

PTA MEETING NOTES October 19, 2015

Attendees:

David Adelman, Sue Nickles, Glenna Deekle, Beth Benoit, Amy McCarthy, Sunny Zhao, Tonya Sigalas, Momina Malik, Regina Brown, Amy LoPresti, Melissa Daniels, Tracy Stansbury, Amy Mitchell, Jen Grimes, Christina Rosendorf, Marissa Carothers

President's Welcome

Introductions

President's Update – Beth Benoit:

- Thanks to all the volunteers who have done so much recently for the PTA including Tina Hill, Christine Case, Shannon Kraft, Ginny Zimmerman, Karen Frankovic, Kelly Green, Mary Leigh Marsden, Leslie Silverman and all the PTA Executive Committee members. Thank you!
- The coat drive is ending today, 10/19/15. The coats need to be sorted 10/20/15 at 1:00pm if anyone is available to help.
- IES will be collecting Candy for Our Troops. The collection will take place November 2-10 for Halloween and other candy in your house. Beth will take it to the USO at BWI.
- IES's Facebook page and the PTA portion of IES's web site will be managed by Beth and Regina while Kathy is with her ill son.
- We discussed a possible new PTA Newsletter schedule (maybe every two weeks instead of weekly). The conversation revolved around trying to improve readership. It is clear that we need to try and get more people to read it. Beth will be writing a Friday Folder letter citing important pieces of information that are contained in the newsletter, as well as instructions for finding the newsletter on the website and using the Facebook page. There was a recommendation to send the newsletter home in Friday Folders monthly or periodically. Cheetah Chatter is sent every other week and a handful of families get a hard copy because they don't have email. There are 500-plus households on the youngest and only list so that would be a lot of paper and work. Newsletters are on the website now and an e-mail blast has a link to go to the website. Everyone gets so many e-mails and some parents have overlooked things. It was suggested that blurbs would be better to which Beth responded that email blasts do include blurbs about current things and they are included in the newsletter, plus everything is on Facebook. Events are also on the announcements for students and staff to hear. Stickers do work for the day of the event but again it is wasteful and another task someone needs to manage. Beth will send a letter to make sure parents know the importance of the newsletter and how to connect to it. It was also suggested that the letter include asking for more parents to become PTA members. We have 259 members including 65 staff. Another idea was to make magnets with dates for events at the beginning of the year. Another idea was to put a code word in the newsletter so kids can get a prize or raffle ticket if their parents read the newsletter and give them the code word.
- Beth proposed potentially putting money in the budget for advertising. She suggested small ground signs with pertinent dates and information to increase our visual advertising.

- Beth asked that chairpersons provide follow-up information to Regina on the outcomes of their campaign for the newsletter. We are seeking details for the newsletter on money raised and total numbers of families that supported the fundraiser, etc. Tonya needs committee members to give her their forms, flyers or other relevant information for the bulletin board as well.
- T-Bonz has a Kids-Eat-Free program on Tuesday and Thursday if children wear Ilchester spirit wear.
- The Target Red Card reward program has been discontinued.
- Volunteer positions available:
 - The IES Talent Show will be held November 18-19. The Ilchester Talent Show Committee is looking for Parent volunteers to help us through the Audition process as well as the final performances in November. If you are interested, please contact Momina Malik at ilchestertalentshow@gmail.com.
 - The PTA is seeking a Co-Chairperson/s for Staff Appreciation Week (May 9-13, 2016) to oversee the daily food events. For more information or questions, please contact Tonya Sigalas at tonsig3@gmail.com.
 - The Ilchester PTA, in collaboration with IES Administration and Staff, will be hosting a Family Cultural Night this spring to showcase cultures and traditions of our diverse community. If you think you can help in any capacity, or need more information, please contact Momina Malik at iesculturalnight@gmail.com.
 - Molly Kuehl stepping down after five years doing Innisbrook so we will need someone for next year if we continue with this fundraiser.

Executive Committee Updates

Momina Malik:

- For the Talent Show we have added some rules. The auditions will be held 11/3 and 11/6. The Talent Show will be held 11/18 for primary grades and 11/19 for intermediate. The shows will be at 6:30pm. We have had a lot of trouble at past shows with getting the music at the final show. For that reason, students must have their music CD at the time of the audition. If they do not have the CD at the audition they will not be performing with the music or not performing. To make audition form collection easier, an e-mail will be sent out to teachers and para-educators explaining that there are collection boxes in the main office and mailroom for depositing audition forms. We will need volunteers for audition night. 30% of forms get filled out by students so Momina checks directory to make sure she has the right contact information. We are supposed to have the IES directory by the beginning of November. They are trying to accommodate parents and students schedules for auditions.
- We will be having a Family Cultural Night in the spring. We need volunteers to serve on committees. Not much physical labor is required. The kick-off committee meeting is scheduled for 11/20 at 8:30am if you are interested. The event will include tables to display family traditions and culturally relevant items. There will also be food and performances. The 4 subcommittees for the event are food, marketing, display, and performances. The event date is TBD.

Amy LoPresti:

- Amy distributed a financial highlights sheet. Our fundraising total is currently \$25,000 and our expectation is \$50,000. Membership revenue is on budget. Innisbrook is \$4,000 lower but maybe with on-line payments that will increase. Coupon books were about what we expected. We are \$1,000 lower in direct donations. We still have Spirit Wear, restaurant nights, and other things that could bump up our total cash but Amy is worried. Teams have been notified about their budgets. Teams were excited to have the PTA resources, especially Special Education and RECC. We have spent \$8,000 so far with hospitality, cultural arts, Bingo, etc. Beth plans to study the numbers and make adjustments as needed.

Glenna Deekle:

- Beth and Glenna had been discussing having a possible Ilchester Movie Night. Glenna called Snowden and Columbia Mall theaters and both could do group sales but not a fundraiser event. Meeting attendees suggested Hoyts in Linthicum and Hollywood in Arbutus. Beth thought we should look into showing a movie at Ilchester for free but possibly have a bake sale, popcorn and donation jar. A Polar Express PJ party was suggested. It was also suggested that we consider doing an outdoor movie when the weather is nice. It was suggested that we should check copyright laws to show a film. The technology team could probably answer the legal question of screening a movie. Glenna will do more research and let everyone know an update at the next meeting.
- A T-Bonz pancake breakfast fundraiser has been scheduled for January 23, 2016. They usually have 10 servers and 5 runners working the door and logistics. We discussed asking Ilchester teachers to volunteer to serve. The children would enjoy seeing their favorite teachers on a Saturday at breakfast. T-Bonz charges \$2.50/person and suggests that we charge \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids. They were happy to have a local restaurant considered for an event instead of just chains. They would also like us to have a restaurant night at the restaurant. Since their dining room is small we are scheduling 2 restaurant nights and dividing the students into 2 groups alphabetically. Someone said that Applebee's also does breakfast fundraisers and has more space.
- It was also suggested that we look at Daniel's in Elkridge which has an outdoor deck.

Sunny Zhao:

- PTAC Update
 - International Parent Leadership Program (IPLP) provides the opportunity for parents to gain knowledge about how the American school system, specifically the Howard County Public School System, operates and instructs their students. Application deadline was Oct 9, but something to potentially advertise next year.
 - 2nd Annual HCPSS Community 5K & Fun Run was held 10/11/15.
- Mindset Book Study
 - Fixed vs. Growth Mindset. Belief that intelligence, personality and character are carved in stone (Fixed) or can be developed (Growth).
 - FAIL = F(First) A(Attempt) I(Into) L(Learning)
- Building Facilities Management – Mold
 - Bill Santos, an engineer of National Archives, talked about the mold facts.
 - Mold always exists outside. Moisture and organic material can cause mold. High-level mold can cause disease.
- Health Environmental Committee
 - Five schools (Glenwood MS, Glenelg HS, Pointers Run ES, Mount View MS, and Centennial HS) found mold.

- BOE formed indoor environmental committee.
- PTAC wants to form its own Health Environmental Committee. Parents with any subject matter expertise are needed to join the committee and review the EPA guidelines.
- PTAC Technology Survey
 - To understand how parents feel about the current Use of technology, social media, and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) they have a short, 9-question on-line survey available until October 27.

Committee Updates:

Leslie Silverman: After-School Programs

Shannon Kraft: Back-to-School Bingo / Reading Program (w/Preba Devamanohar)

Christine Case: Box Tops for Education ship out 10/26/15. Over 7000 box tops counted so far. It is a lot of work so she is thinking about having a spring counting party! The winning class for fall will be sent out soon. The prize for the winning class is "Fun in the Gym with Mr. Adelman!". Mr. Adelman said he will determine the activity based on the age of the children.

Christina Rosendorf: The last Friday Folder contained a Coke Rewards Program flyer.

Momina Malik: Committee Procedure Documents

Terri Jones: Crayola ColorCycle Program boxes are almost ready.

Kelly Green: Cultural Arts – Almost all programs are in place. Wrote a grant to request an Artist-in-Residence – should hear back on acceptance before end of November.

Heather Tom: Giant A+ School Rewards / Junior Cheetah Day

Kim Drake: Health, Wellness & Environmental Friendliness

Melissa Daniels: Hospitality update was regarding the dinner for staff the week of conferences. Mr. Adelman suggested that the dinner be held Monday night and that the total for dinner is 100 staff starting at 5:00pm. Mr. Adelman will follow-up with Melissa soon. Beth asked about a sign-up genius. Melissa said it was easier to make the food herself but she can ask for drinks and paper goods. She may also ask for grocery store gift cards instead. Beth said that she knows her budget and will manage the dinner however she feels most comfortable.

Molly Kuehl: The Innisbrook profit was \$4,071.25. The minion key chains will come home with orders.

Ginny Zimmerman: The KidStuff Coupon Book sale sold 196 books with a total profit of \$2,450. 32% of families purchased a book. 90.6% of the books were returned or sold.

Tina Hill: The status of Membership/Donations is 259 members (191 parents and 68 staff) and for donations we collected \$5,431 in grade level enhancement and \$5,200 in direct donations.

Carole Veihmeyer: Moms/Dads on Campus - working on dates.

Mary Leigh Marsden: The Restaurant Night at Buffalo Wild Wings earned \$159. Tonya mentioned that it was the same night as a Chick-fil-A Orioles free sandwich night, but Mary Leigh said we had the same number of participants at BWW as last year. It was also shared that many people do not like the food at BWW.

Amy Mitchell: Room Parent Coordinator - Food Policy updates include a decision that 12 celebrations are exempt from Policy 9090 each school year. This is based on administrative discretion. People are not getting too crazy for Halloween parties. The home room parent Facebook page has discussions on collecting money for the year or per party. 24 room parents are on Facebook page. Dr. Foose is having a meeting to update everyone on policy. Mr. Adelman heard that many parties are planning to have refreshments that include salty, sweet, fruit and vegetables with water. It seems like we are somewhere in the middle, not where we were last year but not back to a free-for-all with junk food. Amy is sending e-mails to room parents who aren't on Facebook.

Andrea Ulrich: The School Directory will be out as soon as possible. We are waiting for the final Family File from HCPSS.

Debbie Wood: Spirit Wear will have a new form with a size chart. It also includes an IES blanket and car magnet. The attendees agreed that they like the paw print magnet. Beth said that the magnet may be available at Back-to-School night next year. There will also be a knit hat with the paw print. There is no on-line ordering. We are also hoping to see a spirit wear display in lobby.

Tonya Sigalas/Danielle Rao: Square 1 Art is going as expected. They are trying to get a piece from every student. The Art teachers know the schedule and are helping.

Tonya Sigalas: Staff Appreciation Week / D.O.G.S. Program - D.O.G.S. is a national program ("Dads of Great Students"). The start-up kit is \$365. The dad pays for the t-shirt (about \$11.95). At Bellows there were dads that had trouble with committing a whole day. The dad wears the shirt and helps with buses and goes around to classes like PE, reading a story, going to recess, talks on the announcements in the morning, high fives all the kids, students and dads get a picture and there was a display of photos with dad and child. You get a wall of fame banner in the start-up kit for photos. Sign-up at Bellows was only one day since there was so much interest and it filled up immediately. The dads are literally so busy they don't think about it being a whole day. Mr. Adelman asked who ran it at the school. A dad was in charge of the committee. Who makes the dad's schedule for the day was the question Mr. Adelman had. The dads get a lunch break. Beth asked if we should ease into it and do one dad per week perhaps. We need more information before we proceed.

Karen Frankovic: Workbooks were purchased by 83% and we were only missing a few payments. Mr. Adelman and Karen Frankovic will discuss the missing payments.

Principal's Report: David Adelman

- Very unfortunately, incidents have occurred this year and last year with cash disappearing. There is a new procedure developed by Mr. Adelman with his office staff: Accordion folders for payments will be located in each homeroom. Mr. Adelman will have a drawer stack in his office (which is the most secure location) and payments will be deposited there. Cathy will have to let PTA chairs collect their payments from his office. This is a little more work for everyone, but since there are seven ways in/out of the main office area, this is the most secure procedure. Everyone will benefit from the new system.

Assistant Principal's Report: Sue Nickles

Teacher's Report: Tracy Stansbury

Things to think about for future discussion:

- 1) Fundraising strategy/ideas for next year such as a possible large event or one-time donation per family. We have discussed a fun-run in the past. Fulton did it last year and it was a lot of work but they raised \$60,000. Ms. Nickles has a contact we could reach out to on this subject. A fall event would require summer planning. Other ideas include a mum sale, some type of "run" event, a Spring outdoor event, vendor night (Beth is not a fan of this as the only money you can make is on table rental, plus vendors require legal contracts), or holiday shop (PTA buys all the items and resells). Roller skating is too much liability. Last year we did a survey and many people (of the ones that responded) seemed to want individual fundraisers, but we think we need to change things up. Please think about new ideas.
- 2) Give-away/sale of something at next Back-to-School nights.

No questions.

Next meeting: Monday, November 16, 2015 – 7:00pm – Media Center

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