

**Hyattsville Elementary School PTA**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**May 1, 2018, 6:30 pm - HES Media Center**

**Message from HES**

Ms. Bey had a conflict this evening so Ms. Cooper, Ms. Jones, Ms. Roy, and Ms. Peele filled us in

Ms. Jones – Yearbooks are online, they are in the last week of putting things together. PTA will have two pages – they're meeting every day after school this week to finalize the yearbook. PTA pages will include pictures from the zombie run, parade, etc.

Ms. Roy – PARCC testing this week 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Next week is 5<sup>th</sup> grade math and then week of 14<sup>th</sup> is 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade math. Results don't come until next October. This is a standardized test that gives a snapshot of where the school is. The test is administered on the computer. Test results are reflected in neighborhood ratings on Zillow as well as categorizing the school according to how well they are doing.

Ms. Peele – K1 Field Day will be on May 29<sup>th</sup> and they're looking for volunteers to help with walking down and serving lunch. Arts and Crafts club has started – 1<sup>st</sup>/2nd grade only after school 2 or 3 days a week.

Honor roll assemblies this week – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> grade 8-8:45 and 5<sup>th</sup> grade 9-9:45, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> grade 8-8:45 and 4<sup>th</sup> grade 9-9:45

Jump rope for heart is happening too – money is being collected this week and they'll complete it in class.

**Upcoming Events**

- Teacher Appreciation Week – May 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Saturday/Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Project – we need volunteers this weekend to help redo the teacher's lounge – if you can help for an hour or two would be appreciated. - this should be a fun project!
  - Monday May 7: Bring a breakfast treat to Teacher's Lounge
  - Tuesday May 8: Bring a flower to your teacher/staff
  - Wednesday May 9: Bring a piece of fruit to your teacher/staff
  - Thursday May 10: Write a thank-you note for your teachers
  - Friday May 11: Bring a breakfast treat to Teacher's Lounge
- International Day – June 1<sup>st</sup> – Parent participation is encouraged – reach out to your child's classroom teacher (8am-10am)
- Career Day – Date Change!! Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> – slots for the entire day
- Book Fair – Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> through Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup>, Classes shop during their regular Library Media time
  - Book Fair Night for Families – Tuesday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5-7pm – buy one get one free!

- Plant Sale – May 19<sup>th</sup> – this is a great volunteer opportunity – need people to prepare for the sale and help with checkout – no specialized plant knowledge required. Note that 8-10 is the busy time when we need the most volunteers
- PGCPS Board of Education Candidate Forum – Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30, City Municipal Building – great opportunity to meet with the candidates
- HES Art Show – Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup> – Time TBD
- Field Days – May 22<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup> see HES calendar for grades – we'll need people to pick up pizza and cut watermelons
- Zombie Run – Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 – we have entered zombie run mode, purchasing licenses and insurance and getting sponsorship.
  - Road runner club grant opportunity – sent to Ms. Battle
  - looking for a Course Marshall head

#### 2018 – 2020 Officer Elections

Nominating Committee – last month (April) meeting we held nominations. This month we have elections

President – Meredith Muth

VPs – Lee Cain and Megan Miller

Treasurer – Catarina Coreaia

Secretary – Jen Hanna

The Yay/Nay Vote is unanimous and the slate of candidates was approved

Each candidate gives a brief statement about themselves

#### Suggestions of PTA / Open Floor Discussions

##### WSSC Property

Dan Muth lets us know that we're forming a committee with people from the PTA, City Council and the County to make sure we are communicating with each other WSSC Vote coming up on May 7<sup>th</sup> – please reach out to your city council members if you would like to voice your opinion on this matter. The vote is on whether or not to approve the zoning change recommendations to the county.

Barbara Morris points out that what the council is voting on is a very narrow thing and are unable to take all the concerns of the citizens into account, given what they have to vote on.

SOS group has met with people at the county level to express their concerns – we're hoping to amend this process to allow the community to have more input.

County Council members are somewhat in a bind over this and the actual thing they have to vote on is very narrow.

Number one priority next year – advocating for a new school

Something else PTA has been discussing is getting the IB program into HES. Entire staff would be trained in this program which has an international focus and this gets worked into the curriculum. When we first brought it up, Principal Burton consulted with the teaching staff who learned a lot about the program. The program does not lend itself to switching Math/Language Arts program. To learn now, google IB Primary Years Program (PYP) to learn more.

After school program – the fire inspection people are coming back in less than 30 days. The fire issue is why we lost the YMCA after care. University of Maryland has a partnership with UP doing an after school program. PTA is pursuing options and trying to bring an after care program to the school.

Cat asks about Destination Imagination – this is something that parents need to take the lead on. It's not teacher-led. They have primary and upper grade teams of 5-7 members that require at least two parents committed to being at every practice and meeting. One of the big considerations is that the kids don't spend money so a lot of recycling and re purposing. Once or twice a week meetings.

Kevin would like to see PTA interacting with Teachers more – he'd like to get to know the teachers – VIP tent at the zombie run, cocktail party or other sort of get together – we could throw some event at one of our homes to get to know each other better. Communication should be easier once we have a rapport with them. Let us know what we can help you out with. Teachers come back to school about a week before the kids come back. August 23<sup>rd</sup> is Teacher professional day. Maybe a happy hour at Pyramid Atlantic. Note that evening events can be tricky for some teachers. During the day would be better for teachers.

Lee – Maryland Green School certification – a teacher was working on this but she left. Schmidt center is the resource – there are programs happening we can create a report -

Marquisha thanks Lee Cain for the fish hatchery – everyone is excited about this.

Chad has a concern about the concentration of TAG students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade – he is under the impression that they are all in the same class - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade they are more spread out on purpose. 4<sup>th</sup> grade only two of the four classes have TAG students. Guideline is less than 10 split in two classes but less than 7 put them in the same class. Teachers will sit down with the next year teachers to figure out what is the best fit. Ms. Cooper says they're working on spreading the TAG kids out and considering personalities and blending classes as needed.

Move from STEM to Google Slides – Ms. Roy explains she was new to this process as well this year – overall there was some lack of transparency and clarity around this so she apologizes for any frustrations this might have caused. 4<sup>th</sup> graders had time in class to work on their STEM fair project. This helped especially with kids who don't have a computer at home. Originally the STEM committee intended to go over the google slide stuff more in depth but didn't get a chance. Process of experiment plus all the google slide stuff. We really need some instruction manual for the newly formatted STEM fair project. It has been shared with the powers that be that we need better instructions for the STEM fair project.

Cat asks if there is some kind of master calendar but because not everyone has admin access to the Google calendar we get scheduling conflicts (career day was conflicting with a trip to 6 flags and a school play)

Question about kindergarten field days parent volunteers – will we still be able to have the event even if there are not enough fingerprinted volunteers. This led to a larger discussion of field trips and volunteers – one kindergarten field trip got canceled at the last minute twice. Teachers generally try to stay on top of knowing who is eligible and available to volunteer. This leads to the question of who is coordinating volunteers for field day

Kevin Blackerby is getting volunteers to help with lunch

All other volunteers can coordinate with the classroom teacher if you can start at school and walk down and back with the kids.

Question about the note we got sent home on Friday regarding some stranger who walked into our building and stole things out of a teacher's purse – what are teacher's thoughts. The school had a safety plan meeting to make sure all students and staff are safe. Now we have more people on duty for longer periods of time. Now there is a specific time everyone is walking out to the playground at which time classroom doors will be locked. Ms. Bey communicated with all the teams once she became aware of the problem and now teachers are making sure to be more alert and aware of their surroundings. Everyone needs to be held accountable for having a visitor pass or badge. Staff has been told if they see anyone in the building without a badge to call up to the office to let them know.

Marquisha says she's looking forward to a smooth first day of school next year (and she'll reiterate to Ms. Bey) – consider something different for the kindergarteners because of all the anxiety that was a result of that day. Don't make the kids on the first day of school have to wait in this long line.

Teacher asks if we're planning on having another open forum with Ms. Bey present. Marquisha notes that two PTA officers have been meeting regularly with Ms. Bey to raise concerns such as these.

Budget Update – nothing big has changed since last PTA meeting – we bought a chromebook cart, funded cameras for a digital photo course and also spent money on a Great Books program. Ms. Peele thanks the PTA for buying the signs for outside. The safety vests were too small.