

**Hyattsville Elementary School PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2016, 7:00 pm**

i. BUDGET

- Rommel - review of PTA finances
- goal was raising \$900 PTA membership fees so far we've raised \$750 - should be easy goal to get the membership bump - find 15 parents interesting in renewing or rejoining PTA
- we had \$20000 carried forward
- so far we've raised \$25,800
- upcoming events should raise about 1500 (or 15000??) - native plant sale, ice skating, franklins, chipotle
- we've expanded some of the buckets to increase expenses by \$12,000
- We have approximately \$16500 of extra funds not yet slated to be spent
- Our comfort level is 15-20 thousand of extra money - once we consistently have that much money
- The minimum amount we want to carry is the seed money for native plant sale and zombie run (totals 15-16 thousand)
- Mrs. Bey said one thing we should consider spending is on academics - MION (sp?) funding for our school is \$5000 - interactive audio and graphic novel thing - also there is some math one - county used to provide money but it's been cut

ii. Opportunities to Donate

- Franklins - Monday night (last night - dec. 5th) - thank you for coming out
- Dec. 19th is the HMS Franklins fundraiser
- Amazon Smile - ongoing program - small percent of your amazon purchases will go to HES - the site reports on how much money we've earned
- Coat Drive - we're going to start collecting them currently, though next Tuesday - the biggest need is for larger coats (5th graders) - hats gloves etc.
- Sarah to get in touch with HMS to ask their students to donate their hand-me-downs here - size 8 through 14 - coats for adults and infants also welcome - also socks and underwear donations are welcome - any size - bring donations to Ms. Penate in her office there will be a box for the coats other items can be brought directly to Ms. Penate

iii. Opportunities to Volunteer

- PTA Treasurer - Rommel needs to step down due to his expanding role at CASA
  - Mary suggests perhaps one of the vice presidents could switch roles instead
  - Meredith Muth volunteers to fill this role
- 2017-2018 Spring Fair Committee
  - we need someone to scope it out, figure out if we did it, what the logistics would be and what the expected
  - Ms. Roy volunteered to work with Kevin on this
- Lacy McDowell volunteered to do membership chair

#### iv. Upcoming Events

- Staff Thank You week - if you're planning on baking make a little bit extra because Monday the 19th through Thursday 22nd we're doing a Staff Thank You in the teachers lounge. Also there will be an opportunity to sign up for
- - Morning Setup -
  - Afternoon Breakdown
  - also please send thank you notes in to teachers, something nice to show how much we appreciate them that last week before Winter break
- in January - last day of every month we'll do a token to let staff know how much we appreciate them - make 40 of X and give them to the staff - for December there will be a flyer
- Ice Skating fundraiser - Sunday February 12th, 2:00-4pm
  - we'll be selling the tickets in advance
  - one idea is to work with the ice rink to have kids be able to buy song dedications - Jerry will ask about this - or something like class skate with the teachers - lots of ideas are thrown around - one idea is to motivate classes to buy tickets, offering some incentive - Jerry will check to see if we can get a high school or college age DJ
  - raffle off a zamboni ride??? maybe liability issues
- Winter Break - Friday Dec. 23rd through Monday Jan 2nd
- No PTA Meeting in January
- February PTA meeting Tuesday the 7th

#### v. Teaching Tolerance

- Not on our watch event - Erica Wilson and Christine B. put on an event to let our neighbors know that the hate and bullying incidents happening will not be tolerated in our community.
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- event had a lot of speakers including Rommel, James Johnson, etc - from all the diverse religious and ethnic communities around us - we heard some interesting perspectives and learned ways to respond if you are a target of or witness to any hate incident
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- turnout was good (about 200 people)
- Anti-Defamation league program - No Place for Hate initiative - focused on providing schools with an organizing framework - this is a free program that we could bring to our school. Christine has reached out to learn more about this program
- Christine was at a school convention over the weekend. SPLC was one of the organizations there - they track hate crimes and hate incidents and provide tools on how to respond to them - she got a lot of free things - Teaching Tolerance Magazine free for teachers - guidebooks on how to respond to biases and stereotypes - lots of materials available on [teachingtolerance.org](http://teachingtolerance.org)

- Mary also notes that we have some budget for in-school enrichment program
- discussion of how important it is for kids to come together and appreciate all their differences

#### VI. School Access Policy

- we're still working on it, will keep you posted
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- pick up during inclement weather -
  - parents can no longer go to the classrooms because of the county policy that anyone who comes into the building must present ID at the office
  - would help teachers if announcements were made earlier
  - in the morning kids can go to the gym
  - in the afternoon, kids can go to the gym - 5th graders go to the library, external temps dismiss straight from their classrooms
  - mornings have gotten a lot better

#### VII. Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance Awards and Uniform Pass

- question about how this was announced, some parents missed it
- question about if we can publish PDF copies of the flyers through the remind system

#### VIII. Other News

- Question about 4th grade math teacher - replacement for Mrs. Rectanous
- Mrs. Bey says we have a really big problem with substitutes. They don't want to come to this particular class. 4th grade is the most challenging this year. They've had to break the class up - we've had a lot of substitutes backing out.
- This 4th grade class has gone a month and a half with no math instruction. This week they have Mrs. Mohammad back now and between her and Mrs. Brock they should get the math instruction back. four times this class has been broken up and missed all their subjects, some having to spend the entire day with the kindergarten class.

#### IV. Message from Mrs. Bey

- Vice Principal / Art Teacher in 2017 - 2018
  - parents want to make sure we're expressing our appreciation for arts in our school and for Ms. Yazvak in particular - county only funds .5 or .6 of an art teacher - it's really important to the parents to keep our full time art teacher (Ms. Yazvak) on staff
  - Marquisha asks if maybe there is something the parents can do to advocate
  - context: PG County only funds .5 an art teacher, we only got Mrs. Yazvak full time because Mrs. Burton gave up the Vice Principal position
  - discussion ensues about all the things Mrs. Bey has to do and hoe she really needs an assistant principal
  - nothing is set in stone - we don't know what the budget is going to look like next year
  - some schools get gifted positions - we could pursue that
  - School Board members show up at our events - we need to approach them with issues we're having

- Demi Tavares
  - Dinora Hernandez
  - Mary ?
- SAVE ART - we need \$\$ for assistant principal AND an art teacher
- SUBSTITUTE teacher
- Better policy on field trip volunteers
- Finger Printing required for all chaperones, \$56.57 (\$7 background check no longer accepted)
  - Ms. Penate to organize qualified parents to keep field trips in place
  - Ms. Entwistle said she'd call and see if they could come out for an event or when the next event would be, maybe she could ask about subsidies or grants
  - Barbara said if a parent meets certain income requirements then the expense would be covered. Mrs. Entwistle will ask about that
  - Two years ago Mary wrote a letter and we compared our system with neighboring counties, this was before the new finger printing requirement
  - Barbara says Hyattsville city and police department have been willing and ready to help out but the school system has been unresponsive
  - discussion of what PTA can do to help
- First in Math Computer Program - we did not have time to discuss this