

Hyattsville Elementary School PTA meeting September 24, 2019

Teachers present: Cooper, Bey, Ellis, Peele, Guerrero, Woodley

Welcome and Membership

- Meredith Muth, PTA president, welcomed the group—what a great turnout! She explained the purpose of our committees—we will break into groups later in the meeting.
- Membership has been reduced from \$10 to \$5 per person. Membership dues need to be paid each year. These funds go to support our access to insurance and tax-exempt status under the MD PTA.
 - ACTION: Membership needs to be renewed if you have not already done so – pay online (<https://hyattsvillees-pta.org/join-pta-2/>) or at PTA meetings.
- Introductions were made around the room.

Budget

- Lauren Kelly, PTA treasurer, outlined the PTA budget and asked for a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. The 2019-2020 budget is approved.

Zombie Run

- Laura Usher and Megan Miller gave updates on the Zombie Run, which is our main Fundraiser for the year. This week is Zombie Spirit Week!
 - ACTION: What can we do in the weeks leading up to the run? **We still need volunteers—especially course marshals! THE RACE CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT COURSE MARSHALS!** Sign up here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/MD/Hyattsville/HyattsvilleZombieRun>

Messages from school staff – upcoming events, volunteer needs

- Ms. Ellis, the new parent engagement and volunteer coordinator, addressed the group. She is new to HES but has been in the County for 22 years! HES is her first elementary school.
- This year, HES regained its Title 1 status (% of families qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches), so we'll receive extra money for specific related services. Applications for free lunches will be sent home soon, if you did not receive it—they must be renewed annually, and all families should complete the application regardless of need
 - ACTION: ALL families should fill out the free and reduced lunch forms, even if they do not qualify. You can fill out paper forms or online. See Ms. Ellis if you have questions.
- Oct. 15 is Hispanic Heritage potluck dinner at school. Bring a dish for 10 and wear colors/costumes representing the country of your choice!
 - ACTION: Complete and return the form that was sent home. Volunteers are needed.
- Lots of volunteer needs at the school. She needs help with the newsletter, cafeteria duty, field trips, clerical, etc.
 - ACTION: Email Ms. Ellis at blanca.ellis@pgcps.org if you'd like to volunteer at the school
 - ACTION: Reminder that all parents need to take the annual safety videos each year. <https://pgcpsvolunteers-md.safeschools.com/login>
- Today (9/24) was the deadline to have students vaccinated and still be in school.

- The school will do Thanksgiving baskets for kids who are homeless.
- Ms. Woodley, our new part-time library/media specialist, spoke to the group. The library needs parent volunteers for: shelving, displays (themed), and special events (book fair). Ms. Woodley would like to introduce Write-a-Book to HES and will need a lot of parent help!
 - ACTION: Sign up if you can volunteer: [HES Media Center Volunteer Form](#)
- Ms. Bey informed the PTA that Mr. Durkin spoke with the city today about traffic concerns—busses blocking intersections, speeding, etc. Additional signage will be forthcoming. Our Jefferson Street crossing guard is shared with another school and must leave by 7:30AM every day. Question if we can contact someone to extend coverage at this busy intersection
 - ACTION – the PTA and HES administration contacted the County about this last year, with no success in extending coverage. The PTA Board will follow up again and provide an update (such as if a broader letter/phone campaign is needed).

Other ways to help the school

The PTA keeps a list a list of individual Amazon teacher wish lists on our website:

<https://hyattsvillees-pta.org/teacher-wish-lists/>. Be sure to sign up for Amazon Smile and list 'Hyattsville Elementary School' so we receive some extra \$ for the school!

Also, special volunteer needs: <https://hyattsvillees-pta.org/sign-up-to-volunteer/>

Committees

We broke into the following committees to discuss specific activities and events. If anyone is interested in joining a committee, please contact hyattsvilleespta@gmail.com

- Beautification
- Social Events
- Communication and Outreach
- Teacher Appreciation and Support
- Advocacy

Next Meeting

Next PTA meeting is Friday, November 8, 8AM-9AM in the HES cafeteria. Please join us!