

HES PTA meeting—September 17, 2018

PTA president Meredith Muth welcomed everyone to the first PTA meeting of the year! She also reminded everyone to renew their PTA memberships.

Meredith thanked Betsy Martin and Jeremy Glunt (Wyatt's folks) for their hard work on the gorgeous new mural in front of the school.

Attendees introduced themselves and sat by the grade level of their child/children

Teachers attending: Roy, Brock, Harris, Davis, Cooper and Ass't Principal Durkin.

Our PG County Council rep. Deni Taveras attended and spoke briefly about continuing to push for school capital improvement funding. 301-952-4436 is Deni's office number and she encourages people to reach out to her. 202-299-6562 is Deni's personal cell phone. She speaks Spanish as do folks answering her office phones. She encouraged us to reach out to Sen. Pinsky, Education Committee chair, and invite him to a future HES PTA meeting.

Groups brainstormed ideas for grade-level hangouts. Some ideas included:

- Hanging out by grade at the Zombie Run

- Picnic at a playground

- Pumpkin painting party

- Play soccer or flag football

- Karaoke/lip synching

- Movie night

- Painting the temps

- Parents vs. kids kickball

- STEM fair helping/matchmaking

Meredith talked about the new sign-in morning policy and thanked Mr. Durkin for the first-week improvements, specifically special consideration for the K/pre-K students and Back to School night

Mr. Durkin provided an update on behalf of Ms. Bey, who is out with pneumonia.

He thanked the PTA for funding a second Raptor to expedite scanning of IDs.

Every grade has a Chrome Book cart now. HES received 18 Boxlite Mimeos (smart boards) from the County. A first-grade teacher has been hired so HES will soon be fully staffed. Staff welcomed PTA participation in ongoing SPMT meetings. Mr. Durkin thanked the PTA for their ongoing support. It is appreciated.

The PTA is advocating for better access to fingerprinting resources: organizing transportation, etc.

Ms. Harris will hold talent show auditions in November for a January show. She will lead the play in the spring.

Budget update: approx. \$20K in the bank. Teachers: please be sure to take advantage of your \$75 yearly stipend!

No plant sale this year—it has moved the Hyattsville Middle School.

Kevin and Christine Blackerby gave a Zombie Run update. Oct. 13, three distances, please sign up to run and/or volunteer. Megan Miller is volunteer coordinator for the Zombie Run. She can help you find a job!

Kevin needs \$500 to buy bags for the race—they can get their logo on the bag.

Meredith talked about needs the teachers have—painting walls, organizing books, grant writing, etc. Jen Hanna will send a Google doc to teachers to create a wish list and let PTA members know how they can help.

Tabled discussion topic: in addition to advocating for capital improvement needs are we also making sure to advocate for equity in terms of other resources (computers, etc.)?

The next PTA meeting is set for October 2 at 6:30 PM in the HES media center.