Ilchester Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2017

**Attendees:** Dr. Joy Smith, Dr. Mariah Carr, Carrie Jenkins, Marissa Carothers, Amy McCarthy, Amy LoPresti, Sunny Zhao, Tanya Sigalas, Laurie George, Frances Keenan, Ginny Zimmerman

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

**Principal’s Report:** Dr. Smith thanked Tanya Sigalas for providing the necessary temporary coverage in the GT department. The vacant position will be filled by Mrs. Koenig. Mrs. Koenig’s position will be filled by a highly qualified 5th grade teacher coming out of Towson, Morgan McDaniel. She will begin observing Mrs. Koenig and her classroom asap.

**Assistant Principal’s Report:** Dr. Carr reported that the Cogat assessment is complete and any make-ups are currently being conducted. They should be complete by the end of the week. Dr. Carr also reported that she will be communicating with Mrs. Robertson as to the scheduling of Jr. Cheetah day and will report back.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Amy LoPresti reported that the PTA is currently at 83% of what was expected for membership. Overall fundraising is at 9% of what was projected for the year. The Read-a-thon profit, which was about 25% of what was planned, will count towards the December incoming funds. 87% of the goal for direct donations and grade-level enhancements have been received. Overall the PTA is at 28% of its budgeted income. In the fiscal year, $14,000 was brought in and $3,600 was sent out.

**President’s Report:** Marissa reported that she spoke with Mrs. Roberts to inquire as to whether she would like to be on the PTA nominating committee. Mrs. Roberts said yes. There was a brief discussion as to the vacant board for next year, how to recruit, how to best solicit and when, etc. Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Roberts are going to talk with the K-3 teachers to ask about parents that have shown leadership skills, with the hope of sparking interest and involvement with the PTA. A discussion was held about sending out a survey monkey – the pros and cons, purpose, etc. Frances will compile the survey and hopes to have it prepared for January. Tanya reported that, informally, Howard County’s policy is to hold high school PTA meetings during the first week of the month, middle school PTA meetings the second week of the month, and elementary school meetings the 3rd week of the month.

**Teacher Representative:** Mrs. Jenkins passed on the Staff’s many thanks for the conference dinner. Mrs. Jenkins reported that STEAM Day is approaching again, and that Mrs. Kettering has asked that STEAM Day and the STEAM Fair not be managed by the same committee, as handling both tends to be too much work. Discussions were held regarding the differences between STEAM Day and the STEAM Fair, and whether we should have one or both. The proposal from Staff was that the PTA handle STEAM night, which involves logistical matters such as applications, placement within the school, brochure production, set up, clean up, etc. STEAM Day is in March. Dr. Smith asked for more information as to what would be required of the PTA prior to a decision being made.

**PTACHC Delegate:** Sunny Zhao reported that Howard County Delegates were present at the December PTACHC meeting to discuss education-related local bills, such as the term-length for the superintendent and the Board of Education’s request for the power to fire a superintendent.

**Cultural Arts:** “Outside the Beat Box” and “Heidi” are two upcoming events for students.

**Fundraising:**

**-Read-a-thon:** Student readers raised $7,794, which our PTA received 75% of. Ms. Sears’ class raised the highest amount; Ms. Hoge’s class raised the 2nd highest amount. A discussion was held on the lack of enthusiasm and what might help to remedy the issue. Heather Tom recommends not doing a Read-a-thon in Fall but rather in Winter.

**-Book Fair:** B&N Book Fair brought in approximately $5,000 the first night (from which the PTA received approximately $700). Over 100 students entered the gingerbread house contest, showing that we had a great turn-out. A discussion was held on the great community feel surrounding the event.

**-Shutterfly:** This year the PTA has received $255 from the fundraiser.

**-Future Fundraising:** Amy LoPresti remarked that the current PTA owes it to the incoming PTA to have a fall fundraiser lined up. Laurie George suggested a basketball shoot-a –thon. Tanya Sigalas talked about achieving a connection between staff and family as in challenges held years ago when the Assistant Principal kissed a pig and the Principal shaved his head after losing. Dr. Smith says she would be willing to take a pie in the face. Ginny Zimmerman was asked to make a proposal for next fall’s fundraiser. Marissa and Danna Stanyard emailed regarding the proposed Sweetheart Dance. Danna is willing to help but not willing to Chair. After reviewing Danna’s notes, approximate costs, etc. combined with a lack of enthusiasm, it appears this specific idea will not move forward. Discussions were held as to a modified dance, including grade-specific dances as suggested by Tanya. She will look into the viability and report back. Ginny discussed possible spring fundraiser ideas, including a 5k and/or Fun Run to be held in April at the earliest. Pros and cons of weekend versus school day timing was discussed. Dr. Smith will follow up with the principal at Bellows Springs as they hold a fun run during the school day. Ginny also proposed a “fitness fair,” which would involve bringing in local personal trainers, yoga instructors, etc. She will meet with the PE teachers in January to discuss and will report back.

**Adjournment:** Marissa adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20pm.