

PTA Meeting March 6, 2018

The meeting began at 7:11 after the Safety meeting by Dr. Varlack in which well over 25 staff members attended as well as approximately 30 parents. 22 parents stayed for our PTA meeting.

Treasurer's Report – - \$2,469 was collected and we paid \$250 in teacher reimbursements. Please get teachers to send in reimbursements. Teachers will need receipts. \$200 was spent to reserve face painting.

Principal's Report – Mrs. Shanks discussed upcoming testing for MAP and MISA testing, which is the science test that only fifth graders take.

PTA Delegate – Board of Ed will be meeting to decide on budget cuts. They are 20 million over budgeted. The plan is to increase class sizes and to cut the world language programs that are in some elementary schools.

Kittleman is having a meeting on Thursday the 8th to have a public hearing on the budget. Education used to get 58 % of the budget and now we only get 52%.

Tom McNeal, Howard County Schools Director of Security Emergency Preparedness and Response, will be working with the new Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity to prevent bullying and to look for signs in troubled students.

In response to the latest school shooting, Howard County immediately will be installing locked doors in high schools. Resource officers in middle schools have also been increased. The funding for this comes from the police not education.

President's Report – Jen received a letter from the company who is planning on splitting the property at the last house on Gorman Road before the turn into Savage. The meeting is on March 12 at the Savage Library.

Tomorrow night at 5:30PM there will be a meeting in the media center addressing the expansion of the Steven's Road bridge.

PTA has given \$1000 for the school to have an author come to visit on March 28th in celebration of our Reading Month.

Board Positions are open for next year! All positions are open. You can put nominations on the website. The current board promises to be there to help as needed. There was a discussion about writing descriptions of the different positions, but the current board wanted to make sure the new officers would be able to define their own jobs according to their own skills. They have created an online collection of all the flyers we've handed out and detailed descriptions of each event or activity they have done.

Screenager Movie at Patuxent Valley – They will invite us with a web link. \$5 per parent, kids will go free. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. – This is to help us with children who are big into screen time.

Watch DOGS Program – Jen will have a telecast with Dr. Varlack and the owner of the company. PTA will pay the \$1,400 to start up this program. This is a program that encourages dads to come to school for a day to volunteer.

Fundraising – Cookbooks are almost done. The recipes have come in and the final touches are being done this weekend.

Spring Auction – Flyer is going out soon. We need to start getting donations from businesses and families. IF you frequent some business often, you can ask them for a donation – Jen has a letter for you to take with you. The auction will take place April 26 – 29.

Carnival – The committee has met and will be meeting again. Everything is in order.

25th Anniversary - The tiles for the wall are coming along nicely. It will be put up soon. Students will be taking an all school shot of “FRES 25” this Friday.

Turn off Screen - April 30 through May 4 - Monday the 30th will be a game night for families to come and play. Mathnasium will be there! Rita’s night will be that Wednesday. We will give the kids a sheet to draw a picture or write about what they did instead of watching TV. If they do 4 -5 nights, they will get a certificate and hopefully a Sweet Frog gift card.

5th Grade – The committee has assembled 1000 packets of mini erasers. They will cost \$1. Parents or students can write a note to a friend to send. We have heard feedback of kids who didn’t get these in the past, so we will put this out for parents to send one to their own child. This is a huge profit. We are hoping to make \$900. March 27, 28, 29th has been approved. Fliers should go out next Thursday.

Afterschool Activities – A parent of kindergartner has had several incidents where the folks in charge of the afterschool activity, haven’t gotten their child back to Aftercare. Tangie is looking further into this.

Spirit Wear – Heather is working on this and it will go out in the next 2 weeks. Blue and white shirts. Baseball hat too! - Everyone needs to wear spirit wear on Friday, the 16th!

Skate Night - March 23 is last one. Wear your spirit wear and make it a big deal!

Staff Appreciation – Tea cart will be coming around to all the FRES staff with breakfast items on the morning of March 14th.

Movie Night – Kids are voting on the movie during tech. It will be May 18th. Not sure if we will charge for this, because we found out that Howard County public schools bought the movie license for all the schools.

Yearbook – The yearbook is 80% done. Fifth grade dedications will start soon. Baby picture forms went home as well. There will be a very limited amount for those who do not order them ahead of time. Please do a preorder if you want a yearbook!

Box Tops – Collection sheet with a science theme will go out pretty soon. You can just send them in baggies if you want. April 30 is the due date. The check did come in January for \$1,200!

A suggestion was given that specific directions should be given about how to do the Box Tops. We should also make sure the teachers know what to do with the Box Tops when they come in. It was suggested that we might even make a quick video to send out, since some parents still do not know what they are.

ForeRunner - Frustration was expressed over switching the way parents access the ForeRunner. Now that it is not in an email, many parents don't click to the website to read it, especially when the link doesn't always work. We were reminded that this was a county decision to do this – not FRES, so that the information is accessible to all. Email Christin_Traini@hcpss.org if it doesn't work. We should link the ForeRunner to our website.

Dad's Club – Wizards is this weekend.

Variety Show – A flyer will go out at the end of the month and be returned by April 13. Auditions will be the 25th or 26th. May 9th and 10th will be rehearsal days. **May 24th** will be the performance date with May 23rd as the dress rehearsal.

The next PTA meeting will be April 10.

It was noted that our June meeting will be on June 12.

