

West Friendship Elementary School PTA
Minutes of PTA Meeting
Held May 5, 2015 – Called to order 6:34 p.m.

Attendance:

Executive Board

Dana Keiner, President
Kathy Baur, 1st VP
Lisa Cumberland, Corresponding Secretary
Theresa Yodzis, Recording Secretary
Amy Grutzik, Treasurer
Hina Naseem, PTAC Delegate
Fabrizio Roman, PTAC Delegate

Administration, Committee Chairs, Members

Aaron Tark, Principal	Annmarie Ottman
Ann Steger, Assistant Principal	Puluna Thakkar-Shelat
Kara Williams	Cathy Rayburn
Valerie Eshleman	
Ashley Royle	

Welcome, Introductions, and Reading of PTA Mission Statement –

Read by Cathy Rayburn

The Overall purpose of PTA:

A powerful voice for all children
A relevant resource for families and communities, and
A strong advocate for the education and well being of every child.

Hina Naseem motioned to approve minutes dated 3.17.15

2nd motion by Lisa Cumberland;

Voted and unanimously approved.

Administration:

Mr. Tark reported:

- First round of staffing complete through surplus window.
- 4 WFES Staff members interviewed 8 candidates
- Joining WFES next year: Ashlee Hoffman, Gail M. Loeffler (special ed) Laurie Arena (paraeducator)
- Vacancy for general special ed
- 220 people want to transfer to WFES.

- 2 WFES staff members are exploring a change in position and/or promotion for next year.
- Shuffle needed with paraeducators - .5 cut again this year
- Mr. Tark shared, in great length and detail, the articulation process (how classes are created) including reading and math grouping. If you would like to learn more about this process, please contact Mr. Tark at Aaron_Tark@hcpss.org.
- Mr. Tark requested PTA calendar items by July 10th.

Mrs. Steger reported:

- PARCC Testing (state level) continues.
- MAP Next week
- Attempt by the county to create streamlining of student information and data analysis, including elementary schools (i.e. Canvas Training – Canvas is course management system that enables instructors to connect with students in a user-friendly online environment, Synergy – attendance secretary, ER Portal and EDU - database warehouse).

President Report- Dana Keiner:

- Twitter Training Support meeting offered. There was low attendance. Trainer - Tonya Tiffany PTACHC VP of Issues.
- Have 34 responses from Flex Academy – will analyze data and share ideas for next year.
- 90th Celebration – need a committee chair and start planning this summer.
- Advocacy - Question directed to Mr. Tark: Any news from Joel Galihue? Response from Mr. Tark: No
- Mrs. Steger offered to help at the Ice Cream Social for Screen Free Week – Still working on dates w/Bates, most likely June.
- Screen Free Week – Parents have requested activities for the entire week, (i.e. basketball one night during the week, ride bikes, bring skateboard, meet at the school playground, etc.). Hina Naseem offered to help plan activities for next school year.
- Kara Williams is coordinating Silent Auction for next school year.

Treasurer Report – Amy Grutzik:

- Distributed the 4/30/15 treasurer report
- Insurance went up 4%
- Check received from Box Tops for \$216
- Outgoing – Spring Festival checks
- Reminder - keep bringing in receipts

Spring Festival, Stephanie McDonald:

- Spring Festival Date – May 8th from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Need volunteers. If very low on volunteers, put volunteers on stations of paid booths.
- Mr. Tark shared email from Stephanie that Theresa Yodzis (set-up), Beth Kennedy (set-up) and Carmen Roberts (4:00 to close) will step in for Stephanie on May 8th.

Community Outreach, Hina Naseem:

- Three 8th graders from MVMS coordinated the effort for Love on a Leash. Hina provided mentorship to these students throughout the process.
- Scout troops can also be another support source for community outreach events sponsored by WFES PTA.

Science Fair, Elizabeth Burns:

- Ribbons and certificates are ready
- Some classes have been combined to present - some classes only have one.
- Evening of Excellence – Science Fair projects will be in the Media Center. Other projects will be on desks in classrooms.

STEM Day, Annmarie Ottman:

- STEM Day will take place on Friday, June 5th.
- Have more presenters than spots available.
- Difficult to get coverage for Kindergarten. Most presenters have material for older students.
- Mr. Tark to discuss coverage for third grade presentations. There is an overlap with their teacher planning.
- Found an astro-physicist to present to 5th grade but there is an overlap with band and strings party. Some parents' suggestions included an opt-out form for parents to sign so their child could attend the presentation. Other suggestions included changing the party schedule – Mr. Tark said there are no slots available on the calendar to move the band/strings party. Mr. Tark stressed the importance of celebrating accomplishments and 5th graders will need to attend band/strings party.

PTA Newsletter, Lisa Cumberland:

- Reminder – Last newsletter: Friday, May 29th
- Last newsletter will be published on or around June 2nd.

Box Tops, Lisa Cumberland:

- One final race
- Cost challenge for prizes - amend dates as a possibility or a dance for the winning class/grade.

Staff Appreciation, Kathy Baur:

- Going well.

Gift of Thanks, Theresa Yodzis and Kathy Baur:

- Going well.

Nominating, Valerie Eshleman;

- Transitioning into next year.
- There are committee chair openings for next year. Openings have been listed on email school announcements.
- Need to establish who is returning. It was suggested to contact parents of students in younger grades to fill open positions.
- Slate of Candidates must be posted/announced 10 days prior to vote. Quorum is 20 people.
- May 27th is the date of the vote for the incoming executive board (just prior to the string/band concert).

Wellness – Walking Wednesday and Tiger Trot, Cathy Rayburn:

- Walking Wednesday going well. Volunteer website ready to go.
- Donation site set up for credit card donations: normal credit card info plus area to assign donation to 1 – 4 students (broken down equally). Donation forms for cash will be sent home.
- First Tiger Trot flier was sent home on Friday – information on how to donate, checking with companies on corporate match, and request prize donations. Whole Foods donating apples and bananas.
- New feet for necklaces have been ordered.

- Golden Sneaker Award going out at Tiger Trot Event.
- Question – Can we have pizza, ice cream snow cone, etc. party for top earning grade? Answer: Mr. Tark suggested a celebration in the form of a wellness activity, for example, extra recess time or dance party.
- Contacting companies who have previously donated to see if they're willing to donate.
- **Field Day:** Mr. Talbert has directions online.
- Need volunteers for freezer pops and ideas of where to purchase. Lisa Cumberland offered information for this process.
- Need to order participation prizes. How much money do I (Cathy Rayburn) have? Has an employee discount from Custom Ink.

PTAC Report, Fabrizio Roman:

May 4, 2015 PTACHC Meeting

2015/2016 Board of Education Budget

Lots of discussion on this. Howard County teachers and admin are not getting raises, yet Baltimore Fire & Rescue, Montgomery County teachers, and others are.

Lots if principals and other admin are retiring and there will be a lot of openings.

Operating Budget for 2015/2016

There was a ton of discussion about a budgetary shortfall and lots of motions for PTACHC to advocate for the additional money. However, once Ms. Giles arrived to the meeting, it was hashed out. The only shortfall was \$3 million in Geographical Cost Index ("GCI") money that Hogan, Maryland Governor, is holding back. However, Kittleman, the County Executive, has promised to make up that difference with county funding. So, the entire operating budget of the School Board of \$776.1 million is being funded.

By law, the county has to fund the operating budget at "maintenance of effort", which means that it has to provide the same amount per student as it did last year. The School Board is trying to make the \$3 million from Kittleman count toward maintenance of effort so it can get the same amount from the county next year. There is a conference scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2015 to lobby Hogan to release the GCI funds.

On May 12, 2015, the county council will be holding a hearing on the budget. This is where we can attend and voice our displeasure on the capital budget shortfall.

Capital Budget for 2015/2016

The capital budget will be \$25 million less than what the School Board requested. Next year, it will probably be an even larger shortfall. There is not much they can do about this because it is extremely tough to find \$25 million from other places in the School Board's budget or the county budget.

PTACHC Scholarships

There is \$6,811 to give out, which will be split among 12 applicants. All of the 12 high schools in the county had students apply except Marriotts Ridge HS.

New PTACHC Officers for 2015/2016

President - Reginald Avery

Executive VP - Tonya Tiffany

VP of Issues - Ashley ??????

Treasurer - OPEN

Secretary - Amber Tree

If you know any that would be interested in the Treasurer position, e-mail their contact info to nominating @ptachc.org. The source of the recommendation will remain confidential.

Membership

22,000 members this year

26,000 members last year

2 schools have ZERO members

One school went from close to 1,000 members to 32 members, but this was because of an internal reason based upon how the PTA was operating.

Wellness Policy

There will be a report released on May 20th regarding the policy. There was no mention of exactly what this report will entail.

Other items of interest

The state wants to have all new development along travel corridors. For Howard County, that means route 1 and route 40. So, all new development will be occurring in these areas. This is because there is already infrastructure in these areas and neither the state nor the county wants to have to pay for new infrastructure.

They estimate that Howard County will have 1,600 new students per year for the next ten (10) years.

A new elementary school is going to be built in the northern quadrant of route 1 in 2017.

Personnel & Benefits make up 85% of the operating budget. Contributions to the pension plan are coming up and Giles does not know how they are going to fund it. Buildings, equipment, etc. make up 15% of the budget.

New Business:

Incoming/Outgoing Committee Chair Breakfast, June 2nd, 9:30 a.m.

Location: Home of Hina Naseem.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Yodzis

Recording Secretary