**Ilchester Elementary School PTA Board Meeting**

**May 6, 2015**

**Attendees:**

Maryann DellaRocco, Paul Norfolk, David Adelman, Glenna Deekle, Beth Benoit, Danielle Rao, Momina Malik, Xuhui Zhao, Anne Mager, Amy LoPresti, Tonya Sigalas, David Walter, Mary Leigh Marsden, Christine Case, Dr. Coleman, Ginny Zimmerman, Amy Mitchell

**Meeting Summary**

President’s Report

Introductions of all attendees was conducted.

Maryann shared she received a notice that the PTA has an incomplete charity status with the State of MD. The letter from State stated that we are missing items from 2013 and 2012. Maryann attempted to contact the State but the letter did not contain valid contact information. Jean will follow-up with Mary and complete the form. Beth asked if it was an annual submission. We will try to find that out.

The PTA Board continuing officers and nominees introduced themselves.

* Beth Benoit is the candidate for President. She was new to Ilchester last year, has a second-grader and has ideas to build more involvement in our school community. One idea is to establish a Grandparents Network. She also wants to let people know all that the PTA does in order to improve awareness.
* Regina got involved with the PTA two years ago. She likes being 1st Vice President and wants to make the President and the PTA “look good”. She handles the weekly newsletter and she is looking forward to working with a new team.
* Momina has had children at Ilchester for three years. It took her a year to figure out who does what and has been 2nd Vice President for 2 years. She is responsible for the Talent Show and general support for the PTA and the President.
* Glenna moved to the area in 2012. She has been in the PTA Secretary role since 2013 and will be staying on.
* Xuhui is the candidate for PTAC Delegate. She has a kindergarten student. She looks forward to learning more about the school system.
* David is a current PTAC delegate for the Ilchester PTA. He will be PTAC delegate for Bonnie Branch MS and Howard High.
* The PTA still needs a 2nd delegate. The PTAC meetings are held the first Monday of each month.
* Amy LoPresti is the Treasurer candidate. She has been involved in many PTA committees.

Maryann said that we will vote individually for each new officer.

The first vote was for Beth Benoit for President. Maryann asked for all those in favor and all were in favor. The second vote was for Amy LoPresti for Treasurer. Maryann asked for all those in favor and all were in favor. The third vote was for Xuhui Zhao for PTAC delegate. Maryann asked for all those in favor and all were in favor.

Principal’s Report

Mr. Adelman said thank you to Maryann for all the work she did for the school in her two years as President. He also thanked Tonya for making the staff laugh with games and delicious food during Staff Appreciation Week. Tonya only has three years left and everyone kidded that she sign a contract to stay on for this event.

Vice Principal’s Report

Mr. Norfolk noted that Maryann did a lot beyond the PTA meetings and said thank you.

Treasurer

Jean gave a budget report. The teachers are not represented tonight. Many of the teachers have not used their funds. Each teacher has $85. Mr. Adelman will check with the teachers. Pod incentives are $150. 2nd, 3rd, 4th did not submit for reimbursement and Kindergarten has $90 left. 4th grade has $470 left in grade enhancement. 1st grade has $166 left for the play. 2nd grade has $200 left. 3rd grade has $27 left.

The PTA bank account balances are $31,286.23 in savings and $1,174.95 in checking. We have to keep 40% of our revenue level ($56,000 budget).

In terms of fundraisers for next year, the PTA explored alternatives but heard through a survey that parents were not willing to contribute direct donations at the level necessary to sustain the budget. We voted on purchasing a Buddy Bench. A Buddy Bench is a bench installed on the playground that gives children a non-verbal way to send a sign that they want someone to play with. The cost would be $700. The bench is made of metal mesh covered in plastic. There is no cost to install it. There was a motion to purchase a Buddy Bench and all were in favor.

Since the PTA will not be adjusting our fundraising, we felt comfortable discussing other expenditure ideas. Mr. Adelman shared that there is a need for a throw projector for the primary learner program (PL). The PL program is for K-2 students with learning challenges. There is a 1-to-1 ratio in the PL program. The students participate in the building during lunch, field day, etc. The kids learn from each other and return to general education in their home schools in 3rd grade. The throw projector needed is $2,000. Mr. Adelman said “fair is getting what you need”. Parents shared the importance of caring for the whole community. There was a motion to purchase a system for the PL and all were in favor.

Mr. Norfolk mentioned the need for a set of wireless microphones for the auditorium since we hire someone to do it. It could also be used for student performances, BINGO night, etc.

There was a proposal to suggest we decide an amount of money to give to the school, for example $5,000. The group decided to hold off on any additional purchases for next academic year.

Howard County School Health Council includes social work, nursing, the vice chair of the Board of Ed. The council is evaluating Policy 9090. They chose 19 schools to interview principals regarding 9090. There is no plan to collect parent feedback. Some schools have not implemented it and others like Ilchester have. IOM standards are being reviewed and discussed. The council will be working during the Summer to prepare recommendations to room parents for the Halloween party. The vice chair is planning to give the policy 1-to-2 years to review. She was upset to learn that the policy was removing tradition (gingerbread houses, pizza parties, etc.). Moderation and portioning are good skills that we aren’t allowing for. High school students are complaining about access to snacks to eat before sports and other after-school activities. The council is starting the evaluation with principals and not reaching out to other stakeholders.

Committees

* If you have boxtops that expire in June send them in now!
* MaryKay Cosmetics sent free makeovers for teachers.
* PTAC presentations given by liaisons that are tangentially associated with the schools. One time a former Board of Ed representative shared what the Board of Ed role entails. The Board of Ed has judicial and executive powers. High school students had a question/answer session. There is a student on the Board. The HCAA teachers union recently fielded concerns about the amount of time spent testing. Due to cuts in the budget and salary freezes the union is engaged with the State of Maryland’s new administration belt tightening. The Governor of Maryland has a pot of $200 million that could go to education but he hasn’t released the funds. Several school systems are petitioning for him to release those funds. Howard County in one of them. The Governor was hired to make cuts. PTAC voted to have the Board of Ed put pressure on the Governor to release the funds to education.

PTAC had a quick presentation by Melvin Smith who chairs Howard County STEM. There is an upcoming STEM festival. It plays into another organization called First. FIRST is an organization founded by Dean Kamen who invented the Segway and the touch screen drink machines. He developed the drink machines to get funds from Coke to develop a water purification system for countries that need drinking water. First uses Lego based engineering design programs.

At the PTAC meeting, all the PTAC officers were announced and there was an

announcement that PTA membership is down across the county. It was also

shared that the last day of school is June 19 and summer school starts June

23. No summer school classes will be held at IES.

* The Talent Show dates for next year will be selected before this school year ends.
* The end of the year PTA dinner will be held June 8. Information is forthcoming.
* Looking into Grandparents Network representative and details coming soon.
* KidStuff Coupon Books are going to be sold again next year. The new Committee Chair is Ginny Zimmerman. The difference will be in the distribution of the books, which will be distributed to each classroom for pick-up on both Back-to-School Nights. Beth will say something in her remarks in the cafeteria at Back-to-School Night about leaving the book on the desk if you aren’t buying it. The PTA will print the label that says “if you want to purchase this you can take it or leave it on the desk if you don’t want it”. The PTA can help put books on desks at back to school night. It will be early this year, during the second week of school. Ginny will be asking for volunteers to sign up in August.
* The first day of school is August 24, 2015.
* Waterloo Elementary had a carnival. Several PTA meeting attendees attended the carnival. It is not a fundraiser for them but a community event. Beth is going to get together with the event coordinator to collect information. Maryann cautioned Beth to review our insurance coverage. It would be great to have something in the Fall. A PTA picnic in the Fall? BooHoo breakfast for back to school for parents?
* Kathy Wheatley updates the PTA website and needs to be sent what to add/change.
* The PTA wants to make a more informative display on our bulletin board in the main lobby. We plan to make better use of our bulletin board to highlight what the PTA is doing.
* The Bulletin Board needs to be maintained and updated. Maybe a committee could maintain the board. It was suggested that we put up photographs of the PTA officers. We can highlight who is helping. People may not know the difference between school and PTA activities.
* The PTA still needs a person to chair the Cultural Arts committee, which is a big priority.

Adjourn