

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

- Greetings
 - Introductions - we go around the room introducing ourselves, our children
- Take away from Parent Meeting with Elected Officials
 - Marquisha thanks attendees, organizers, community members and Ms. Bey
 - Officials were there to listen and hear us out
 - Review of Justine's minutes ([link](#)) and outline ([link](#))
 - Full Time Art teacher + assistant principal funding for next year
 - Budget will be provided to Ms. Bey - Ms Bey reports that she got offered a sit down to go over this years and next years budget (good)
 - Substitute situation - the county is holding lots of job fairs and doing what they can to increase the pool of available substitutes - their goal is to have 6000 substitutes for the county
 - Policy discussion - policy hasn't changed but now CPS is being roped in more often - Ms. Bey recently attended a training - reassured that Principals still have the authority to handle situations so long as what is being reported is not illegal or placing children in harms way
 - All the HES staff are being pulled out of class for crises prevention training - this year and into next year all of the staff will be getting this training - training will help teachers struggling with classroom management issues
 - We are paying subs, teachers on leave, and investigators
 - Marquisha asks Ms. Bey if there are any guidelines provided by the county regarding what constitutes abuse
 - Response from Ms. Bey - all teachers are required to attend this training at the beginning of the year. Note that touching is ok/allowed, just in an appropriate and non threatening way
 - Pacheco - asst director of security services - 7 years ago there were 250 cases/year. as of now the case load this year is 700
 - PGCPs Cooley acknowledged the communication issues when teachers go out on leave
 - How long teachers are out varies from case to case
 - T. Carter Ross tells us there is a FOIA request out to get more data on these numbers
 - Question about how the county can close the learning gaps being opened by absent teachers
 - Mary Roche acknowledged this gap is an issue and is going to follow up
 - Next day Deni set up a meeting with Dr. Maxwell and representatives from HES and HMS
 - Fairly short meeting - discussed the creative writing program at HMS and the art teacher position at HES

- regarding the positions - we keep getting told it's too early to ask for the position
 - We pointed out that perhaps when there is principal turnover at the school the set positions within a school
 - Dr. Maxwell says he supports the idea of a full time art teacher in the arts district but also pointed to budget constraints/couldn't promise anything
 - (discussion at PTA meeting ensues) - Arts integration - integrates music, performing arts, visual arts - part time art instruction can be episodic (seems like they're here for a week, gone for a long time)
 - Leigh points out that quality of fully funded full time art instruction is likely higher than the once a quarter teachers that have to go to many schools over the course of a month
 - Mary points out that part of this is student based budget so one thing we can do is encourage our friends and fellow community members to send their kids to this school
 - Katie asks where are these kids going to go if they all come to HES and a discussion ensues about specialty schools vs local public school
 - Meredith suggests we have some meeting across local PTAs and PTOs to collaborate on some of the issues we're facing and want broader advocacy/support - for things like the substitute issue
 - informal cross PTA/PTO meeting might be really helpful for us to collaborate on issues
 - Lee mentions that a few went to the budget meeting and felt like the schools were pitted against each other
 - Dr. Eubanks has said that working together, getting larger groups of people together makes more of an impact
 - From a PR perspective it might help also
 - Barbara says that other schools that feed into our middle school there is a need to get the positivity rolling about the great programs at HMS, which has a bad reputation
- Zombie Run Mobilization - September 30th is the date for this year
 - 17k raised for the school last year - big fundraiser
 - initial help 15-20 people needed
 - come race day 100+ people are needed
 - working on Signage, logo, etc
 - time keeper for next year has been figured out - no chips, just something that goes on the bib and can be thrown away
 - please reach out to Kevin or other PTA members if you're interested in helping
- Upcoming Events
 - Ice Skating Fundraiser - Sunday February 12th
 - tickets on sale online and in the morning
 - names will be taken down, ice cream party thrown
 - Yogi Castle Fundraiser - Tuesday February 14th

- Please tell them you're there for the HES PTA fundraiser
 - Prospective HES Orientation - Thursday February 16th Vigilante, 8am
 - Next PTA Meeting, March 7th
 - STEM Fair, March 8th
 - Movie Night - Friday March 10th - Mary to organize a vote on the movie, will coordinate with the school and Michelle
 - Spring Garden and Grounds Day - Saturday March 11th
 - Elevation Burger Fundraiser - Tuesday March 21st
 - Spice Six in April
 - Tara Thai in May
 - Bart suggests Megan call Franklins to schedule for early next December
 - HES Art Show - Thursday March 23rd (Ms. Yazvac)
- Opportunities to Volunteer - letter from Ms. Page, please reach out to her if interested
 - Tutoring
 - Lunch Support
 - Peak Test Time
 - Jump Rope for Heart - Mr. Hook is looking for a few people, Friday for 1-2 hours - one to give out prizes to students, two to do some data entry - if you are interested please reach out to Mr. Hook - this started this week week and goes through the second week of march - ends with some kind of DJ'd party -
 - Zombie Run
 - STEM fair judges
- Opportunities for Finger Printing - PTA is working with Robin Welsh and Dr. Shelia Jackson (director of Family Engagement Office) for a more central location, registration requirements (if needed) and opportunities for reduced pricing
 - Katie speaks out about how the cost for fingerprinting is prohibitive for her family
 - February 16th, Eleanor Roosevelt High School (~15 minute drive from HES) 6:30pm
 - March 2nd, Rosaryville Elementary School
 - March 16th, Montpelier Elementary School
 - Marquisha has asked for something even closer
 - Note that if your child gets free or reduced lunch then the cost of fingerprinting is free
 - Finger Printing is required for any activity a parent will be participating in where the teacher will not be there
 - For one time event where teacher is always present only
- Approved Budget Modification
 - Highlights - we're doing great, have amended the budget in the areas below
 - consider buying a new bench for the little free library (it lasted about four years)
 - We're not spending the money fast enough - most of the money spent has to be bought on a personal credit and reimbursed so spending can be tricky - Mary will follow up with Meredith on this

- Mrs. Entwistle mentioned that science materials from the county have not been updated in many years
- Meredith reports that we have general categories that haven't been spent so need to figure out which needs fit in which category
- First in Math
- Drop-off signage
- Picnic tables
- + over \$600 for the Franklins Fundraiser, \$125 from Ledos
- Other News -
 - Leigh asks if Camp Invention this year - Ms. Bey says Jennifer Stanton is doing this again this \$2400 budgeted for t-shirts
 - Katie has a good price on this kind of thing
- Message from Principal Bey
 - Ms. Bey says we covered most of it
 - Honor roll assembly next week - 14th - we'll get an invitation if our kid made honor roll by grade level
 - Ms. Bey says this information is in the newsletter
 - Marquisha asks for this stuff to be publicized through robo-call, website
 - Attendance dance also next week
 - We're going to have a reading night, like the math night, at the end of March