

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

- Cards were handed out to write thank you notes to elected officials who engaged with the HES community and helped us get funding for a full time art instructor next year
- Greetings -Introductions - we go around the room introducing ourselves, our children
- Full time art teacher - Mary Roche and Dinora Hernandez have given confirmation that we will have a full time art instruction for next year
  - This will be done with beginning of the year class adjustments
  - We are going to need to continue our advocacy effort to ensure the permanent full time position continues to be funded in the future
- Upcoming Events:
  - Movie Night - Finding Dory - Friday March 10th 6:30pm - admission will be school supplies
    - Discussion about school supply needs - always need pencils, glue sticks, construction paper, clorox wipes, hand sanitizer
  - Spring Garden and Grounds Day - Saturday March 11th 8am
    - In the spring we mostly do weeding and mulching - may plant a few flowers - we'll have pastries or donuts - we'll have gloves and trash pick-up sticks. Please bring gardening supplies, especially spades - neighborhood clean-up can be done if we run out of other things to do
    - Picnic tables - Marquisha was looking at some at Home Depot and also at playground picnic tables that meet accessibility requirements - so we may only get one this year - we'll figure out which one and where it should go at garden and grounds day
    - Principal Bey says she won't be able to make it because she'll be at a hiring fair
  - Elevation Burger Fundraiser - Tuesday March 21st
    - Megan will follow-up with the details
    - Staff will be able to order throughout the day
  - Hyattsville Parade - Saturday April 29th
    - Marquisha has reached out to Ms. Yazvac about float design
    - Every night the week leading up to the parade last year
    - It's worth it - great neighborhood publicity for our school - last year there were 200 students participating
    - We have a frame already - in Bart's back yard - we need to check its condition
  - Native Plant Sale - Saturday May 20th
    - Leigh volunteers to help out with this - mostly we need help putting out yard signs and collecting them later - Andre and Mohammed can help with putting out the signs

- School will be closed tomorrow March 8th for Day Without Women
- Finger Printing Session at HES [date TBD]
  - We're going to get a session here but they haven't announced the date yet
  - Request to get enough of a heads up
  - If you volunteer to help Ms. Page with tutoring PTA will cover the cost of fingerprinting
  - People who have free or reduced lunch have the cost covered by the county
- Opportunities to volunteer
  - Send out email reminder about movie night and make sure Ms. Bey is on their
  - Help at lunch time to give the teachers a break - we'll need in the cafeteria help especially during testing time (April)
  - Peak testing time - they are testing now. April is PARC which will be heavy
- Other News
  - Drop-off plan likely will not be implemented until next year. The back works well but the front could use some work. Having Mr. Richards out their helps a lot. The best time to make changes would be during the summer while Ms. Bey has time to plan things out
    - Perhaps just reminding people about the back way would help out
    - PTA will get Mr. Richards some rain gear and a bright vest to wear
  - Zombie Run - Kevin is starting to ramp up the effort - September 30th 2017
- Claire's Gourmet -
  - The school has no funds to use for something like a summer time planning 2 day retreat for the teachers
  - Some parents at the meeting are upset about this - would rather donate money directly to the school
  - This has not historically been the culture of the school to do this kind of fund raiser
  - The PTA would prefer other sources of revenue be pursued
  - Some parents at the meeting think it's good to have the kids involved and a good learning opportunity for the kids
  - Ms. Bey wants to take time to work with staff over the summer and do some planning
  - Would be nice next year to make more clear what the fund raiser effort is for but it was mentioned in the letter from Ms. Bey (Lion's Roar)
- First in Math Update - it's not for the school year, but for the entire calendar year. PTA approved the funds for this but maybe it's not the right time, with assessments coming up
  - Leigh points out that it would be good for the Fourth graders to have access to this, especially over the extended summer - why wouldn't we just jump on that
  - I Excel is a program that the teacher can integrate into the classroom
  - Ms. Bey agrees that since the PTA has approved the funds it would be good to provide kids access

- Ms. Bey addresses how the loss of fourth grade math class time is being mitigated
  - Marquisha asks how soon we can implement this - Ms. Bey said she doesn't have the money - maybe we can do a quick thing tomorrow
  - Ms. Bey got the price for first in math twice
- Leigh asks when we will have information about the budget and the budget meeting - Leigh asks please do every communication available to parents - Robo Call, Remind, email, flyer - as soon as Principal has the budget she should have a meeting with the community to let everyone know how the budget is going to be
- Katie asks about field day T-Shirts - Ms. Eunyong wondering how they get paid - usually someone fronts the money and PTA reimburses. Also if there is an invoice then the PTA can reimburse
- Lisa Davidson asks about thoughts on the school calendar. Principal Bey says she's from New York where that's what happened. Same required number of school days
  - Asked why we can't do professional development days before the beginning of the school year - not all staff wants to do the professional development over the summer
- Lee asks if PTA could have a credit card to make paying for things easier. This is not allowed.