy Maurer, Erica Zoren, Lindsay Miller, Tina Hill

**Meeting Summary**

**President’s Report**

* Hospitality
  + Budget of $1,200 used to be $600 for Hospitality
  + New committee head needs additional funds for meals
  + List of meals Hospitality Committee conducts each year: August back to school lunch, November conference dinner, February conference dinner, etc.- 8 events for $1200
  + In the past the budget relied on donated food and used a portion of the budgeted funds for prizes and gift cards using games like Game Show etc.
  + The hospitality chair is uncomfortable asking parents for donations vs. paying for catered meals
  + It is difficult to make the online signup and chase people to sign up and bring in their items
  + The current chair will finish out the year coordinating meals
  + Last year the PTA paid for a Chinese New Year celebration costing $700 for the meal for teachers
    - This decision was made early in the year when the PTA board was new and not aware of possible considerations such as an event for the students rather than a meal for staff, appropriate cost and menu for a staff meal, etc. Ultimately parents did conduct classroom exercises for Chinese New Year with students.
    - The PTA cannot support this meal again due to the cost and the exclusiveness of other ethnic and religious holidays.
    - Motion to not hold a Chinese New Year dinner by Heather Tom, 2nded by Beth Benoit, all were in favor
* Budget
  + We have a budget surplus we need to spend. There is approximately $20,000 in checking account
  + Mr. Adelman’s wish list:
    - School has already purchased a projection system in the cafeteria they bought for $6,000
    - IPads for all teachers would be appreciated
      * Kindergarten teachers will receive Ipads in November
  + Parent suggestions the PTA has heard:
    - buddy bench ($2k) to connect kids to play at recess
    - sound absorbing panels for the cafeteria
    - under desk bicycle pedals (who gets to use it)
    - chair bands
    - teacher conference pool (risk of carrying over year after year)
    - With Ipads, teachers could use cameras for pictures and videos for the end of year slide show, iPads could be used by students as well, etc.
    - color printers for the teams were also suggested by the teacher rep
    - More ideas welcome!
  + Vote for how to spend PTA funds at next meeting in November
* Board Elections
  + President wanted the board to discuss what we do at the end of this academic year (2015) because we need to determine how to stagger the Board Members so that we do not have all new board members again
  + President, 1st VP and Secretary, alternate years for elections with Treasurer and 2nd VP
  + Going forward, we need to have elections every year for half of the Board Members
  + The Band-Aid approach for this year will be to have a few Board Members with 3 year terms even if it means in a different role
  + Next meeting we will share which board members would be willing to stay on
  + At the STEM Fair or Night of Excellence, we will gather all attendees for a PTA vote
* Rub Goldberg project has asked for a PTA donation totaling $150
  + Motion to approve the donation
  + Motion seconded and all were in favor
* Cultural Arts Events
  + Cultural Arts Chair has an opportunity to add 3 additional performances for $3,000
  + 1 event per month is normal according to Mr. Norfolk
  + Mr. Norfolk relayed that Cultural Arts programming provides additional planning and preparation time including report cards and other paperwork for teaching staff
  + Programs are curriculum based and are supported by school administrators because they bring the world into the school building
  + Parents at the PTA meeting were concerned that Cultural Programs remove students from classroom learning
  + Early dismissal days are not available for additional programming because the cafeteria is in use all day
  + There were some questions about March-May 2015 timing for programming because it is too busy a time of year with testing, time off, schoolwork, etc.
  + The PTA agreed to ask for more detail on additional Cultural Arts programming for next month’s meeting before we vote

* Calvin Ball, candidate running for Howard County Council, joined our PTA
* Mail
  + The PTA received notification of a new housing development behind Trinity and Cider Mill. The development will have 17 homes and the developers will offer opportunities for community input.
* Wellness Policy
  + Some parents in attendance at the PTA meeting feel Policy 9090 is too restrictive and is not being applied consistently throughout the school
  + Policy 9090 applies to school celebrations not individual snacks
  + PTAC reps offered to initiate a discussion of the policy at their meeting

**Principal’s Report**

* Thank you to staff for attending the PTA meeting
* The new security system is working- secretaries need to move to a different location to complete their assigned work due to the demands on their time with the new system- In addition, all the classrooms now have walls and doors
* The principal is notified directly when there is a security issue
* Mr. Langevin won the Howard County Elementary School Teacher Career Award which is well deserved
* The school is working toward a Green Schools Recertification with Ms. Kettering
* New students at Ilchester are being paired with an existing student through a buddy system. The system requires the buddies to complete a checklist of visits to various areas in the school and also requires the buddies to eat lunch and play together for a week. Watch the Ilchester buddy system video on YouTube!
* PTA has a liaison for all new Ilchester families- a letter will be included in each welcome packet

**Teacher’s Report**

* Thank you to the PTA- everyone is so generous- it is like a private school- vocabulary books coordinated by PTA- your time and generosity are greatly appreciated

**Treasurer**

* $1174.84 savings
* $2,670.00 for membership
* Direct donations- $5,820
* $1,600 short of our goal but still have a couple of events.
* $85/teacher- teachers need to get a letter that they can submit receipts
* Enhancement fund available when?

**Box Tops**

$1,600 collected- another collection will be conducted in the spring- Ms. Miselli won the contest and Ms. Sagi came in 2nd place

**PTAC**

* No votes
* Presentation on Board of Education members in context of elections
  + It is important that they cooperate and collaborate and represent the decision whether they agree or not
  + Board members individually have no authority- it is only as a group- Board of Ed members should be in the role to serve the greater good
* Telahealth in 5 schools expanding into minute clinics- prescribe medicines- UMD doctors skyped in
  + It is optional- initial registration and then approval for treatment at the time of an incident
  + A parent spoke at PTAC that it has been beneficial to the community
  + A doctor on PTAC had issue with the model- one vendor for all equipment
  + The clinics are a partnership with the HC Health Department
* New elementary school model

**Talent Show**

* Auditions done
* Shows scheduled for 7th and 14th
* Tokens for students who participate? They got ribbons and certificates last year which seemed ok.

**Adjourn**