

Hyattsville Elementary School PTA
General Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018, 6:30 pm - HES Media Center

Welcome and Introductions (Marquisha)

Message from HES (Principal Bey and HES Teachers)

This is our spirit week. Next week is PARCC testing. Today was genius day for spirit week. Tomorrow is twin day. One big thing happening this week is that we're having a fire inspection tomorrow – making sure we're fire safe. For the fire Marshall we have to move things that were in the hallways like cabinets and garbage cans. We had YMCA providing before/after care and they had to leave because of fire safety issues.

Budget updates – we submitted a budget – many weren't here for the coffee chat where the budget was presented but Barbara Morris was there and took notes (thanks Barbara!). Input from parents was gathered. Thanks to the PTA for supplementing some of the budget shortcomings. Speaking of budget, something teachers always want is more technology – the PTA has purchased a chromebook cart with 30 chromebooks to increase our use of technology in the classroom. The school wants to have 2-3 more chromebook carts for next year (they are ~ \$11k each) – but the school uses them for testing. More carts will help teachers use more technology efficiently. Mrs. Bey is looking for grants to fulfill these needs. Let her know if you know of appropriate grants and someone from the school can apply. Meredith asks why the inequity between our school and some schools that have chromebooks for each child. Answer – because we're not title 1 we don't get more money – more money and resources are given to schools and students with the greatest need.

The budget is still in draft but Mrs. Bey anticipates our staff levels remaining the same plus an additional para-professional and full time registrar. Also a math IOT was requested. 3rd and 4th grade are going to be 28/29 students per class so also considering adding another third grade teacher. Same number of classes on each classes except 4 fourth grade classes going to 3 and one of those teachers going to fifth grade so we'll have 4 fifth grade classes next year. The Browns (special ed teachers) are leaving but we don't know of any other staff turnover going on next year.

The school has been given a GS grant for teacher retention. Ms. Bey went to a meeting about this grant. PG County doesn't determine the grant. The goal of the grant is to acquire and retain teachers. Game plan being put together to attract teachers. As a GS-3 school we get to choose candidates. Teachers have to stay in the county for three years. Our school is deemed a high needs school – teachers are incentivized to stay for at least three years. Teacher leader is also given a stipend to provide support – and money for veterans who will be given professional development opportunities. For every two new teachers, Ms. Bey gets one teacher leader.

PARC testing begins next week. This becomes a data point used to determine paths for students. We want our students to do their best. Fifth grade starts next Monday. Each class have seven days of testing – four days reading, three days math.

Yearbook – lifetouch gives the school money (10%) back and that money can be used for teachers. We don't have a yearbook club. Someone on each grade level is responsible for taking pictures. The yearbook committee takes pictures. The team wanted to do a yearbook (Ms. Peter) so we're doing that. The PTA will get two pages for the yearbook. Also Thursday is candid picture day so lifetouch will be here.

Marquisha thanks all the teachers who made it out on Saturday for the parade (especially Ms. Peele!)

Last week and this week is assistant principal week so please thank Mr. Durkin.

Ms. Peele – Conveyed thank you message from Mr. Heck. and pictures to thank the PTA for funding their trip to Glen Echo. This was a fun experience for all the kids. Field day shirts are on sale. Parents can buy shirts too especially if you plan on helping out at field day. The PTA will be supplementing to make sure all kids get a t-shirt regardless of ability to buy one.

Career Day – we only have 10 people signed up so far. Camp invention – spots are open. Last week of June (24th through 29th)

Field Day – PTA will be covering the food (pizza). PTA will be getting volunteers to help with the food but classes will be on the hook for getting volunteers to help on field day(s).

Tomorrow – twin day

Thursday – College Day

Friday – Blue and Gold

Upcoming Events:

- Azalea Classic – Saturday April 21st
- Elevation Burger Fundraiser – Tuesday April 24th
- Garden and Grounds Day – Saturday April 28th - Meet at the school as early as 8am
- PTA Meeting (officer elections) - Tuesday May 1st 6:30pm HES Library
- Teacher Appreciation Week – May 7th through 11th
- Career Day – Friday May 18th
- Plant Sale – Saturday May 19th
- PGCPs Board of Education Candidate Forum, hosted by the city of Hyattsville – Thursday May 24th 6:30, City Municipal Building
- HES Art Show – Wednesday May 30th – HES (volunteer opportunity)
- Field Days – May 22nd through June 5th

Budget Update (Meredith) – we're in the mid-thirties right now. Making some good headway on spending (chromebooks, school banners, new drop off signs, digital cameras to enable a digital photo course, art supplies, electronics (mouses, headphones, etc)) - meeting the goals we set out in our original budget.

Teacher Survey Results (Meredith) - PTA wanted to find out what spending needs were important to the staff. We got 26 responses and we're using the survey results to inform our spending directions. Most popular request was Chromebooks, which we bought. Second most popular request was playground equipment, which we'll regroup on over the summer. Some smaller things were also requested which we'll be able to act on quickly.

PTA 2018 – 2020 Officer Nominations (Christine on behalf of the Nominating committee - Christine Blackerby, Rachel Cain, and Teresa Martin) -

Thanks for the current officer team (Marquisha, Kevin, Chad, Meredith, and Sarah)
Nominating committee is putting fourth five candidates at this time and any PTA member may nominate themselves at today's meeting

President – Meredith Muth

VP – Megan Miller and Lee Cain

Treasurer – Catarina Correia

Secretary – Jen Hanna

Opportunity given for any member to nominate his or herself. No further nominations made.

Elections will take place at our next PTA meeting on May 1st. New term for new officers starts at the beginning of the school fiscal year (July 1st) and it's a two year term

Newsletter – in process – thank you to Lauren, Jen and Jaime

Jefferson Murals (Meredith) – we're looking for resources to fund the rest of the murals. This year we're doing four – Anacostia Watershed Society work with the fifth graders on the design – moving forward, will be installed sometime this spring. We also got a \$750 donation from the Polka Dot Park people. Lee has been working with Artworks.

2018 – 2019 School Supply Kits (Sarah) – flyers announcing the kits will go home this week, then the flyers with order information will go home in May – buying them will save you trouble

Zombie Run, Fall 2018 (Kevin) – Saturday October 13th - need help with Websites, Sponsorship and Fundraising, and PR Work. Also need to talk with teachers to figure out how we can get the students as involved as possible. Kevin is looking for a co-director who could direct the following year to keep this awesome event going on – let Kevin know if you are interested! This is a wonderful community event. Don't be shy about getting involved. Other schools besides us can also raise money through this event. We'd love to increase participation.

Last night there was a city council meeting where several parents spoke out about the development planned to go in at the WSSC building