

PTA Meeting October 4, 2016

Introductions were made. About 26 parents were here along with Dr. Varlack, and fifth grade teachers Mrs. Azzarello, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Whiteford.

President's Report – Jen was happy about all the parents in attendance.

- *450 people came to the Ice Cream Night where we ran out of ice cream, but got more in enough time.
- *Back to School Night went well. It was great to meet new people!
- *The Wellness Committee has contacted Jen to ask for volunteers to help with Walk to School. She said that she has contacted the community to cut back some of the trees, so that it is easier to see to cross the street.

Treasurer's Report We had \$18,107 income mainly from memberships. – We got more this year than last – we also made \$2,787 from coupon books. We had expenses of \$6,382 and \$9,000 set aside for the playground. We also made some money from spirit wear. The major expenses were printing the first day packet and school supplies. We are doing good and have money to spend for our next event. A question was raised about why the Halloween Dance looked like it was going to make some money. It was pointed out that If we earn up to \$300, it is not a fund raiser. We just want to make sure we keep it as close to an even amount as possible.

Principal Report Dr. Varlack reported that the Forerunner is updated regularly.

* We are still having movement of staff. Paris Muse is now a special ed para. Becky Jackson is now the teacher secretary. We have an open custodial .5 position. Dr. Varlack has submitted a form to prove that we really need this position, thanks to the county freezing hiring. She is concerned about maintaining the cleanliness of our building as it stretches our remaining custodians thin. We also have a Grade 4 para vacancy. She did celebrate a victory of her being able to convince the county to give us a full time band and strings teacher– Natalie Hogg! Thank you Dr. Varlack for your hard work in making that happen and always looking out for what is best for our school!

*The fire alarm going off at 8:55AM was the NOT a planned drill. Dr. Varlack expressed her gratitude for the staff making it work and maintaining order. She pointed out that we still have 153 families who have not filled out their emergency cards. This would have been a big problem if it had truly been an emergency.

*This year we have a full time MST and RST. These are reading and math support teachers. We are becoming more current in our practices, but with it comes many meetings. It is a blessing in disguise.

Teacher Report – Thanks to coming to Back to School Night!

- *We are hoping to do the 5th grade dance again and end of the year 5th grade t-shirts.
- *October 24 is the first Chick-Fil-A event to fund raise for 4th and 5th grade field trips
- *Wed. May 24 is the date for the Simulated Congressional Hearings by 5th grade

*We have lots of student helpers this year! We have changed it up to have other jobs for other graders. 3rd graders are PE helpers. 4th graders do recycling. 5th graders are kindergarten helpers, safeties and helpers in technology, media, music, and PE

*We will have a choral concert this year at the high school.

PTA County Delegate Report – No report. Their meeting is today.

Lisa Loveless - October 19 – 6pm to 9pm is the Candidate’s Forum. All six of the Board of Ed candidates will be there as well as our Congressman. 6 – 7pm will be an ice cream social. You have to submit a question to get a treat. You can meet personally with questions during this time too. Candidates will respond in writing to any questions we don’t get to. It is very important to have responsible people in those seats. If you would like to help volunteer for this event, you can contact Lisa Loveless.

APFO – Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance This group watches growth in Howard County and tries to remind our authorities of the problems with overcrowding especially in schools. If you are tired of all the over-development in our area, this is the group for you! Again, contact Lisa and Brent Loveless.

Membership We have 302 PTA members so far! We also have new parents who own businesses and are interested in partnering with us.

*2nd grade is in the lead with the most parents in PTA!

Playground We have approval for a new shade structure! Howard County will own the shade, but we will be responsible for all repairs on it throughout its life. Mr. Connor from grounds will be allowed to install, but that is all. We will have a 10-year warranty. We also have to take it down in the winter. They have honored the original quote – \$5,731.35. With the extra \$3,000, Amanda Fields said that we could have one of our parents who owns a construction business lay the concrete under it. Amanda is checking into this to see if it can be done. Jen R. said that we really should have \$1000 put back in for maintenance. She said that Mr. Connor will put woodchips down for free. In the winter, we need to find a place to put the canopy.

Fundraising Kid Stuff did much better than we thought it would with 234 books sold. Only 67 not returned.

Be Very Merry Online orders will be charged shipping fees. Extra order forms are available.

School House Theater Arts pushed back the date, because we didn’t have the 20 kids needed. We reached out to Bollman Bridge and as of 2 days ago, had no response from them. Hope to start Monday with 15 kids.

Red, Hot, and Blue We earned \$325. We are looking into other restaurant nights, perhaps with restaurants owned by our FRES parents.

Skate Night flyers went out today. The insurance policy of PTA was described as a green light, yellow light, red light system. Green light means you can do it with no worries, red light means you cannot do it, and yellow means you need to sign your life away. Skate Night is a yellow light event. We will need to have a waiver for each participant. Jen R. will stand at the door to ensure that each person signs there. The waiver will state that that PTA is not responsible for any injuries. Admission is \$9 total, including skates.

Printing discussion Jen R. led a discussion on how printing takes up a a lot of our budget, especially when you are printing for 710 students and 85 staff. She suggested that we try to keep our flyers to half size. We purchased a basic Brother laser printer for \$270 including ink. We usually pay 10 cents a copy, now it will be around 3 cents a copy. We are trying to find an outlet in the PTA room to set it up.

Directory We can't email it to PTA members. They want us to send out hard copies. Luckily, Howard County Print Shop – used for the schools – will print this for free for us.

Dad's club Ed C. reported that HCEA knows about the Forum. He discussed different options for sporting events. He said that Caps tickets are \$44. Wizards are \$23. He is going to try to set up a Wizard's Event on December 10. Terp's Women's basketball is also a possibility.

Spirit Wear Leigh String told us to look for forms coming out next week. We are trying a performance t-shirt for the first time. Due date will be our next meeting on November 1. We will send home the orders around the first week of December. The company will print the brochures.

Flyers – It was brought up that some teachers are not getting the flyers out on time. The administration will address this problem with the staff.

Summer activity books 10 students participated and will be rewarded.

Movie Night We will watch "Hotel Transylvania 2" on October 28th. Will give out a flyer that will tell them how to sign up online. Money will be collected at the door. Adults can help set up for the Halloween Dance that night. Next movie night will be on December 9.

Halloween Dance The first meeting was last week. It was discussed how we have built up our decorations. We will need black plastic and bulk candy. We might do something different like a person who does caricatures. The face painters are the bulk of our face painters. - \$800. We are looking at other face painters, which is why we upped the ticket price. The DJ is under \$200. Unfortunately, the lights can't be done by Keith this year, so we need to find another option. We want to have a costume contest for the staff. – Staff can bring their own elementary school kids. NO children under 5.

*Next meeting for Halloween committee is October 11 at 7PM. Please email Amanda or Penny if you would like to help. It takes a good 4 -5 hours to decorate the school.

Holiday Bazaar November 12 – Flyers are printed and will go home next week. PTA members and vendors from last year will be asked first. 10am – 2pm

Holiday Shop We will talk about it at next meeting...

Yearbook Thanks to another new policy, all yearbook pictures have to be done through the school during school hours. WHAT???. Not sure how that will work out, but Penny and a crew of about 4 other parents are on it. Good luck to you and to our new teacher's secretary, Mrs. Jackson!

Box Tops We currently have \$800 from last year. She is counting the ones coming in. Contest is due October 21st. Please sign up for Harris Teeter. You have to do it every year.

Green Committee Leigh S. met with Mrs. Clawson. We made a connection with Hammond High School to do a Green Fest. They want Forest Ridge to be the host school. We would bring volunteers. The purpose is to encourage the community to be green. We just need a date.

Staff Appreciation October 11 snack for staff. Look for a sign up sheet.

Walk to School October 11. We have been asked for help with that. 3 in front, 3 in back, and 3 from the library. Just need two people in the back.

Family Fit Night The Wellness Committee is hosting a Family Fit Night on November 3. They want us to come and learn about getting fit and eating healthy.

Food Drive Jen Gifford asked for our help with her church's food drive for Thanksgiving. We need to collect the dry goods. Mrs. Schwartz will be coordinating it here at school. Flyers will be provided. We are trying to be in competition with another school, but we could do it by grade. Can donate money as well.

Gingerbread Night for Kindergarten - Amanda Fields and Cathy Lindenmann are in charge!