

SJLES PTA MEETING MINUTES

Date & location: Wednesday, May 4th at 8:00pm, Zoom

In attendance: (18) Mary Brown, Jenna Groman, Meg Halvorsen, Meg Ballman, Maria Laskey, Jane Fisher, Ashley Callaway, Erin Coleman, Candace Knott, Angie Kramer, Emily Vainieri, Stephanie Errera, Tara Scully, Kathy Etheridge, Dan Notari, Sandi Cresswell, Mike Babe (Patapsco Middle School Principal), Beth Schaeffer (Patapsco Middle School PTA President)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 1st at 8:00pm

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Monthly Updates
3. Vote on 2022-2023 Board of Directors
4. PTACHC Update
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Principal's Report
7. Q&A
8. Adjournment

Minutes:

1. Welcome: Meg Halvorsen, PTA President, welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. Monthly Updates
 - a. Meg H. shared thank you's to all the volunteers:
 - i. Everyone who has helped the art department!
 - ii. Jane and Linda for organizing Bingo Night, and all the volunteers and bingo callers!
 - iii. Mary, Jane and Sandi for organizing treats for staff appreciation week!
 - iv. Sayli for coordinating Walk to School Day, and Tara and Linda for handing out charms!
 - b. Mr. Babe (Patapsco Middle School Principal) and Beth Schaeffer (Patapso Middle School PTA President) introduced themselves to the PTA and expressed interest in continuing connections with our school. They noted that the 5th graders will be coming to visit on May 12. They asked that as students and parents come to Patapsco, to please continue your involvement and join the PTA - the PTA runs a lot of programs, including a large focus on mental health for middle school students.

- c. Hershey Park and Dutch Wonderland tickets were a great fundraiser. Hershey Park introduced electronic delivery and tickets have been sent directly to inboxes. Dutch Wonderland tickets have been sent home in backpacks.
 - d. There has been confusion on Field Day t-shirts - but this is **not** a PTA event, it is run by the PE Department. While the PTA has been able to provide shirts to all students in past years, we were not able to do that this year because of the lack of fundraising for the past 2 years. The decision to sell shirts was made by the PE department, and profits do not go to the school or PTA. **The PE department is looking for volunteers for Field Day.** COVID-19 vaccination proof or testing is no longer required for volunteers.
 - e. May Day is almost here(Saturday May 21, 1-5pm). Meg H. is doing a site visit with the inflatable company tomorrow. The PTA needs volunteers for Friday night (June 20th) to prepare - pull things out of the PTA closet and have them ready by the doors, prepare the gym for the silent auction, etc.
3. 2022-2023 Board of Directors vote: There are 8 Board positions (President, VP 1, VP 2, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, PTACHC Rep 1, and PTACHC Rep 2) that must be voted on. Meg H. listed the candidates for voting:
- a. President - Meg Halvorsen
 - b. Vice President 1 - Ashley Callaway
 - c. Vice President 2 - Tara Scully
 - d. Treasurer - Candace Knott
 - e. Corresponding Secretary - Meg Ballman
 - f. Recording Secretary - Jenna Groman
 - g. PTA Council of Howard County Representative - Tiffany Burns
 - h. PTA Council of Howard County Representative - OPEN
- Emily Vainieri moved that we approved all candidates for board positions. Stephanie Errera seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. PTACHC Update - No update this month.
5. Treasurer's Report - Kathy Etheridge, PTA Treasurer
- a. Recent updates include: net of almost \$4,000 for the Book Fair, over \$1,300 for Hershey Park / Dutch Wonderland, and \$500 on Bingo Night.
 - b. Recent expenses have been mainly for recess equipment (the funnel ball will be here in 2 weeks!) and recycling bins.
 - c. We've had fewer expenses on events than expected because prizes/snacks have been donated and Bach to Rock has been giving us such a great deal for the DJ. Thank you to all those who have helped us with this.
6. Principal's Report
- a. The end of year is a fun and busy stretch of time! Lots has happened recently and lots still coming up - e.g. Battle of the Books, Bingo Night, Young Authors Contest, Field Day, May Day and more! Concerns are coming up soon also.
 - b. Teachers and administration are busy getting ready for the next school year - drafting classes, looking at how they are using staff, and making improvements. There is a lot of testing happening right now also, and the data from the last few years is helping with planning.

- c. Thank you to everyone who completed the indicators of educational equity survey - 118 family members responded to add input about school climate. There are a few more days to share input on the best school expectations - 453 responses have been received so far from teachers, parents, and students.
 - d. End of year events:
 - i. Closing ceremonies information has been sent to Kindergarten and 5th grade.
 - ii. Pumped up picnics will be held for each grade - it will all be outdoors and families can come and play with the kids! Dates are on the calendar.
7. Q&A
- a. Will there be field trips for all grades? No - only 2nd grade did a real field trip this year; they made this a priority because they have never had one yet. 4th grade is trying to do an in-house field trip, but it may not be approved in time (this is a long process) and Kindergarten went to the library as part of the curriculum. They hope to do more field trips next year.
 - b. Has the 1st grade pumped up picnic been scheduled yet? No - they are figuring out a date, which will be sent out soon.
8. Adjournment: Meg Halvorsen adjourned the meeting.