

**Hyattsville Elementary School PTA**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2017, 6:30 pm - HES Media Center**

- Introductions (Chad)
  - New attendees introduce themselves, including Juwan Blocker, who is running for PGCPs Board of Education, District 3)
- New School / major renovation effort updates and HERE (Hyattsville Elementary Relocation Effort) – Meredith and Kat
  - figuring out what we can do as a community to make sure we keep momentum going to ensure all options for HES are explored in light of the rapidly decreasing options for a new school site
  - looking at creating a Change.org petition urging a feasibility study and looking into potential new sites for the new school ASAP
    - note that the existing lot is only 2.1 acres, would only be big enough if we went with a 3 story school (unlikely)
    - recommendation for 500 kids is a 4 acre lot with an additional acre for every additional 100 kids
    - not just focusing on the WSSC lot (which is nice due to its proximity to the park) but not as ideal because it's on a flood plain – The existing WSSC building would not be structurally accommodating for a new school up to current standards
    - note that the county services building on route 1 is empty
- Message from Principal Bey and Teachers (skipped)
- PTA Newsletter – Meredith
  - We decided that it would be nice to complement the current school newsletter with another 2 page newsletter to highlight individuals in the school
  - we're waiting on the translation and will have it out sometime in January
  - additional contributors who want to interview folks for future papers are welcome and encouraged
- Crossing Guard Update
  - Chad talked to someone and confirmed that this position has been filled and the crossing guard confirmed that she is here permanently
  - We would like a children crossing sign installed
    - PTA (Chad) will reach out to city officials to see if we can get this done
- Upcoming Events
  - Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> – Teacher Appreciation Week (Mary & Appreciation sub-committee)
    - Thank you notes, have kids write thank you notes, have kids bring in gifts
    - Teacher's lounge will be set up in the morning
    - bring baked goods, savory or sweet – teachers are there pretty early in the morning
    - don't forget office staff, gym teacher, art and music, etc.

- No PTA meeting in January – next meeting Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>
- Prospective Parent Coffee at Vigilante, 7:45am Friday January 12<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> – Pizzeria Paradiso Fundraiser – no online ordering, only call in carry out – we'll need to write on the receipt that it's for the
- Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>, Ice Skating Fundraiser –
  - we'll set this up online – some percentage of pre-purchased ticket sales will go to the school/PTA
  - nice community event to get out on a Sunday afternoon
  - the Friday before school is closed
  - tickets will be sold online and at the school the week before the event
- Pep Rally (Chanel)
  - Ms. Bey informs us that Chanel is working with Mr. Durkin on this but she doesn't have the details right now
- Budget Update
  - around 43k right now – we have some ideas about how to spend it
  - for the junior great books program, county funding was cut off so HES PTA will be providing funding to make sure all students grades 2-5 will have the supplies needed for this program
  - Instrument repair for ms. Conrad has been funded
    - idea to have parents who are musicians come in and talk to the music classes about writing music or practicing music
  - Gym will be painted in the spring
- Building Beautification / Classroom Enrichment (Kat)
  - they brainstormed lots of ideas and started pricing things out
  - high priority right now – teacher survey to identify what equipment / tools teachers could use
  - outside professional development (some felegy teachers did this)
  - financing another chromebook or iPad cart (currently we have 5 but we could use more)
  - Ms. Booker would like to do a digital photography program (10-12 digital cameras needed)
  - Weather station that could be incorporated into daily announcements and/or science curriculum
  - Refreshing garden beds/looking into a compost system using some of the food waste that is disposed during lunch (compost system)
  - mural for the concrete retaining wall outside
  - brick pavers in the mud on the walk to school on Jefferson next to the retaining wall (could do a community paint day to get these in)
  - Playground equipment upgrade
  - Climbing wall in the gym
  - Reading corner in the media center – could get some help from Green Owl design
- T-Shirts (Kevin)

- we've discussed doing a new t-shirt design for the school - have some parents who are graphic designers able to work on this (Alex plus another parent was mentioned)
- branded with the lion
- Kids collared shirt and/or a t-shirt that could be offered at a discount at the beginning of the school year
- higher-end/better material shirts for parents will be available online from CustomInk
- also discussion of additional materials (bumper stickers, etc) either for branding and/or fund raiser
- Ms. Bey brings up the idea of having flags representing the countries and cultures represented at HES. Also college banners –
- Reaching out to colleges and asking for donations of banners to put on classroom doors to promote College and Career readiness – Ms. Stanton's sister is going to reach out to colleges about this
- Request from parent of a fifth grader (Justine) who is in the temps – it's cold in the morning – they're not allowed to wear sweatshirts in the mornings
  - Ms. Bey replies that the temps are usually burning up and that they usually don't tell the students to take their coats off
  - Ms. Bey says she'll speak to Ms. Peter and other temporary classroom teachers about this
- Uniform discussion – expectation is that students should come in uniform. Some teachers enforce this differently from others
  - before the end of the year, if we want to change the policy, we need to get this done by April
  - Requirements to add and remove uniform policy are clear but AP policy on how to change the uniform policy are less clear – we may have space here to make a revision of the uniform policy with a parent/teacher committee
  - PTA to consolidate and group the concerns so we can have a structured conversation around this
- Special Guest - Director of Building Services and Director of Environmental Services attending the meeting – all water has been tested as part of preventative maintenance
  - background – News media is blowing it up a bit
  - plumbers shut off water everywhere it was problematic
  - all drinking fountains in the school system have been tested (not all water sources)
  - Three sources at HES tested above 10 PPB (parts per billion) – those three fixtures have been cut off – every one that tested above acceptable level has a work order being tracked – likely all these just need a new fixture – fixtures will be changed out and retested
  - Goal of the county is to mitigate as much as possible by the end of the summer – if they can't by then they'll remove the fixtures
  - this mirrors what was found in 2010
  - composite material that makes up the fixtures is where lead can be introduced. The only way to know for sure is to test it.
  - HMS is also being tested (results not back yet)

- other fixtures (non drinking fountains) have non-potable labels because they haven't been tested
- Currently there is no law mandating lead testing but the school system is funding the tests and remediation
- Pest Management – they practice integrated pest management
- used to be only food in the cafeteria but now that we have breakfast and sometimes lunch in the classroom pests are much trickier to control
- they can't really do much pest control wise except in the summer because of the chemicals
- they only have three pest controllers – adding a fourth – but all they do is inspect
- new program implemented to get the food out of the classrooms and into the cafeteria
- push to get the youngest kids in the cafeteria for breakfast
- January/February we should raise any planned maintenance concerns because they're planning for the summer
- Juwan Blocker attended the meeting. He is running for PGCPs Board of Education, District 3
- PTA Officer Nominating committee – please reach out to a PTA officer if you are interested in being on the nominating committee or interested in running to be a PTA officer next year