

Hyattsville Elementary School PTA
General Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2017, 7:00 pm

- Introductions – we went around the room and introduced ourselves
- Zombie Run Update
 - Don't forget to register! October 14th is race day
 - Kids can do individual fundraising pages and get prizes!
 - Felegy will be doing concessions and other schools have been invited to join in
 - Volunteer – we need people to
 - help set up on Friday before the race
 - Course Marshals – race day
 - Thurs/Fri packet pickup before the race at whole foods 4:30 - 9pm
 - Wed – Trash pick up and putting no parking signs up
 - Megan Miller is organizing all the volunteers
 - We have about 12 slots for kids to run if they can't register/pay for themselves
 - Question about if kids not running the race can do a fundraising page (nope) – but they can help give out waters to race finishing
 - If teachers want to participate or be there to send the kids off let PTA know and we can cover the cost
- Capital Improvements
 - Not a big focus last year due to other priorities but this year we're coordinating/uniting to advocate for capital improvements of our school – we attended the meeting with Dr. Maxwell last week to do this and sent him a list of questions – we're being a squeaky wheel here please continue to advocate for us – no formal response yet
 - question about capital improvements – if your school is on the list for improvements, it's harder to get money for maintenance and meeting ongoing needs right now without having that money being deducted from the budget (16 years out!)
 - Funding that goes towards major renovations – the budget from the state was cut from 400M down to 200M. They assessed all the school in PG county and ranked them. HES was ranked 4th renovations were supposed to start this fall but it's been pushed back to work starting in 2020. We probably won't have a new school until 4-6 years after.
 - Kat (who is an expert in school renovations) explains how this all works, different phases of the job and how long it typically takes – starts with Feasibility Study – Feasibility study is something we can advocate for/get done sooner than later. One thing we can do right now is some environment studies (CO2 studies, etc.)
 - Northern PG issue – overcrowding.
 - At the meeting with Dr. Maxwell we also talked about teacher retention and recruitment
 - Big picture – PTA will advocate at the county level to ensure the renovation doesn't get pushed back any further and to fight at the state and county level to

make sure we get the budget we need for current and future enrollment needs –
make sure we get a school built that will support current and future needs

- We need PTA members to contact council members and state delegates to do this
- We need PTA members to attend and speak out at BOE (Board of Education) meetings
- Outreach Sub-Committee, Community & School
 - We have a new sub-committee for outreach and communication at the community level – Christine Blackerby is the community/external outreach chair – Tara is the internal outreach chair
 - We're more active on Facebook this year and posting
 - Trying to increase engagement of Spanish speaking parents
 - If you have any good pictures of PTA or School events send them to Christine Blackerby to post on Facebook
- PTA Budget Update
 - Funds have been going out to help teachers with the supplies they needs, working with Ms. Bey to fill out the gap in classroom essentials
- New Drop-Off Plan
 - It's working out much better this year. We're grateful to the staff for doing the extra work in the morning out in the parking lot
 - one parent suggests it would be helpful to have a volunteer in the Gym to keep kids in line in the morning – Ms. Bey explains that we have kids line up along the outside of the gym along the blue line and there are a few teachers there to help outreach
 - another parent asks about what the procedure is this year for drop off – a team of staff came up with the idea of keeping cars moving along down the alley – the drop off location is outside the gym in the ally by the side-door to the gym. Ms. Page and Mr. Durkin are outside helping to direct this and it seems to be working
 - Some discussion of how chaotic pick-up can get and some suggestions about an alternate pick-up plan during inclement weather
 - Request to send out some communication/reminders about the drop off and pick up routines as they stand
 - Crossing guard – we're supposed to have a full time crossing guard by October 16th – we reached out to Dinora Hernandez and Mary Roche and Mary Roche assured us we will get one. The situation is dangerous currently and we need a crossing guard. If you see Mary or Dinora please ask about this. In the interim we've been getting Hyattsville officers to help out.
- Upcoming Events
 - Walk to school day tomorrow morning
 - Tag Informational Session Friday October 6th 8am and 1:30pm in the Cafeteria
 - Kids are being identified in first and third grades
 - Even non-tag parents can attend and learn about the inclusive learning environment – everyone is welcome
 - this is specifically geared at parents of TAG students
 - This is the first year doing pull out TAG vs TAG in the classroom

- Zombie Run, Saturday Oct 14
- Wing Stop Fundraiser, Tuesday Oct 17th - spread the word!!
Mention at the cash register – all day long
- Prospective Family Social, (tentative) Vigilante, Fri Oct 27th
- Garden and Grounds, Saturday Nov 4th - fun day!
- Franklins Fundraiser, Dec 5th
- PTA Membership
 - Chanel is our Membership coordinator – she has the forms
 - You must renew every year
 - our membership count is down this year
 - most of the membership fees go to Maryland PTA
- 2017 – 2018 Goals:
 - Major project, Extra Curricular Club, Athletics or Arts & Beautification
 - something like a climbing wall, mural, or painted portable buildings
 - We're looking for a committee to help us figure this out
 - Clubs – we have a lego robotics club maybe someone has an idea for something else – needs to be open to all kids
 - Athletics – think big – work with Mr. Hook
 - Playground equipment or basketball court
 - Permeable surface instead of pavement on the playground
 - fundraising/finding grants
 - There is a Grant in Hyattsville for up to \$500 for in-school projects – HES teachers have been informed about this
 - Makerspace at the school with something like laser cutter or 3D printer
 - need to make sure the equipment is fun and appropriate for the entire age range of the school
 - Instead of spending so much small amounts we'd like to do something big
 - Reconsider International Baccalaureate Program
 - We looked into that a few years ago. The county was amenable to it – we're looking for some way to make HES more attractive to families – IB may require additional funding
 - Retaining Wall Landscaping
 - half of the bushes are dead and/or growing in front of the murals – we're not sure if the city or the county put these there
 - HES Swag, T-shirt, etc.
 - Kevin will be reaching out to the people who designed the Zombie Run first
 - Jefferson Mural for Barbara Leith (former crossing guard who passed away over the summer)
- Open Discussion
 - Ms. Bey says that first in math logins have been sent home – tiny piece of paper with their login has been sent home. Parent requests to send a flyer with more context about First in Math and information on the competition
 - Ms. Bey talks about how she is thankful to be Principal and to be involved in the classroom – request from Ms. Bey : Can the PTA Meetings be earlier? - Coffee Chat – once a quarter – possibly something we can do in the morning or a little bit earlier in the evening – perhaps we could alternate between

7pm and something in the morning or earlier in the evening – we decided to stick to monthly meetings – we would have more teacher engagement if we could have earlier PTA Meetings – Ms. Roy explains that at University Park they had one meeting per quarter at 4pm so the teachers could attend

- Ms. Peele has kicked off Box Tops for Education – she has a poster on the door and a place to drop them off in the library – goal is to earn at least \$1000 – box tops for education