

PTA Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2017

About 12 parents were in attendance with Dr. Varlack and special guests from Mathnasium, a cricket league, and a representative from Patuxent Valley Middle School PTA.

January minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report

Amazon Smiles donated \$77.

A check was received from Box Tops – but it was written out to Forest Ridge PTA, so it will have to be rewritten for FRES.

We are doing well with our budget.

Principal's Report – We have a new partnership with a tutoring service called Mathnasium. It will help us with Math/Science activities, but they will not be running any classes. If FRES parents sign up for it, some money will be donated to the PTA. They have already donated money for the Teacher Appreciation meal in the fall. We each were handed a flyer.

County Council approved HO Co being a sanctuary. How are we prepared to help students with all that is going on with immigration? We are such an international school. Some students are very upset. As a staff, we are prepared. We have had many meetings.

Staffing will come within the next two weeks for next year. One projection has us increasing to 800 students. We are at 710 now.

The first choral concert will be next week on the 15th at 6:30 at Hammond High School. We have about 90 students involved. The choir has met once a week for half an hour for the past few months. Chorus is a part of the curriculum.

Patuxent Valley Middle School Representative – Katie Schneider told us that she is on the nomination committee, and they are seeking board members for their PTA. They do hospitality for the teachers and fundraising to support the students and their activities. We will put their sign up sheet on our website. They have a great new principal there! The school is moving in a good direction. Come be a part of it! You can check out their spirit wear at epiapparel.com.

County PTA Delegate – They discussed start and dismissal times. You can place comments online, but remember that it will be posted, and it will be kept as a permanent record. The final vote will be later in February. If it does go into effect, it will not start until 2018.

Brent Loveless gave a report during the County PTA meeting. He wants people to support APFO and make sure they are part of the county planning board. If you are unhappy about class size and services in the county, this is the opportunity to get our voices heard.

Legislation in the state is being considered for how Board of Ed members are voted in.

There was a question raised about raising the fees for being a part of PTAC from \$170 a year to \$200. – ARL and Homewood do not have PTAs. Both schools have home schools for

their students, but there is a need to help these 2 schools out. Each school would get \$1,000 for teacher appreciation and other things for the students. Also PTAs would be asked to help out these schools. A question was raised about how the funds would be dispersed and who would organize the funds.

The PTA convention for the State of MD is in Columbia this year. They are looking for a child to sing the Star Spangled Banner. They are also looking for a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop to do the color guard. This is in July.

Bi-laws need to be reviewed and voted on. Tom, Dave, Jennifer G. Jennifer R., Cathy, and Jessica volunteered. Committee heads please let Jen know soon before we work on the bi-laws if you want to continue in your role next year.

After School Activities – A representative came who wants to start a cricket team. He started a cricket league in Prince Georges schools. They have 2 teams in Anne Arundel County. Howard County has a team from Bonnie Branch Middle School. It is okay if you don't know anything about it. Kids will get t-shirts, and medals. Cricket is the 2nd most popular sport in the world. It is played with a plastic bat and tennis balls covered in electrical tape. He wants to start a team here at FRES, and he already has 2 parent volunteers who will be in charge of it. All the practices and matches will be played on a black top from 6 – 7:30 PM. Every thing would be on the weekdays. He asked us to make the flyers and send them. Everything else will be done by him. The cost is around \$75. The entire program is run by volunteers. Bowie Boys and Girls Club will cover the insurance costs. It will run from March 13 – May 26 with two practices or games a week. It calls for 13 kids on the field, but we like to have at least 15 kids from 4th and 5th grades.

We still need volunteers for the Spanish Class.

Membership – The rest of the cards have not come in. No more new members. We are at 319.

Fundraising – We are trying to get the Boosterthon folks to come to us in September.

Perhaps we can take the Auction offline and do it during the carnival. (It was pointed out that we might lose some out of state folks who have bidded on it.) We need to get more things to put on the auction.

Wheeler Farm in Sykesville is now a sponsor of our school. If families sign on for a whole share, FRES will get proceeds. They even deliver to your house. \$650 for the season plus \$100 for delivery. You can do a half share.

Movie Night – “Storks” – this Friday. We are charging a dollar each to pay off the movie license. Chili and cheese perhaps this night with hot chocolate. We realized the next movie night was scheduled during Turn Off the Screen week. We will have to look into another date.

Restaurant Night/ Skate night – Tampico Grill earned \$450 and skate night earned \$480 - The next skate nights are March 3 and April 28.

Next restaurant night is at Rams Head! Tuesday the March 14th.

Staff Appreciation – March 9 – Dinner for staff during conferences 4:00 PM – 5.

Teacher and Team Reimbursements – we are in good shape with this. Expense forms will be presented to staff at their March staff meeting on the first Wednesday.

Teacher Appreciation - Marci would like to see a few more of our teachers nominated. We have done Mrs. Langley and Mrs. Clawson in the past. This is due February 24th. This only takes 10 minutes. It is 150 words. Every teacher you nominate and you will get to go to the ceremony. You get the kids to write too. They will put this on the website and get a flyer out next Thursday.

Carnival – May 6 We do need a committee to make this happen. Looks like they will meet on Thursday evenings. Pit beef guy is already reserved.

Yearbook – Covers were voted on. The fifth grade dedication is going out soon. Unfortunately, we have to work on the school computers here at FRES. This is a huge problem... most parents work and can't come into school to make the yearbooks. We will do the best we can. Same price as last year for the book, \$18. \$5 for student dedication.

Dad's Club – Terps game went well. He will never do a turn-around that quickly. The Terps were very cooperative. Orioles are not changing ticket prices. We will hear about it soon.

Turn off the TV Week - Could we do a STEM night here at FRES? We need to ask to see if the teachers would be willing to help. This will be the week of May 1st. Ed C suggested making magnetic slime, watching chemical reactions, flash freezing water, and a using a mirror maze. Perhaps Rube Goldberg could set up a table. Ed will have the materials to help us set up a room here. We would need to think about the money for the supplies. We could use teachers or parents to volunteer for this. The middle school will have 9 classrooms, cafeteria, gym, and media center. They are also using the Howard County library people. –Jen R. questioned whether or not we should tap into our volunteers with both teachers and parents this week, when we want them to all attend the carnival on that Saturday. No final decisions were made.