

**Hyattsville Elementary School PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2016, 7:00 pm**

President Marquisha Powell greeted attendees and kicked off the meeting with Introductions - we went around sharing our name, child name, classroom

Brief discussion on what we can do as a community to heal and move forward in this political climate

- Mary has an idea about yard signs - things like Black lives matter, gender, LGBTQ, Immigrants welcome - \$20 for 5 signs or \$30 for 6 - Ms. Dawkins has been doing some anti-bullying work - some discussion of ideas

Leigh says thank you to the teachers for having productive and kind conversations around the election

Garden and Grounds Day - thank you Megan for organizing Bagels from the college park bagel place - we were able to bring leftover bagels to the teachers - G&G day went well, was wrapped up by 11am

**Goals for 2016-2017**

- Playground Picnic Tables and Greenspace - Ms. Entwistle had requested picnic tables - Dan Muth has been working on participating in the Raincheck program and free tree programs - Dan update: to have a patch of land on the blacktop that - going to get teacher input and figure out ways to get some greenery and picnic tables outside on a piece of impervious surface - most programs require up front payment then get reimbursed - we have to figure out how much money the PTA can front for a project like this - Dan figuring out what permissions are needed - Mrs Bey is interested - hoping to get the ball rolling and get something happening in the spring
  - Marquisha says the murals have beautified the inside of our school and it would be great to get this done outside
  - Next step is permissions, getting the raincheck people to give their approval
  - Kevin asking - if we have to get permission from the school and vote in a PTA meeting for a budget line for upfront payment - need to motivate if we really want this to get done in the spring
  - Dan wants to resolve the weed garden thing as part of this
  - Leigh Higgins suggests doing it over the summer so as not to be disruptive to outdoor time and portable classroom flow
  - Placement - Marquisha and Dan got a chance to take a good look the morning of the field trip debacle - in the corner - signs
  - Teresa says Ken Williams should be able to provide some history and maintenance information - Dan should talk to Ken Williams

- 18 stormwater retrofit programs going on in PGCPS right now - massive really well done (Teresa T)
- Last year there was a meet the parents thing organized by the PTA - reach out to the community to parents trying to decide about public school attendance
  - Coffee people should figure out when Kindergarten Roundup and make sure to communicate with those parents about it
  - We should try to do this prior to the start of the lottery - sometime in February would be ideal -
  - Megan said there were tours offered - most people need to make their decisions by March
  - Question for Mrs. Bey - is there sometime we could have an open house in the Dec-Jan timeframe
- Ms. Penate has suggested we have a game night
  - we think it's a great idea and we could make it super awesome by using larger than life games (chess, checkers, connect four) - also talked about doing a spring fall fundraiser inside the school - kids could buy tickets for games - in the cafeteria and in the gym -
  - Mary says the only thing is first week of May is teacher appreciation then field day for a week and lots of field trips and moved night in march
  - there are some logistics to figure out - but if we could figure out
  - Mrs. Yazvak says they had Bingo at a previous school and everyone was really into it
  - Kevin talked to the city about it - may be something we work with them and they store the games for us and maybe use it for summer jams
  - Bingo could be a good idea - get Hyattsville Aging in Place
  - Mary points out the logistics and scheduling of this type of event could be a challenge - we've tried to schedule spring things in the past
- Coat drive - Barbara said that was done with individual coat drives - in the past Mrs. Penate has planned the coat drive
- One year there was a knitters club that brought in all these hats and scarves and whatnot - PTA post an email to HOPE - hey Knitters hats scarves gloves we'll take it
- Upcoming stuff - Franklin's fundraiser and PTA Meeting
- Teacher Appreciation - Mary, Z and Stephanie Knowles are heading up the Teacher Appreciation effort this year
  - core pieces this committee is taking on:
    - Staff Appreciation in the Month of December - Mon-Thurs before Xmas have snacks and things in the teachers every morning and encourage nice notes - 19th through 22nd - they'll need some help setup and cleanup
    - National Appreciation Week in the Spring - first week of May - Ms. Penate has always spearheaded 5 easy things kids can bring in to teachers like fresh fruit, flowers, etc. In addition to this PTA encourages parents to bring in treats or plant presents



- Leigh's daughter Nella suggested that fourth and fifth graders could use lockers to avoid having to lug their huge backpacks from class to class - just a place where they could stash some of their larger books
  - Marquisha points out that our corridors are currently too narrow this might be a fire hazard - she'll bring this up with Ms. Bey
  - Changing classroom started with 5th graders and started with 4th graders
- Mary to tweak slightly the wording of the uniform policy - based on our last conversation Ms. Bey happy to be relieved of the enforcing of strict uniform rules and that happened immediately
  - Free uniform situation
  - Mrs. Moore has a permanent sub - couple classes have this issue
- Artworks Now donated to the Zombie Run after the fact (thanks!)
- 5th Grade Murals - this year there are four 5th grade classes - the woman last year did a good job working with the kids on that - grants were involved in the past - no more additional money - something like \$7500 - Artworks wrote the grants - maybe we want to check with Mrs. Bey about that
- Ms. Yazvak brought up that in the past we've funded the water fountain in the teacher's lounge - Mr. Swann may have a bill the PTA (Rommell) needs to pick up and pay