

- Greetings
 - Marquisha gave opening remarks - thank you for coming to the PTA meeting
 - Introductions - everyone around the room said their Name, kids name, class
 - Marquisha made a side-request a future Middle School discussion with Bart
 - Thank you to the teachers and staff - cards provided for meeting attendees to write notes of appreciation
- Zombie run highlights
 - Marquisha: The Blackerbys are heroes for doing this - it's about building community and pulling everyone together
 - Kevin: This started a year ago as a joke with Mary. Numbers for the race - we expected 150 to 300. Total was 475 registered. Next year will be even bigger. There were over 100 volunteers who helped with many different tasks, we couldn't have done it without them. Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and community. We got great feedback about the event from a lot of people - well organized, great course, we should be proud of the turnout, etc. The planning took over a year with a key group of 12 volunteers. As of now 3 (and during the) of the biggest sponsors from last year have pledged to sponsor again next year. We made a lot of money for the school. This is going to be even bigger next year - response from the city, runners, community, etc - everyone thinks it's great.
 - Mary - It was so great how it was a whole community thing not just HES.
 - Kevin - This is a community event that happens to be a fundraiser for the school. Attracting serious runners
 - Ms. Entwistle - this was so well organized and so great to see so many
- PTA Event Coordinator Opportunities
 - Dan Muth has graciously volunteered to be the new membership coordinator (or Czar (?))
 - Megan Miller has volunteered to be the Restaurant Coordinator
 - Stephanie Knowles and another parent have volunteered to be Teacher Appreciation Coordinators
 - Dan Muth also said he would be perfect as Garden and Grounds coordinator
 - Bart gave some details on the Garden and Grounds stuff - plants are coming in the weekend of the 29th. Bart orders plants for here and plants and trees for the middle school. Bart and Ken aren't going to be around October 15th so we all agreed to move this event to November 5th
 - Marquisha explained more about Garden and Grounds day - it is clean-up planting beds starting around 8am with coffee and doughnuts and someone directing everyone to do things like weed, mulch, plant bulbs. Kids can come and have fun, help out, play in the dirt. Clean the grounds prepare it for the spring and get all the weeds out.
 - Mary mentions that this is a job of the county but school PTAs tend to help out. We are lucky there is not too much green space at the school - we like to really clean it up couple times a year. Bart and Jonathon Alexander usually do a lot for this event.
 - The job involves getting volunteers to show up at 7:45, bring tools, order mulch (not from Denchfield, who we suspect gave us mulch that sprouted

invasive weeds) - Wells is a good source - Bart can give more specifics. Depending on the number of volunteers and depending on how many people we get how many areas we can get to (if ton of volunteers we can do neighborhood cleanup)

- Dan asked a question about the green space in the middle of the blacktop - this is a water mitigation strategy. Suggestion is to reduce the amount of asphalt, that we should look into getting a rebate to do more here - http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.9146461/k.D5B/Prince_George8217s_County_Rain_Check_Rebate.htm . Someone mentioned that we're not allowed to go in there because there may be a contractor who is responsible for maintaining it. Once last year someone came in and cleaned it up.

- Schedule and upcoming events

- October 10: International dinner 6pm - 7:30pm
 - Mrs. Bey said that this is a potluck. We have a performer that Ms. Penate has arranged to come out. We're hoping for a big turn out.
- Garden and Grounds day - moved to November 5th
- November 9th: Next PTA Meeting
- December 5th: Franklin's Fundraiser: great day to get lunch, dinner, gifts, indoor recess supplies for the classrooms
- December 6th: PTA Meeting

- Other News

- We have a plan to deal with the morning traffic situation in the works - to be discussed in more detail at a future meeting. The current situation is dangerous. The general idea is to get a group of parent volunteers together to help out with this (teachers are great volunteering to do this but sometimes get flack for telling parents what to do). We're working on a plan and going to work with the city on it and figure out what kind of publicity and signage we'll need then work with police the first few days of implementation (after winter break)
- Mary has another morning topic - as the weather gets worse folks come to the school earlier. There is no wear for the kids to sit in shelter until the school gets unlocked. Tardiness is also a problem. We want to avoid creating a bottle neck in the hallway. This fall has been pretty good weather but we need to be prepared for that changing. Note that the back drop off works really well.
- In other other news - lots of chatting on Facebook posts - we didn't get the message about wear your Zombie Shirt to school day or Walk to School Day. We would love it if the school could have some kind of text or email notification system. Mrs. Bey said that the event today was a city event so the school did not take it upon itself to publicize it. At her old school there was an email list that the school used for communication. Ms. Bey says she thinks this would be the best way. Bart mentioned that the middle school uses Remind. Someone has mentioned this to Ms. Bey. About a quarter of parents do not have email. Mrs. Bey's old school offered to set up email accounts for parents. There was a question about what if a parent doesn't have internet access. Library may be an option but some parents don't have internet on their phones. Mrs. Bey responded that the school can maintain a list of people with

and without email and send people flyers who don't have emails. Justine suggests we should do both emails and paper communication. We have a new robot-call system. Mary noticed a lot of teachers are doing various technologies (class dojo, etc.) - for parents this increases the complexity. We can't eliminate paper yet. A Teacher said that second graders can't get an account unless parents grant permission per county policy. It's hard for teachers to help train the google classroom when the second graders don't have this permission. Intermediate grades - they automatically get an account. Students need to learn how to use these devices.

Marquisha - would it be helpful for PTA to host something with coffee and doughnuts to educate the parents about the chrome books and google accounts, etc. - Morning session dedicated to educating parents about this - Marquisha and Ms. Bey to coordinate on this.

Policy from the county that 2nd graders need permission for the accounts. The repercussion of this policy is that teachers are struggling to be able to teach kids how to use the technology.

- Marquisha presented Ms. Bey with a Thank You orchid for her office.
- Marquisha presented Kevin with a thank you gift for organizing the zombie run
- Message from Ms. Bey -
 - Security access - Having the parents have the badges for the morning is very helpful. For the most part parents are coming in with badges.
 - Uniforms - this year is not the year to tackle uniforms. Teachers agree this is fine. There are too many other things to focus on right now. Marquisha recalls Julia saying you all voted for this uniform policy, I have too much to deal with right now. It's not a priority to micromanage accessories. It may be a hardship for some families to afford the correct sweater or shoes. What Julia asked of us was to agree on this written policy with regards to shoes and accessories but khakis and navy or white collared shirts. Another parent spoke up to say if we decide to revote - the uniform all in one shirt dress with the collar is easier and less expensive - she wasn't aware the dress stopped at second grade request to allow those dresses in higher grades. More comfortable to wear the dress for the day. This is easier financially and comfort
 - Everyone seemed to agree we should revise the uniform policy in these ways:
 - Relax the verbaige about Shoes/socks/sweaters
 - State that Navy collared shirt dresses and khaki jumpers are allowed in upper grades
- Dan Muth - as PTA Membership coordinator suggested everyone here join the PTA if you have not already done so. We can sponsor membership if \$10 is a hardship. Come and see Dan if you want to join. Spread the word - we're trying to make the HES experience even better!
- Barbara needs two more volunteers in the library Mondays and Wednesdays - entails coming to the library, stay until 9, check out books to kids, shelve books. It's every other week. It's a lot of fun! Context is that we share a librarian with another school. Having volunteers enables kids to get books every week instead of only every other week.

- The staff requests that we have our PTA meetings a little bit earlier than 7pm. Some teachers live far away and their day is really long.
- Marquisha mentions that we have a \$75 reimbursement for each teacher. She's working with Mrs. Bey and Mary Warneka to figure this out and making it as easy as possible for teachers. Teachers should save their receipts.
- Mary also mentions PTA budgets for in-school special programs/speakers. We try to support activities that the largest number of students will benefit from.
- Ms. Entwistle suggests getting enough picnic tables for a whole class so we can have classes outside. Marquisha says we'll try our best to help out. If we had outdoor tables kids could do coloring and other quiet things outside.
- Co-joining indoor recess games with the holiday stuff. Kevin has a uge idea.