

## **March 15, 2017, General PTA Meeting**

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**Hammond Elementary PTA President, Erin Roberts**, called to Order the third General PTA meeting of the 2016-2017, Hammond ES PTA on March 15, 2017, at 7pm, in the Media Center, of Hammond Elementary School.

### **Roll Call/Introduction of Officers: Erin Roberts**

**Erin Roberts, HES PTA President, welcomed the PTA membership and introduced the current elected PTA officials.**

Erin Roberts, President, Jen Beaverson, VP Membership, Sumaira Bajwa, VP Communications(Absent), Elizabeth Hooks, Treasurer, Terry Sease, Recording Secretary, Mike Schmeckpeper and Teiko Campbell, PTACHC Delegates, Donnita Mennealy, Volunteer Coordinator(Absent), Jeff Johnson, Community Fundraising Activities Chair, Erin Alberts and Maria Rocco(Absent), Student and Staff Activities Chairs, Stephanie Johnson(Absent) and Kasso Okoudjou, Nominations and Bylaws Committee Chairs, and Principal Pratesi and Vice Principal Ciarapica, Administration representatives.

**Erin Roberts, HES PTA President** introduced **Special Guest, Dr. Bess Altwerger, Cultural Proficiency Cadre staff member.**

**HES Value Statement: Principal Pratesi introduced Ms. Tessorero and Ms. Sneden, HES Teaching Staff Members**, who provided a presentation on Shared Values Experience. A Powerpoint presentation was provided by Ms. Tessorero and Ms. Sneden. The outcome is to draft a value/belief statement. The following topics will be added to the mission statement, vision, and core values:

**\*Changes**

**\*Diverse Community**

**\*Friendship**

**\*Communication**

**\*Creativity**

**\*Education**

**\*Positive Attitude/Relationships**

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

**Erin Roberts conceded the President's time to Dr. Bess Altwerger, Howard County BOE member, and Hammond ES BOE Liaison, for the 2016-2017 school year, term expiring 2018.**

**Dr. Altwerger provided the following information:**

**She has been with Howard County for 29 years, as a parent and Board Member.**

**Board of Education Public Hearings:**

**April 6, 2017:**

- \*Policy 3050 Record Management**
- \*3060 Data Privacy (New)**
- \*4200 Meal Charges (New)**
- \*9400 Use of Student Behavior Intervention**

**May 4, 2017:**

- \*Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying**

**April 24, 2017:**

- \*County Council Budget Meeting, 7 PM**
- \*2018 Operating and Capital Budget Request at George Howard Bldg, Banneker Room**  
**3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City.**

**Dr. Altwerger gave an opportunity for Question and Answer time for attending PTA members.**

**Q:** Regarding Governor Hogan's 2017-2018 school year start date after Labor Day. Will teacher workdays change?

**A:** No. There will be the same number of days in the school year (180). Spring break will remain the same. Other days will be condensed. School will end June 15th. The Staff will return sooner than students, hence professional days, and scattered quarterly.

**Q:** How do you feel about the working relationship between the school board and Dr. Foose?

**A:** Nothing is affecting schools. All is going as usual. Dr. Altwerger stated she cannot speak about legal issues. Hopefully there will be a resolution soon.

PTACHC meetings. The Superintendent is not attending meetings. John White, Communications Director, is representing Dr. Foose.

**Q:** Parents are getting told there are no changes being made, but a lot of changes have been observed. When asking about the changes at School Board meetings, there is no explanation. A question concerning Fundraising was raised. Why was the Boosterthon taken away? Why aren't bake sales allowed? Why aren't PTA Fundraisers allowed during the school day? The Board needs to allow creative fundraising.

**A:** Agreed! Dr. Altwerger will take the request back to the Board to create and put on calendar.

**Q:** Redistricting. Why isn't this being discussed?

**A:** The Board is currently working on redistricting for Fall, 2018. There is a need for the Elkridge Community. They are screaming for a High School. There is low enrollment out in Western Howard County. There is no money for new buildings. We need to use the buildings we have. There won't be any drastic changes. They are looking at shifting towards Western Howard County, so they will not close low enrollment schools.

**Q:** Will Elementary, Middle, and High Schools all be affected?

**A:** Yes. They will keep feeder schools together. The idea of a Comprehensive (Vocational) School has been thrown out. Not set in stone. It would be a voluntary opt in.

**Q:** Budget/School time. How will they play in together?

**A:** The Budget will be separate from the school time decision. That decision will be for next school year. They will have to keep in mind for time change the cost of bussing. They have added \$4 Million to the budget for Reinstating of Para Professionals. There will also be student driven decisions. They are looking at the top. (Top Heavy) There are 18 Staff Members. Is this Necessary? Mr. White issued a statement that the Board made errors. They cut the budget 10%. They actually did not cut live streaming or websites as was presented. There are employee consultants from the University of Maryland to help with the bussing. Eventually the Board needs to take control of transportation. Start times will be in the window of 8 AM - 9:25 AM, however, nothing has been decided and voted on yet.

**Q:** Has the health of the youngest been discussed, in addition to the High School Students?

**A:** Yes. No changes have yet been approved.

**Q:** Is the start time on the drawing board?

**A:** Yes. The PTA will send representatives.

**Q:** Governor's Executive Order. What were the great reasons for starting after Labor Day? Is there a possibility this may change?

**A:** The Governor is making decisions based on what is best for businesses and finances. Make your concerns to the Governor's office. Counties can apply for a waiver. The process is so stringent it is almost impossible to qualify.

**Treasurer Report: Elizabeth Hooks**

**General update on the current 2016-17 PTA budget:**

\$20,000.00 in Total Receipts  
\$30,000.00 Total Expenses (Rockwall)  
\$40,000.00 Balance

**Vote items:**

1. \$2,000.00 line item match for Arts Program, Artist in Residence (Mural Creation)  
Motion: Teiko Campbell  
Second: Jeff Johnson
2. Family Photo Shoot - line item add (made \$250.00 in the Fall)  
Motion: Jeff Johnson  
Second: Lin Feng Chen
3. Media Center- Add 403 projector pre approved. Two \$400.00 increments. Two line item adds at \$400.00 each, one for the 2016-17 school year and one for the 2017-2018 school year..  
Motion: Jeff Johnson  
Second: Jen Beaverson

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

Concede the President's time to Dr. Bess Altwerger, Howard County BOE member and Hammond ES BOE Liaison for the 2016-2017 school year.

**Bess Altwerger, Ed.D., Vice Chairman**

(Term expires 2018)

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- 2016-17 School Cluster Assignment: [Atholton/Oakland Mills](#)

Bess Altwerger began her professional life as a New York City public school teacher but has spent most of her career as a professor of education. She received her doctorate in language and literacy from the University of Arizona. She taught at the University of New Mexico in the Department of Curriculum and Multicultural Teacher Education from 1980-1988. During that time, she worked closely with Albuquerque public schools to develop their Title I reading program and provide professional development to teachers.

Upon moving to Columbia in 1988, Dr. Altwerger joined the faculty of the College of Education at Towson University where she taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses in the area of literacy. She initiated the first Professional Development School in Maryland, and has directed and taught in university-school partnership programs in several counties, including Howard County.

Dr. Altwerger has published four books and numerous articles based upon her research and expertise in literacy development, curriculum, and assessment. She has served in leadership positions of premier professional literacy organizations and is a frequent presenter at national and international conferences. She has received several awards for her professional contributions to the field. Dr. Altwerger is a co-founder of Save Our Schools, a national education advocacy organization, and currently serves on the steering committee. Dr. Altwerger is also currently serving on the Board's Audit Committee.

Throughout her career, Dr. Altwerger has been a strong advocate for providing the best possible public schools to diverse students and communities. She believes strongly in the professionalism of teachers and their right to a supportive work environment.

Dr. Altwerger moved to Columbia from New Mexico because of its excellent schools and vibrant, diverse communities. Dr. Altwerger's two children graduated from Howard County public schools. Her daughter is currently a Howard County teacher. She recently retired from her full-time position at Towson University, but continues to teach advanced courses in literacy on a part-time basis.

**VP of Membership Report: Jen Beaverson**

There are currently 405 members. The goal is 440. Please ask folks to join.

**VP of Communications: Sumaira Bajwa (Absent)**

Please direct people to Website.

Update Communication issues to include: use of website for information, Facebook page (Like us!), Monthly Newsletter, email to contact general PTA is [hammondsppta@gmail.com](mailto:hammondsppta@gmail.com)

**Administration Update: Mrs. Pratesi**

Presentation by the Cultural Proficiency Cadre to share the new Core Values statement

Thank you for conference dinners and supporting the Mindset Presentation. There were 72 Adults in attendance and 52 children in Childcare.

Thank you for help with Kindergarten Registration.

Spring Sprint- Ms. Serpico: 5th Graders will have input (Options to use funds) with what to do with the funds. There will be three kid friendly choices if the goal is met. Money raised will cover some PTA expenses and student choice equipment and a donation to a charity of the student's choice.

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

Report on 3/3/2017 PTACHC meeting

Mike Schmeckpeper reported the following:

### **School Calendar:**

September 5, 2017 - June 15, 2018

Winter Break December 24, 2017 - January 1, 2018

Spring Break March 30 - April 6, 2018

Snow days will be taken from President's Day and Spring Break. One snow day will be built into June 15 (End of school year)

### **School Board Budget:**

Between \$20-\$60 Million Dollars

### **Transportation:**

Mr. David Ramsey - 453 buses are used each day to transport 40,000 students. Bus transportation is safe. There are four cameras on each bus. The School Board has a designated person that gives a verdict after reviewing the monitors. The contractors are in desperate need of bus drivers. They are paid between \$16-\$19 per hour for part time work.

### **Redistricting:**

Make your voice heard. There are many opportunities. Send emails. Attend meetings.

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

1. **Nominations/Bylaws Committee-Kasso Okoudjou/Stephanie Jones**— Let folks know that nominations for elected PTA positions are open. Please give information to Kasso or Stephanie. Erin will also forward if you give it to her.
2. **Community/Fundraising Activities Committee- Jeff Johnson**  
HES Spring Sprint powered by Boosterthon will be held May 16 - 25. The school will receive funds and PTA will organize and assist. Erin has \$1,500.00 in donations so far for T Shirts for kids. She is looking for more donations. A Pep Rally will be held to kick it off on May 16th. Nominations are needed in planning for Event Managers for Committees so these events will still happen. Jeff has compiled guidelines from previous Chairpersons and they are available.

**3. Student/Staff Activities Committee –Erin Alberts/ Maria Rocco**

**Erin Alberts:**

La Prima was used for Conference Dinners

Multicultural Night is April 28th

May 1 - 5, Teacher Appreciation Week

**Old Business: Erin Roberts**

No old business

**New Business: Erin Roberts**

Seeking business sponsors for the Spring Sprint CUSTOM t-shirts for the HES students

**Announcements: Erin Roberts**

1. March 21<sup>st</sup> HES PTA Restaurant Night at Chipotle 5-9 pm
2. March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at the Savage Library “APFO 101” (presented by Howard County parents)
3. April TBD HES PTA Restaurant Night at Chick Fil A
4. April 28<sup>th</sup> HES PTA Multicultural Night
5. May 1-5 HES PTA Teacher Appreciation Week
6. May 16-25<sup>th</sup> HES Spring Sprint powered by Boosterthon
7. May 24<sup>th</sup> HES PTA 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting with ELECTIONS 7-9pm
8. May TBD HES PTA Restaurant Night

**Adjournment: Erin Roberts**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.**

**Motion: Erin Roberts**

**Second: Luis Medina**