

SJLES General PTA Meeting November 9, 2016

Attendees: G. Bock, K. Althouse, J. Gales, J. Cosgrove, V. Sarro, D. Taylor, S. Williams, C. Davis, P. Muniandy, M. Fichter, D. Arthurs, E. Donnell, A. Baer, A. Brooks, A. Buckler, T. Rippeon, A. Skellchock, A. Muirhead

Greta Bock called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Approved minutes from 9/6/2016

At request of a PTA member, the Board was introduced

President's Report (G. Bock)

- All usage requests have been approved for the year except for May Day. We need to add time of day to the request. Amanda Brooks, May Day Chair, asked if any time of day is better for attendance. Group recommended 2-6 pm. System is just opening up for usage requests for May. Date of event is May 6, 2017. Usage request for Friday afternoon setup is approved already, May 5.
- Membership update. 382 members, including staff, so far this year. Membership chair will step down after this year. We did not meet our goal for the contest "dance party" this year. Mrs. Peddicord did the display out from in hallway about how many had enrolled.
- Request received for student in need related to Howard County Chorus (\$150). PTA would not have to make the selection, something to think about supporting going forward as a budget item. President inquired about needs in band/strings as well.
- Directory. In process, delayed by the new technology.
- Yearbook has volunteers with contract in review. Price will increase this year to \$17 each, due to prior year losses at previous pricing. Candid photo privacy is no longer an issue due to disclaimer on the HCPSS website.
- Zoning. Bethany Glen and behind Qdoba. Behind Qdoba, trying to switch from age restricted to non-age restricted. This should go before zoning board in the spring. The PTA voted last year to advocate that it remain age restricted. Both areas are delayed for flood studies being conducted by county – some question amongst attendees about the status of the delay.
- Coat drive. The county PTA has donated 1,000 coats this year! Thank you to all.
- Adopt a Staff has a Sign Up Genius. Please continue to advertise and fill spaces. We are doing a monthly raffle for the staff, the winner gets a gift card.

- Several attendees mentioned having trouble with receiving the PTA newsletters. We recommend following PTA on Facebook and checking out the PTA website as well.

Treasurer's Report (M. Fichter)

- Membership & Donations. Budget was \$7,400, as of now we are over \$8,000. We have paid MD PTA for the membership cards already.
- Multicultural Day was under budget, so we would like to donate the money to buy books for the library.
- Teachers closet funds nearly exhausted.
- Teachers have \$100 to spend each. President asked teachers for a wish list. Attendees recommended reminding the teachers what they have for spending, as some staff has mentioned that they do not know what they can spend. Mrs. Sarro clarifies: in the past there has been individual amounts and a team amount. Board is requesting clarification on how much each team and grade level gets, should we look at getting more to other teams such as special ed. This can be done as part of the 2017 Budgeting process.

VP's Report (D. Taylor)

- Committee chairs doing a great job and working independently. The Multicultural team did an amazing job, and kept me well updated.
- Turkey Trot is coming up, run by Pam Muniandy. Pam updates include: 130 participants in the poster contest; more than 1,000 items donated for food drive. Pam has subcommittees for various parts of the day, and lots of volunteers. Script for DJ is being completed for Mrs. Sarro to approve. The waiver form has been approved and sent home with students. Starbucks donated 10 gallons of coffee. Walgreens donated first aid kits, hand sanitizers, water. Giant donated a gift card to purchase food. Many other groups are donating as well: Glory Days, Costco, etc. Program schedule discussed.
- Author Visit. Vivian Stone has been coordinating with media center. One author was found, but too expensive. Attendee recommended splitting the cost with another school where the author could visit the same day. Other possibilities were discussed, including a local teacher.
- Awards Committee. K. Althouse will take this on, getting started this week.
- Family Fun and Fitness. A. Muirhead (chair) updates include: Back to School Picnic was a success; may add a Bake Sale to the Jaguar Jamboree; Jaguar Jamboree needs a waiver for insurance purposes. Snow date is built in this year!

VP's Report (K. Althouse)

- United Way donations can be done.
- Restaurant Nights are in the works.

County PTA Council Representative (J. Cosgrove)

- JROTC applications are available now; JROTC is offered at Atholton, Howard, and Oakland Mills HS (based on branch of service).
- Canvas presentation provided at last meeting. New app called Canvas Parent shows grades and alerts. Encourage all to explore!
- Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance. Encourage PTA to get to know the APFO, as this is coming up for legislation. Some are for more growth, some are for stopping it. Become educated in order to support your community. Representative noticed that many did not know the correlation between the APFO and the developments/overcrowding. The minutes are at www.ptachc.org.

Principal's Report (Mrs. Sarro)

- Construction has begun. The First IEQ (Indoor Environmental Quality) walk through with the county team scheduled for 11/10. The parent member of the IEQ (P. Schickler) will attend. School website will show results once available.
- American Education Week is next week. Friday is Grandparents and Special Guests day. Information came home about this schedule.
- Parent Teacher Conferences in late November; registration/sign is available online, and will close next Monday. For assistance, call the front office.

Special Presentation, Food for the Weekend (A. Baer and E. Donnell)

- History: A. Baer and E. Donnell have coordinated back pack program for a few years. They acquire school supplies with PTA funds and donations, and provide them to the SJLES guidance counselor. These supplies are handed out by the counselor for confidentiality reasons. They became aware of a program done in other school for a food program.
- Required to ask the entire school population if they are interested in such a program. The food may be a loaf of bread, peanut butter, bag of fruit. A flyer went out, but then was retracted one day later by the PTA. A. Baer and E. Donnell had worked with Mrs. Sarro on the wording of the flyer. Expectation is to get everything donated, with no PTA financial contribution. The number of potential need families is unknown; the flyer was intended to determine need.
- Discussion regarding retraction and sponsorship (school, PTA, both).
- Mrs. Sarro offered insight into the program. Guidance counselor agreed to be the school level manager, to maintain confidentiality.
- Mrs. Sarro inquiring of school system as to school sponsorship possibility. PTA also inquiring of PTA resources regarding liability and sponsorship possibility.

President Resignation

- G. Bock submitted her resignation.
- Bylaws require a nomination process and an election for a new president. PTA Board will work to have special election in near future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. Minutes submitted by Allyson Jackson