

PTA MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2016

Attendees:

David Adelman, Sue Nickles, Glenna Deekle, Beth Benoit, Momina Malik, Kelly Green, Sunny Zhao, Amy LoPresti, Melissa Daniels, Amy McCarthy, Laurie George, Heather Tom, Tina Hill, Ashlei Pinkham, Danielle Rao, Christina Rosendorf, Christine Case, Debbie Feeley

President's Welcome

President's Update – Beth Benoit:

- Committee Chairs – Continuation? Are you going to continue next year? Some people have shared their decisions, but Beth would like to know as soon as possible for planning and transition purposes.
- Executive Committee position opening: Regina Brown is stepping down as 1st Vice President. If you are interested and want details of the position, please contact Beth.
- Committee Procedure Documents: Due by the end of the school year to Momina Malik. If you will continue in your committee, then just keep updating your document. If you are not continuing, please complete your committee/activity procedure document and e-mail to Momina as soon as possible.
- Discussed a potential Spring fundraiser that could be used year-round (“Smencils”). It was decided that a better use would be to purchase paw print car magnets, paw-print pencils, paw-print rubberized bracelets, pennants, etc. Beth will order products. Also to have samples of T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. available definitely at Back-to-School nights and possibly Open House for ordering, plus other events. Ms. Nickles suggested talking to Debbie Miller who does the staff’s spirit wear (she provides size samples and a quick turn-around). Beth will investigate vendor. Color-change cups were also mentioned, as well as potential items for holiday gifts for extended family members (like adult size shirts and insulated cups). Also mentioned were pencil pouches, cups with a straw, string backpacks and rulers. Amy LoPresti said we could supply \$500 for purchases and see how much we sell. Once we make a profit, we could reinvest in more merchandise.
- An attendee asked if we could produce a card with all fundraisers, rewards and codes. Beth can produce for Open House or Back-to-School nights.
- BBMS is looking for officers for next year (President, 2nd VP and PTAC Rep). Heather Tom can help answer questions.
- Do we want to investigate a “Dad” program for next year? There is a national program called “D.O.G.S” (stands for Dads of Great Students) where one Dad spends the day on campus going to lunches, recess, bus arrival, etc. Jen Grimes initially shared the program because they had it at Bellows Springs and it was very successful. Special T-shirts are given to each Dad. The “Dad” could also be another caring adult like a Grandfather or Uncle. Everyone agreed that they liked the idea, but maybe we could start out with one Dad per week to see how it goes. Mr. Adelman would like more information on how the program would recruit Dads, how it would be run/monitored, input from teachers, etc. before he decides. We need to get an investigative person or committee together. Kathleen Lopez has three children at IES and is an administrator at Bellows – she may be helpful and have useful information.

Principal's Report - David Adelman:

- Junior Achievement Day was a success. Students loved it and parents did a good job. Dasha Perraud deserves credit for doing a full school program. Dasha appreciated all the support. She is collecting feedback from the teachers.

Assistant Principal's Report - Sue Nickles:

- Testing schedule has been confirmed. The schedule is in Cheetah Chatter. She will primarily be focused on testing throughout May. 80% of school must be done before PARCC testing starts (it was postponed because of the snow). As a result, PARCC and MAP are back-to-back.

Teacher's Report – Debbie Feeley:

Executive Committee Updates:

Amy LoPresti:

- Budget

Income

- Fundraising & Donations – Mostly Complete
 - Innisbrook – last major income for the year - \$918.50
 - Shutterfly (under “Other” for this fiscal year) - \$127.09

- Income Performance Against Budget

Budget	\$49,117.00
<u>Actual</u>	<u>\$34,862.32</u>
Balance	- \$14,254.68

Expenses

- Education expenses
 - None
- Program expenses
 - Teacher Supplies – one partial - \$51.90
- Fundraising expenses
 - None
- Other expenses
 - Grade Level Enhancement – one team for \$221.79
 - 63% of grade level enhancement reimbursement has been requested so far.
- Committee expenses
 - Cultural Arts – \$648.00
 - We did not spend the entire budget so we will have \$1,000 to put toward our budget gap.
- Operating expenses
 - Bank Charges – regular \$3 service fee

	February 2016	Fiscal Year to Date
Income	\$1,045.60	\$34,862.32
Expense	\$924.69	\$ 28,683.81
Balance	\$120.91	\$6,178.51

Checking account balance: \$26,736.97

Savings account balance: \$1,175.06

Total cash on hand: \$27,912.03

We received a letter from the Comptroller of Maryland that we are delinquent on 2013. The letter dated April 2015 was a warning with no late fee. The most recent letter said they were going to take action and the late fee is now \$875. Amy is trying to track down what happened in 2013.

Membership, Square 1 Art, and a restaurant night were deposited March 4. We are short on the restaurant nights' budget. We have Cheeburger Cheeburger and Chick-fil-A coming up and we might go back to Tino's in May. Not sure what type of restaurants make a better profit, sit down or casual, but people seem to think that quick service types work best. The Subway on Centre Park Drive does an all-day so we should look into that. Parents suggested that McDonald's or Dunkin Donuts might work well. It is fun for children to see teachers at restaurant nights. Mrs. Feeley mentioned that teachers do not know when these nights are scheduled, that they only know the day-of when they put the stickers on the children. Ms. Nickles mentioned that they are listed on the school calendar. Maybe Mary Leigh could prep an e-mail, send to Ms. Nickles, and she can forward to the staff so they have notice. (Late follow-up: Beth spoke with Mary Leigh and fliers are always available by the teachers' mailboxes.)

A question was posed if we could have an Ilchester calendar, like the HCPSS calendar, that populates your phone calendar? We would need a dedicated volunteer to set that up. We could get a paper calendar for each month printed out with field trips, performances, days off, picture day, events and other PTA activities. Beth said that all the PTA activities are already in our newsletter. Some people would like to see everything for school and PTA in one place, but some people would not like more paper. Could we manage a single calendar on the PTA side to combine school information with ours, because we don't have access to add our info to the school calendar. The canvas system is still new to everyone. The school calendar does not include PTA information. Mrs. Kettering or Mrs. Cleveland would have to put PTA info on the school calendar website. Mr. Adelman will look into options.

Momina Malik:

- Family Cultural Fun Night (FCFN)

All information has been sent to parents (e-mail blast sent). Reminders will be sent. The event is April 27 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Momina is expecting to get sign-ups right up until the event date. Thank you to Mr. Adelman, Ms. Nickles and staff for the support and assistance including help with food and paper products. Dasha Perraud created a Google doc where 8 people have signed up who are working as groups of families. Momina is recruiting additional families. Mrs. Larson spoke to a martial arts performer who is confirmed. We still need a United States display. We need a group to sing America the Beautiful at the conclusion of the event – we have two students who will accompany on viola. There will be a short rehearsal for student performers on April 12 at 4:00pm in the Media Center. Please spread the word about the performance opportunity to diversify the presentations. People who have moved here from other parts of the U.S. have something to share, for example. Beth will add this language to the next FCFN reminder blast and to the newsletter. Beth gave

Momina many country photos for the scrolling display. Anyone can submit photos to Momina. Mr. Adelman was asked if he could have teachers promote FCFN to students. He already has a presenter at his upcoming staff meeting so he does not want to take any more time away. Ashlei Pinkham designed the Passports (each child will get a passport upon arrival at FCFN and get it stamped at country tables as they travel the building). We also need people to attend the event who are not doing displays. Table displays will be spread throughout the building and organized by continent. The PTA Newsletter should also state that you don't have to present to attend. Families who are presenting could do it together so they can take turns exploring the event.

Amy McCarthy:

- PTAC Update

The PTAC meeting focused on the development of a committee on diversity and inclusion in response to the video posted by a Mount Hebron student. The topic dominated the night in a positive way. Mount Hebron and Hammond high schools shared how their PTAs handled the situation. Hammond students responded to the video by going to the school to have a demonstration and share their reactions and feelings. The school set up a microphone and students shared their experiences. The students worked out what they wanted to accomplish. It was helpful in the context of what the PTA can do to help if and when an issue blows up in your school. The Mount Hebron PTA President does a monthly newsletter in conjunction with their Principal's newsletter and they find it effective. They average 20-25 people at PTA meetings. Hebron has sub-sets of parents in the school based on ethnicity and they elect a representative from each of the sub-groups so that information flows between them and the PTA. There is a growing concern among parents that Howard County teachers are not required to go to diversity training. The kids at Hammond suggested developing a program for middle to high school transition to have a mentoring-type program to help incoming students navigate the cultural waters. It was also shared that the PTA meeting attendees at Hammond wear name tags, so that walk-in attendees do not feel intimidated. At the end of the PTAC meeting someone mentioned that the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program would be extended to 3rd to 5th graders (even though about 80-85% of the survey respondents did not want this). Kids that age do not have devices and parents don't want them to have them. There is also concern that they would just be used for play. Some feel that schools should invest in iPad carts if they want to have devices for instruction. PTAC also reminded everyone that fundraising opportunities cannot include any type of gambling. All of the Board of Education candidates (11) are coming to speak. Can we educate parents about the BOE candidates and their platforms, as well as the date to vote? There is a lot of tension and discussion regarding school district personnel. Beth will add it to the newsletter. Facebook has information about different Howard County groups doing town hall meetings.

We discussed again the grade representative program. Longfellow Elementary has grade reps (different function than room parents). The role is to be the liaison between the PTA and all grade parents (each grade has one rep). We talked previously about a certain outgoing personality being ideal for the role. There are copies from Longfellow describing the role. They just started it this year. It could be helpful to have more personal communication flow between the PTA, room parents and grade parents. It was suggested that a "phone tree" between parents could bring back a sense of community. For people who don't come to PTA meetings or read the newsletter they could still get the information. If we reach out to people on a more personal level to attend and get involved, they may become more engaged. There was a discussion of several potential options of current parents "mentoring" new parents but because we are a very large school, this could prove difficult in getting volunteers. Mr. Adelman can give new families our information but he cannot give us theirs. We could also try a "Bring a Friend" option to the PTA meetings. More discussion needed.

Committee Updates (** indicates update):

Leslie Silverman: After-School Programs

Shannon Kraft: Back-to-School Bingo

Christine Case: Box Tops for Education

Tonya Sigalas: Bulletin Board

Beth Benoit: Candy for the Troops

Christina Rosendorf: Coke Rewards Program

Momina Malik: Committee Procedure Documents

Terri Jones: Crayola ColorCycle Program

***Kelly Green: Cultural Arts – We are looking into having an Artist-in-Residency for next year. Applications are due in May. Kelly is talking to Mr. Langevin about stained glass. The artist would come for 3-4 weeks and work with the 5th grade and also make something smaller with the younger grades. The timing would be the end of the first quarter. November would work well because Square 1 Art is over. Mr. Langevin knows many people who could do it and he is reaching out to them. Looking ahead to next year, the goal will be to have 2-3 assemblies for the entire school. We are particularly interested in anything aligned to curriculum. The cultural arts fair is not until October, which is too late to attend. Things worked well with Young Audiences this year with the Steel Drums and Hip Hop group, so we can go back to them. Kelly would like to have an assembly the first day back from Winter break, like we did this year. We will not do anything in September or October because of Boosterthon.

Tonya Sigalas/Jen Grimes: D.O.G.S. Program

Beth Benoit: Facebook Page

Momina Malik: Family Cultural Fun Night

Heather Tom: Giant A+ School

Kim Drake: Health, Wellness & Environmental Friendliness

Melissa Daniels: Hospitality

Tonya Sigalas: Ink Cartridge Recycling Program

Molly Kuehl: Innisbrook

Heather Tom: Junior Cheetah Day

Ginny Zimmerman: KidStuff Coupon Books

Ashlei Pinkham: Lobby Showcase

Tina Hill: Membership/Donations

Carole Veihmeyer: Moms/Dads on Campus

Beth Benoit/Regina Brown: PTA Website

Shannon Kraft/Preba Devamanohar: Reading Program

Mary Leigh Marsden: Restaurant

Amy Mitchell: Room Parent Coordinator (Food Policy)

Andrea Ulrich: School Directory

Colleen Howland: Shutterfly/Tinyprints

Debbie Wood: Spirit Wear

Danielle Rao/Tonya Sigalas: Square 1 Art

Tonya Sigalas/Amy Mitchell: Staff Appreciation

Momina Malik: Talent Show

Karen Frankovic: Workbooks

Things to think about for future discussion:

- Please notify Beth if you would like to help next year with Boosterthon.

Next meeting: Monday, April 18, 2016 – 7:00pm – Media Center.

Adjourn