

PTA meeting 10/9/25

All members present except Blair

***Budget status update by the Treasurer**

- Expenses exceeded the budget so far for this school year but that's to be expected because we need start-up funds and are expecting incoming revenue from the events.
- Budget forecast for the year is \$53,021 and so far we have spent \$5,774.
- Recent government shut-down has affected a lot of families so all committees need to be mindful about requesting money and how our money is being spent.
- *Howard County and the state of MD have been cutting funds to schools
- We need more people to join the PTA! We haven't yet reached our goal yet of \$6k (we are at \$5,408 as of now)
- Back to school picnic: under budget by \$80
- Teacher items: forecasted \$7,800; spent \$2,791 so far
- School-wide needs: \$1,000 forecasted; spent \$129 so far

***Committee and Events Report:**

- Oliver's labels brought in \$45. Bruster's raised \$250. Upcoming Chipotle fundraiser will be 10/14 and we will ask them to put a flyer for joining the PTA at the register. We are also looking into registering the school with Harris Teeter.
- Regular SJLES merchandise sale ends 10/13. New spirit wear will be for sale closer to the holidays with house animals (t-shirts and hoodies). We are also working on sticker, magnets, keychains with the house animals

***"House System" update**

This system has begun, the kids are really excited, and it's connected to the SEL curriculum. From November-March the SEL lessons are dedicated to one of the characteristics of the houses each month. Characteristics are: courage, friendship, kindness, unity/teamwork, and goal setting. There will be fun events (friendly competition) between the houses. For larger and louder events there will be sensory-friendly accommodations.

***Other items:**

- Parent/teacher conferences are in person on 11/24 and online on 11/25. Sign up on HCPSS connect.
- Mid quarter grades are posted on Canvas
- School directory is back up on HCPSS connect
- There is redistricting going on in Ho.Co. but we are not one of the schools being affected. Mostly Columbia.
- Fifth grades field trip is still undecided: will either be Annapolis or Gettysburg. We will find out soon but we don't need fundraising for this.

***Volunteer Coordinator's Report:**

Trunk or Treat sign-up is out

-Turkey trot sign up is ready to go out soon. Poster project for Turkey Trot: get blank poster paper in the art room. Make a poster to advertise the event and get a charm bracelet.

-There are open committee spots— specifically for May Day lead

-No flu clinic this year so no volunteers needed

-“Original Works” volunteers have been requested

More about “Original Works”: All proceeds go to the art department. A packet will go home at the end of next week (10/17) and then sales will be going on for about 2 weeks. Products come in right after Thanksgiving.

***Voting Items:**

1. Yearbook cost to increase to \$25 due to adding extra pages for “House system” pics, and we will make a \$1 more per yearbook profit. **PASSED** (all in favor). However we will continue to discuss how to make the yearbook accessible for students with lower income homes. Should we set up a fund for low-income students?
2. Extra charms that aren’t used by other committees will be given to Ms. Poirer. **PASSED** (all in favor)
3. Should the PTA provide free field day t-shirts for all students? It would cost \$4-5k to do that. That’s a lot of money just for a one-day event. We voted that the PTA will not be using its own money for field day shirts. We will revisit this later. Can it be funded through sponsorship? What else besides shirts could we use for field day? **PASSED (all agreed that PTA will NOT use its own money for field day shirts)**