**January 10, 2023 PTA Meeting Minutes**

**PTA**: Virtual Meeting, via Zoom

**Date:** January 10, 2023

**Time**: 7:15pm – 8:32 pm

**In Attendance**: Kristina Kunkle, Kathleen Denny, Sean Larsen, Karin Popkey, Opeyemi Awolesi, Robyn Bell Dickson, Melissa Zawadzki, Lisa Ciarapica, Susanne McCoy, Andrew Johnson, Megan Chobot, Irina Morris, Jessica Hummel, Zainab Alburaki, Ms. Mapson, Bisi Okubadejo, Kerry Roberts, Kerry Manning, Aisha Applewhite, Chau Kerchner, Ronnette.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**: Kristina Kunkle Roll call, Introductions of executives, parent liaisons and administration.
2. **Review and approval of minutes from November 15**: Opeyemi Awolesi presented the minutes from the November 15, 2022 PTA meeting. Opeyemi Awolesi asked for any objections, none offered so minutes approved by a motion by Melissa Zawadzki and seconded by Kristina Kunkle.
3. **Reports of Officers**
4. Treasurer's Report: Karin Popkey- Current account balance is $ $28,543.92. Fundraising receipts - $ 1,917.17 and other receipts $ 1,860.00, Total receipts - $ 3,777.17. Fundraising expenses: $716.45, Operating Expense: $1,773.15 and Total Expense: $ 6,101.49. No questions on budget.
5. Membership Report: Kathleen Denny

We currently have 191 PTA members. We added 7 new members to the PTA.

1. Communications Report: Sean Larsen: The PTA website was out for a couple of days due to the renewal issues, but it’s been resolved and the website is back up. We should set it up for auto-renewal with a credit card to prevent such outage in the future.
2. PTACHC Report – Melissa Zawadzki [PowerPoint Presentation (ptachc.org)](https://www.ptachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/January-2023-Legislative-Brief-PDF.pdf)

* Presentation on School Safety advocacy (River Hill High School) was the subject to 2 SWATTING incidents due to a call about a bomb threat and active shooter in the school which led to a lockdown and modified shutdown of the school. The Advocacy team walked the PTACHC on what a lockdown procedure looks like. The school went into lockdown at 1:45pm but parents were not notified until 2.15pm due to police presence on campus; however, the high school students had sent frantic messages to parents as expected. There were a lot of panicked parents, insufficient communication and there ended up having a School Safety advocacy panel, meetings with the Superintendent and the Police Dept. The School has learnt about communication in a timely manner, interactions between the Police Dept and the students (some students were seen in handcuffs outside the school), there were a lot of witnesses to what was going on with no clarity on the circumstance. The lessons learned will be shared with other schools so they are better prepared if such unfortunate circumstance ever happens.
  + In December 2022, there were members delegation to Annapolis and 2 County Council members addressed PTACHC who were representing our HES Community. They discussed school start times adjustments coming up, the proposal before Board of Ed. To swap Elementary Schools with Tier 3 start time with the High School with Tier 1 start times for the next school year. If this is approved, it will affect before and after care for many families. If you are interested in voicing your opinions, you may send an email to the Board of Ed. Lin Feng Chen. The other issue is Land Use- Howard County 10 year plan is being assessed and what affects PTA and schools is the land use and the impact on overcrowding. The county is expected to add 29,000 housing units but may not create supporting infrastructure for those new families joining the county. Public testimony will close by January 16, 2023 – you may testify on the HOCO design website.
* There is a HoCo bill being discussed that would impact how the Board of Ed is designed. State Delegation is proposing to add 2 members to the Board of Ed who will be appointed and not elected. The PTACHC recommended that this proposal should be withdrawn as written. The Board of Ed voted against this bill but this bill will be coming back in an amended format. The current set up for elected members requires access to funding or the ability to raise funds which precludes a certain set of otherwise qualified candidates from running and this usually leads to elected members coming from a certain region within the county who represent their area instead of the entire county. The Board of ed would like a more equitable representation. Some members expressed some support for this proposal and some members rejected this proposal as well. Melissa encouraged members to send emails to Melissa ([melissazed@gmail.com](mailto:melissazed@gmail.com)) if they have additional thoughts.

1. **Old or Ongoing Business – Kristina Kunkle (President)**

* Volunteers for Programs/Activities
  1. Spring Carnival - the planning committee will hold its first meeting on Jan 15. If anyone is interested in getting involved, we welcome all additional contributors. Reach out to Melissa at [melissazed@gmail.com](mailto:melissazed@gmail.com)
  2. Volunteering in the Media Center to check-in and reshelve books. Please make sure to email Mrs. Haavik to set up training before showing up to volunteer.
  3. GT Program - volunteers to make tri-fold boards to highlight the CEU & seminar programs. Email [chau.kerchner@gmail.com](mailto:chau.kerchner@gmail.com)
* Square 1 Art - wonderful participation at nearly 33%; raised more than expected, Karin to discuss some more.

V. **New Business**

* Three executive positions are coming up for vacancy – President, Secretary and VP of Membership. Anyone interested is welcome to let us know.
* We had an amazing success at the SquareOne Art fundraiser as we received $3,217.62 and we would like to propose a budget amendment to support the amazing Art teachers who worked tirelessly on the fundraiser. Vote on 2022-2023 Budget Amendments - adding $500 for Art teachers to purchase art supplies for the art program.
  + Sean moved and Melissa seconded the motion for amendment. It has been moved and seconded to approve the budget amendments. All in favor say “Aye”. All opposed say “Nay”. The motion has passed, and the budget amendments are approved.
* Relink Harris Teeter VIC cards each school year: [www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education](http://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education) We didn’t get any funds from Harris Teeter last quarter, we encourage all members who have the Harris Teeter VIC cards to renew every school year using the link above.
* Teacher Appreciation (Robyn) – We had two amazing events in November 2022, a Kloby’s pie for teachers which was well received. Monthly mission in January 2023 theme is “Thanks for helping us SHINE” and each teacher would receive a tub of antibacterial wipes due to the germs going round now. Members can support through cash donations or purchase supplies on Amazon. donations through the sign-up genius.

**Administration Report: Ms. Ciarapica:**

* Ms. Ciarapica expressed appreciation for the creative monthly missions to the teachers and also expressed appreciation for the support received at the book fair, despite moving away quite late from a cash event.
* Schools are closed Jan 16, and there is a half day Jan 18 and schools are closed on Jan. 23 marking the end of 2nd Quarter. If you have a current 5th grader going to middle school, there is an orientation for middle school on the 24th and 25th is the talent show, 30th Jan Beginning band and orchestra and the 31st report cards available. Feb 9 and 10th Parent teacher conference, this will include math teachers – on Feb 9th students have an early dismissal. Staff have an option to offer in-person conferences in the afternoon between 1-4pm and evening conferences will be virtual so teachers can take those calls at home. On the 10th Feb, staff can hold afternoon conference in person between 1-4pm. Staff will be in the building all day and can receive lunch or a grab and go dinner.
* Inclement day was Friday December 23 which extends the last school day from June 13 to June 14th.
* School vacancy in the 4th grade has been filled and Mrs. Zakeda has joined the school around November 2022.
* The shooting incident at a Virginia school by a first-grade elementary kid has raised concern around the state including at HES. There are processes in place for self-harming comments or drawings or if students make threatening comments in writing or verbally.

VI. **Announcements**

* Jan 17: Restaurant Night at Ledo’s in Fulton
* Jan 25: Talent Show - We invite you to come out and cheer on all the students participating! 28 students signed up. Will be in the HES Gym at 6:30pm. No tickets needed.
* April 29: Spring Carnival - planning committee is forming now! Please email Melissa if you would like to join.
* *Working calendar on PTA website. Sign up from the home page to receive PTA emails!*
* Feb 4th Parks and Recs will be opening up for registration at 6pm for interested families.
* PTA Meetings (all at 7:15pm)
  + March 14: hybrid | May 9: virtual (elections) | June 6: hybrid

VII. **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

* Is there anything the PTA can do to welcome the new families from the new neighborhood? What are the numbers looking like from the new neighborhood? **We received about 10 new students in December and January to the school. The most challenging grade is 3rd grade, but 4th grade gained a new teacher. Our numbers are pushing the 30 students’ mark. Nothing is going to change this year but we will start learning what the staffing would look like in the next year if this trend continues. I hope we grow in staffing but there is the question about where to put the kids in the building.**
* Do we email board of education members if we are concerned about building capacity? **Yes, that would be the case.**

VIII. **Adjournment**: Kristina Kunkle moved a motion to adjourn at 8:32pm.