

**PTA General meeting  
May 13, 2015, 7:00 pm  
HES Library**

Present: about 20 people, including a representative from County Councilwoman Deni Taveras's office.

**1. Art Works after care programs for fall**

Nehemiah Dixon from Art Works came to talk about expanded fall after school programs. Currently Art Works is at HES one day a week for an after school club. Starting in fall, they will be here five days a week from 2-6. There will be 25 slots for after school, and it will be on site at HES. Scholarships are available for all programs. There are summer camp opportunities as well. Dixon said he was not sure if the once a week art club would continue.

**2. School supply kits**

You can order a complete school supply kit for the 2015-2016 school year, and have it delivered to your student's desk on the first day of school. PTA volunteer Sarah Eisen has made the arrangements with Supply Kitz company to ensure that the kits for each grade level reflect the supplies requested by the teachers for that grade. The link for ordering the kits is available on the [PTA website](#). Thanks to Sarah for all the time she spent arranging this convenient service for other parents.

**3. County facilities planning**

County level facilities planning is still underway. The county is making a very comprehensive plan to prioritize facilities upgrades and new school buildings. The county has visited each school over 15 years old to assess its condition and how it is used. Look for a meeting announcement in early June to discuss the completed reports of the study. These reports may provide information regarding the likelihood that HES will be upgraded anytime soon.

**4. PTA budget**

The PTA has some unspent money and is considering how it should be used. Options include a cafeteria mural, replacement instruments, clay and pottery supplies, and math and science manipulatives. For next year, Julia said that the teachers could really use a new refrigerator in the staff lounge, and a laminating machine, which will help reduce the amount of paper used.

**5. Updates from Principal Julia Burton**

- *Staff updates*—we are receiving a half time TAG teacher for next year to provide services for TAG kids and also to work with teachers to help them differentiate for higher ability students. Also, HES has been identified for participation in the Primary Talent Development Project—K and 1 teachers will be getting extra training on how to work with TAG students. There will also be an additional special education teacher next school year. Julia is working on identifying space in the school building for these teachers.
- *Professional Development*—Julia is working with Bart Lawrence to raise \$3000 to send six staff members to a TAG training program at the College of William and Mary. The program will include training on how to work with under-identified TAG students and how to implement TAG math in regular classrooms.

- *Next year's projected enrollment*—Julia said we won't know the number until we get the report from the county. Making space for new students continues to be a problem. One possibility to reclaim existing space may be to move the computer lab to an open corner in the library and use the lab as a new classroom. The county has recognized that we need the equivalent of four more temporaries, but there is no place to put them. The conversations are happening many levels above Julia. She expects to add a section for 5th and 2nd grades, but there isn't a place for them to go right now.
- *Feedback*—Julia is seeking 360 feedback of her. She is seeking an assessment tool to get feedback from parents on how parents think she is doing, and what changes parents would like to see. It will be anonymous and confidential. The assessment tool is forthcoming, as the details are being determined.
- *Volunteer Appreciation*—Ms. Penate is organizing a volunteer appreciation breakfast on June 10, 8:00-9:30 am. We are all invited to attend.
- *Murals*—The mural project is running! The large panels on the wall around the playground which faces Jefferson Street were designed for student art projects. But what would they be? Mosaics? Paintings? It was important that the students be involved. Now, Art Works has obtained funding and a muralist, Peter Crisco, to assist with the project. Crisco has worked with the 5th graders to make the design, and then he will do the painting. This will be an ongoing project over several years until all the panels are filled each year by the fifth grade class. The first one should be completed by end of school year. The theme of the mural is Maryland's natural habitat.
- *HES Chorus at the DC United game*—The kids sounded fabulous! The HES chorus sang from the field at RFK Stadium, and were on the Jumbotron. They were so excited. They almost hit all the notes! DC United is donating \$350 to HES for our participation. We will do it again next year, but bigger and better with a tailgate in the parking lot. Tailgating with games and food in the parking lot will allow everyone to avoid the concession stand food.

## 6. Updates from PTA President Mary Warneka

There are several upcoming opportunities to volunteer:

- *Field Days*—come for part or all of the day. 4th/5th Grades are May 14<sup>th</sup>. 2nd/3rd Grades are May 28. K/1st Grades are June 11.
- *Native Plant Sale*—volunteer on Friday, 4-6, or Saturday, 7:45-3:00. The biggest need for volunteers is first thing in the morning.
- HES's running club, the Sole Sisters, is having a bake sale during the plant sale. Drop off baked items at the plant sale, or leave them in the staff lounge on Friday with a note indicating it is for the Sole Sisters.

## 7. Library volunteers

Barbara Morris discussed the parents who have been helping check out books when the librarian isn't here. 7:45-9:00 is when parents help. Anyone who is interested in helping out one morning a week next year should contact Barbara Morris. Barbara also needs helpers to shelf read the library to make sure the books are in proper order. If you can help, contact Barbara.

## 8. Paw Prints store

This is a great place to help, any day, 8:00-9:00. This store has had an impact on our attendance, because the kids get rewards for attendance that they get to spend in the store. Students receive a paw Prints stamp if they are on school on time.

## **9. Upcoming events**

- Art Show, May 28, 6:30. Art teacher Ms. Yazvac will host a reception at HES to display the art of every HES student. Light refreshments will be provided by the PTA.
- Spring Concert is May 20. It will feature the chorus, instrumental band, and steel drum band.
- The fourth grade students will participate in the Rice Rangers program with the Anacostia Watershed Society.
- Career Day, June 17
- International Day in June
- Promotion Ceremony, June 18

## **10. Conclusion**

The meeting concluded with a slide show of photographs from events throughout the school year.