

Forest Ridge Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 6th 2016

All Purpose Room

Jen opened the meeting welcoming everyone, old and new faces. She introduced the PTA board: Penny Keller 1st VP, Tangie Smith 2nd VP, Sai Vallurupalli Treasurer, Recording Secretary Cathy Lindemann (absent), LaTonya Brown and Marci Isaacs (Correspondence Secretaries).

June minutes were approved.

Principal's Report: Dr. Varlack thanked the PTA for their support at the start of the school year for events such as: Luncheon for staff members and Paraeducator breakfast tomorrow that the PTA is hosting.

Bus driver breakfast tomorrow from the school tot talk to our drivers about routes, guidelines, and school expectations.

Number of new staff members here at FRES. Many moved because of geography or took extended leave. This changes the FRES culture but the school is doing well, and staff members who have left have kept in touch. We have a range from veterans transferring to FRES to brand new teachers. About 15 new faces (support and professional staff). We still have a part-time vacancy in Media. We have a parent substitute right now. We have a support in Special Education open, that is being interviewed for by our secretary
Looking to improve with announcing things and we are doing this to help

Ms. Shanks testing: KRA this year will be a sampling of 25% of our students in each K classroom. You may receive letters from this week to next week about homeroom placement changes if there is a move in K. For upper grades, PARCC scores go home Sept. 9th. You can see scores on MSDE website. Used as another data point for FRES. To support math in 4th grade, FRES is hosting a Math workshop this Thursday for 4th grade math parents.

SIP: School Improvement Plan/FRES Math Focus is for more students to reach the county benchmark in the MAP assessment. The MAP assessment from the county is used as a benchmark for student progress towards college and career readiness. More than ever this year they are looking at how schools are progressing. This is our 3rd year having students take MAP. FRES will be working with students to make the test goal driven. The test is given 3 times a year.

Volunteering: Administration needs parents to take a training before volunteering in school. The link is in the FRES Forerunner this week. You need to take the training and print out the certificate and send it in to school. More in-depth training will be given before next PTA meeting.

Teacher's Delegate report- none

PTA County Delegate: No report. Having their meeting tonight. Our delegates bring concerns to other delegates through the county.

Further Meeting Points:

Candidate Forum: October 19th, Wednesday, with Savage Community Association we are hosting a candidate forum with all BOE candidates at FRES cafeteria. Savage will be working on Congress district 3, 2 and maybe 7 as well as Senate candidates. You submit a question and get an ice cream treat from 6-7pm. Meet and greet 6-7pm, and 7pm start. BOE will start the forum. Lisa Loveless may start a sign up genius about questions. Will be put up on PTA website. Questions can be sent ahead of time at sceptaforum@gmail.com Facebook page will have info as it comes as well. Volunteers will be needed to help or to make donations of ice cream. It will be video taped on Youtube for those who can't attend. All questions will be given at the time, not submitted ahead of time.

Introductions: Jen introduced herself and her family and invited all in attendance to introduce themselves and their children's grades. All committee members briefly introduced themselves:

- Dad's club, organized sports events to have kids go to... Wizard's and Caps, Lady Terps, Washington Spirit, and Orioles.
- Restaurant and skate nights committee is hopeful to have one once a month in Laurel.
- Green Team/Turn off the Screen TV Week:
- SpiritWear: new design showed and paper order form will be handed out later this fall; spirit wear for music department will also be offered for concert wear
- Movie night committee: Friday night's. FRES family function.
- Lauren Box Tops, PTA Delegate
- Halloween dance Committee:

Parent Meet and Greet Thursday Night, 7pm Media Center. This is a chance for new parents to come and ask questions and veteran parents to socialize and help answer questions of new parents.

Budget: Sai talked about how the board worked with Jen, our outgoing treasurer to consolidate some categories in the budget. Questions were asked about the budget and how money can be used for other areas if not already earmarked in fundraising for a specific event. Question about some categories where budget has made a significantly reduction. Jen spoke to Movie Night budget which had volunteer appreciation piece (formerly in Movie Night budget) teased out. Last year decorations had to be repurchased and this year they will not need to be purchased.

Playground update: PTA in contact with the play structure company about shade structure. Howard County has said PTA can buy shade structure if PTA agrees to maintain and upkeep the structure. There is a 10 year warranty but the county is looking at PTA owning it even if it is a PTA donation, and then PTA might have to be responsible for insurance. The quote we have is good until the end of summer 2016.

Dad's Club: Portion of budget was earmarked for donation when Orioles tickets were sold to benefit US troops. Looking at some other ways to donate to get the money off the books soon.

Budget was approved and seconded with no opposition.

Meeting was opened to mingle at committee tables.