

## *Dec 16 General PTA meeting Minutes*

Call to Order the second General PTA meeting of the 2015-2016 Hammond ES PTA on Dec 16, 2015 at 7:04 pm in the Media Center of Hammond Elementary School: Erin Roberts

Roll Call of Officers: Present Erin Roberts, Jen Beaverson, Sumaira Bajwa, Anne Braun, Mike Schmeckpeper, Teiko Campbell, Erin Alberts, Maria Rocco Kasso Okoudjou

Special Guest Presentation: Dr. Renee Foose, HCPSS Superintendent

Dr. Foose answered questions from the membership.

- She addressed questions about redistricting.
  - Changes to demographics in Hammond were discussed. She feels that Hammond ES was one of many schools that have been redistricted and perhaps we should reach out to other similar schools for ideas on how help newer families feel welcome and that changes like this take time to be successful (3-5) years and the staff has been given resources to address the changing student body.
  - Howard County has an Adequate Public Facilities ordinance in which they must fill all schools before they can get a budget to build new schools or add on to existing schools. Many schools in the western part of the county are not filled. Redistricting will continue to happen until this ordinance is changed which is a Howard County Law not a school system function. County Executive Kittleman has said he will be looking into the APFO.
- She addressed the question about why money is being put into redesigning the website and in grade management tools rather than putting more computers or tablets in the classrooms.
  - The website did not cost anything except manpower hours.
  - Aspen was not effective because it did not include a learning management system. Many colleges are using Canvas so it will be a smooth transition for students going to colleges in Maryland. Also Canvas can offer online courses.
  - She does not support tablets for the students because technology changes too quickly and feels that the money is better spent in developing staff.
  - Children in middle school and high school can bring a device from home. There are loaner devices for students who need it.
- She addressed a question about Positive Behavior Intervention System and the emphasis on extrinsic rewards
  - She said PBIS targets “red zone” students and has proven to help these students but she is not 100% sold on the concept. She also believes in using other behavioral modifications techniques such as restorative justice but leaves those decisions up to the individual school to decide for their population
- She spoke of the Elementary School Model pilot program with full day pre-k and offering daily world language (Spanish) instruction in eight of the 40 elementary schools in the county and how Hammond is prime to be a ESM school. This program shows promising results. The children are better prepared for kindergarten
- She answered a question about year round school. Stating it would likely not happen in Howard County in the next decade.
- She answered questions about the PARCC grades.
  - Overall countywide she was pleased. Howard County did better than the State and better than the 5 large school systems in the State. In her words it is a compliance

- test which means we will take it to fulfill a federal requirement but it doesn't impact instruction like the MAP test and the classroom assessments that our teachers can utilize immediately to change instruction at the child level.
- Grade 7 scores were lower than expected. More data points from the State and nationally are needed to determine if the 7<sup>th</sup> grade score dip is a function of the test or the teaching.
- Level 4/5 shows college and career ready. Many of the students are in level 3 or above.
- She said SAT/ACT testing is something she is much more concerned about.
  - 80% of graduating students take SAT and ACT
  - The national average of 1500. Howard County has a median score of 1657 but she thinks we can do better.
- She answered questions about school safety and bullying
  - All schools have cameras which can be taken over by law enforcement during a 911 situation.
  - Cyberbullying is something that happens in middle and school and parents need to be aware of this and what their kids are doing online. Measures are in place if cyberbullying or bullying occur.
  - She loses sleep when there is unrest in places like Baltimore (during the riots) because when incidents such as those occur there is unrest in our high schools
- She answered questions about the school calendar proposal
  - She doesn't have an opinion on the calendar proposals except that students will go to school 189 days and she asked for 2 options to be presented to the School Board for public hearing (one with the Jewish holidays is as is the case now and one with them removed so only the federally mandated holidays are given off). She leaves the calendar decision in the hands of the calendar committee and asked for parents to join because now it is mostly teachers on the committee so they have the loudest voice unless parents get on the committee.

#### **President's Report: Erin Roberts**

- Reminder of changes in organization
  - New PTA structure: Elected Executive Board positions and 3 standing committees with events/responsibilities divided up under elected positions or committees
- Education Grants for each grade level K-5:
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team has scheduled an in-house field trip with the Howard County Conservancy called Chesapeake Bound Outreach Program. The students will meet Maryland's state reptile and evaluate the human impact on its habitat and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Mrs. Pratesi will be hosting the parent workshop connected to the PTA supported purchase of the book Mindset for the staff's year-long professional development at the PTA meeting on March 16, 2016.

#### **Minutes Approval from Sept 2015: Anne Braun—**

- Postponed until the March meeting to give people time to read the minutes which were just recently posted on the website. A vote to accept the minutes from the September and December meeting will take place during the March meeting

**Treasurer Report: Randy Baldini (presented by Jen Beaverson)**

- Present 2015-16 budget update
  - Fall festival took in around \$5000
  - We recently received a \$450 check from Harris Teeter
  - The holiday shop earned around \$1750
  - Expenses are as planned.

**VP of Membership Report: Jen Beaverson**

- We currently have 393 members

**VP of Communications: Sumaira Bajwa**

- Update communication issues and outlets
  - website, Facebook page (Like us!)
  - Monthly Newsletter, email to contact general PTA is [hammondsppta@gmail.com](mailto:hammondsppta@gmail.com)

**PTACHC Delegate Report: Mike Schmeckpeper/Teiko Campbell**

1. Welcome Teiko Campbell to Delegate #2 position—new to county and school
2. Report on Nov 2015 PTACHC meeting
  - The 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 calendar are being voted on tomorrow
  - Th technology survey was discussed
    - The biggest concern listed on the survey was allowing cell phones in middle school

**Administration Update: Mrs. Pratesi/Ms. Ciarapica**

Update on school based topics of interest to the PTA

- Shared that Dr. Foose said the parents at the PTA meeting tonight were a positive group
- Results of Gallop poll was discussed
  - staff engagement second highest in county for elementary school.
  - highly engaged staff = student achievement rise
  - 80% of student engagement (3 years ago 51%)

**Committee Reports: Chair and Co-chair of all 3 committees**

Nominations/Bylaws Committee-Kasso Okoudjou/Stephanie Jones- Waiting to hear from MD PTA regarding approval of Bylaws as approved and submitted after the Sept 30 General PTA meeting

- waiting for bylaws approval

### Community/Fundraising Activities Committee- Erin Roberts/ Jen Beaverson

- Basket bingo had no one step up to volunteer.
  - Maria Rocco has offered to chair a Sweetheart dance which will take place on February 19
  - The entire family is welcome.
  - There will be a music, photographer, etc.
- Fun run 5K/ 1 mile changing this year
  - Boosterthon will be hired to organize a fun run.
    - This will take place during the school day
    - Parents can not run but can watch/cheer for their children
    - It is like JumpRope for Heart but the money raised will go to the school
    - Sponsors will pledge by lap, there is a 35 max lap for fundraising
    - The company will come in for six days. They will kick off with a pep rally and then do daily character lessons such as playing with humility and positive character traits.
- Student/Staff Activities Committee -Erin Alberts/ Maria Rocco-
- Conference dinner sponsored during the November parent teacher conferences. They will use Eggspectation for the February conference
- Talent show was a huge success. Thanks to Sumaira Bajwa and her committee
- Multicultural night will be charged by Erin Alberts and Maria Rocco
  - There will be demos from different countries
  - all good food must be purchased from a store or restaurant. It can not be prepared by parents
- Assemblies planned for the year
  - Nov 17 -No smoking campaign (grades 3-5)
  - Jan 14 -“Are you smarter than a 5th grader?” assembly
- After school programming is changing
  - scheduling has been handled by a committee
  - The committee is now handing over to HC park and Recs
  - New classes/activities will be starting in winter/spring

### **Old Business: Erin Roberts**

None

### **New Business: Erin Roberts**

- Crosswalk at the Aladdin/Graeloch Drs entrance to the schools – talking to homeowners so you don’t have to cross Aladdin

### **Announcements: Erin Roberts**

1. December Restaurant Night- Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at Chick Fil A
2. January Restaurant Night- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> LaPalapa Too
3. Family Fit Night- January 14<sup>th</sup>

4. PTA Staff Conference Dinner - Feb 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>
5. February Restaurant Night- Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Cheeseburger Cheesburger
6. Sweetheart Ball -February 19<sup>th</sup>
7. 3<sup>rd</sup> General PTA meeting March 16<sup>th</sup> with “Mindset” Parent workshop led by Mrs. Pratesi
8. PTA Multi-Cultural Night - April 8<sup>th</sup>

**Adjournment: Erin Roberts 9:11pm**