

**Hyattsville Elementary School PTA
General Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2016, 7:00 pm**

1. President Mary Warneka greeted the attendees.
2. Warneka introduced Wanika Fisher from County Council Member Deni Teveras's office. Fisher greeted the attendees.
3. Several HES teachers shared information:
 - a. Fifth grade teacher Annique Roy said thank you to the PTA for its support for the 5th graders' trip to Camp Schmidt.
 - b. First grade teacher Emily Hall invited parents to attend upcoming events related to Earth Day, April 18-22.
 - c. First grade teacher Drena Galarza said thank you to the PTA for Treats for the Staff in December, and for the indoor recess board games drive. Principal Julia Burton noted that many games came in but not as many as during the drive two years ago when the PTA set up a wish list of games on Amazon.com. It was agreed that the Amazon method was more successful and should be repeated.
 - d. Art teacher Sarah Yazvac discussed the upcoming Art Show on March 2. It will feature a work of art from every student. Yazvac asked the PTA to donate cookies and lemonade for the event, which was agreed to. Teacher Mr. Heck plans to play music in the library, and parents are invited to join.
 - e. Ms. Yazvac also said she is looking for local businesses who would be willing to display student art. Please contact her if you know of any.
4. Warneka shared information on recent successful PTA fundraisers:
 - a. Franklins--\$537
 - b. Chipotle--\$505
5. 5K PTA Fundraiser—Warneka gave an update on the PTA's plans to start a new 5K race in Hyattsville as a PTA fundraiser, followed by discussion and questions.
 - a. The PTA has been coordinating with the City of Hyattsville regarding support services such as traffic direction and trash removal.
 - b. Race Director Kevin Blackerby has been researching how to conduct a race and has been setting up a volunteer network.
 - c. We'll need volunteers from the PTA to help make it a success. Colleen Aistis, the City of Hyattsville volunteer coordinator, will help recruit volunteers as well.
 - d. We discussed asking HMS and NHS students to volunteer, perhaps at the water stations. They would be able to earn community service hours for it.
 - e. We discussed the idea of giving a registration discount to the girls running club at University Park Elementary School.
 - f. Wanika Fisher offered to send a flyer about the race to community list serves through Deni Tavares's office.
6. Bylaws—Every three years the PTA's bylaws must be approved, even if there are no changes, and this year they are due for a vote. President Warneka passed out copies of the bylaws and said that the PTA officers did not recommend any changes. After discussion, Treasurer Heather Roymans motioned to vote on approval of the bylaws, and Lacy McDowell seconded the motion. President Warneka called for the ayes and nays, and the bylaws were approved unanimously.
7. Updates from Principal Julia Burton:
 - a. Parents should check the lost and found for coats, hats, and scarves.

- b. Green Schools—HES Parents came to teacher in-service regarding environmental education and the application for the Green Schools program. HES has recently set up a stronger recycling effort in the cafeteria. Older students are trying to help younger kids make decisions on what to recycle.
 - c. Chorus practice is suspended for this semester.
 - d. In the spring there will be separate vocal music concerts for each grade.
 - e. There are a few students who have expressed interest in a Boys on the Run club. They are lobbying Mr. Kailor to be a sponsor of the club.
 - f. HES received a \$16,000 check from the county. This is an amount returned to the school for academic program support from the businesses who contract with the county on capital improvements to the school. This money is from the companies that built the wall on Jefferson Street and that replaced the boiler. Ms. Burton is identifying areas of need for this money.
 - g. New space heaters have been installed in several of the pre-k classrooms.
 - h. The school nurse has been on medical leave. There have been substitute nurses on duty, but most of the time parents have been getting calls to pick up their child as soon as possible. Sometimes parents have not been able to be contacted when the school does not have current contact information. Burton encouraged all parents to please be sure the school has updated contact phone numbers.
 - i. State testing will be starting in spring. ESOL testing is happening now. Testing will take place in the library, which means that the library will be unavailable sometimes. We don't have available space for it, which will cause some disruptions. The reality of our space situation is that we do not have enough space, especially during testing. The only short-term solution would be for the county to move Head Start and pre-K to some other locations.
 - j. Ms. Burton is looking at changing the date of the STEM fair, because many students lost time during the school closures from the blizzard in January. We'll find out if it will change in the next few dates. Calls for STEM fair judges are going out now.
 - k. Recess—the county only requires 15 minutes, but Ms. Burton gives the teachers flexibility to go longer or go twice if it fits into the teachers' schedules.
8. Upcoming PTA events:
- a. Ice skating fundraiser at Herbert Wells Ice Rink is this Saturday, February 6.
 - b. A new restaurant fundraiser at Spice 6 will be coming soon, date TBD.
 - c. Movie Night is Friday, March 11. The PTA will survey the students to vote on what the movie will be.
 - d. Garden and Grounds Day is Saturday, March 19. The PTA will be calling for volunteers to help spruce up the gardens around the school.
 - e. The 130th Hyattsville parade will be on April 16 at 11:00. The PTA plans to build a float to be decorated by the students with the help of Ms. Yazvac.
 - f. The Native Plant Sale will be May 14 or 21.
 - g. The next PTA meeting is March 8.

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