

FRES PTA 2023-2024
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023

Welcome

PTA President Jackie Matanin called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. After welcoming everyone to the meeting and reminding all to sign in, Jackie introduced the members of the PTA Executive Board.

- There is one current vacancy on the Board for a second PTAC Representative. Please contact Jackie if interested.
- The current board was elected at the start of the 2022-2023 school year and is now serving their second year. Board members serve for 2 years, therefore elections will take place in the Spring.
- Jackie provided an overview of what the PTA at FRES does.

Approval of April & June Meeting Minutes

- Barbara explained that minutes of each meeting are recorded and then must be approved at the next meeting.
- Copies of minutes are available at the meeting and will also be shared on the PTA website and sent to PTA members through PTboard.

2023 - 2024 Budget Review & Approval

Lavina and Pratima provided a detailed review of the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year. We are starting the year with a carryover balance of \$28,181.62. The goal is to have a carryover of \$9000 into the 2024-2025 school year.

Income:

Fundraising includes Joe Corbi's, Read-a-Thon, Silent Auction, restaurant nights, grocery store programs, and grants. Activities and events such as fall festival and carnival also result in income. Help is always needed to find grants and apply for them. Amy shared that if teachers want to apply for grants and need help to please reach out to PTA.

Expenses – activities that are paid for by PTA include events such as Back to School Celebration, movie nights, culture festival, health and wellness fair, student field trips, assemblies, and teacher appreciation activities. There was some discussion about the amount of funds PTA contributes to each grade for field trips and the higher cost of 4th and 5th grade field trips and events. Separate fundraising is done by 5th grade.

Approving the budget tonight gets us started. The budget can be reviewed regularly and funds moved around by vote as needed.

A motion for approval of the budget was made and seconded. All in favor and the budget was approved.

School & Community Reports

Principal:

Ms. Lannon expressed that FRES has amazing kids! She and Ms. Pazornik are seeing children throughout the day in classrooms, at lunch, recess, and transportation. Kids are doing very well getting into new routines.

Ms. Lannon expressed thanks for patience with transportation. Recognizes the struggles that are unfortunately out of the schools' hands. New car loop is working well and was done by 4:04 today. Secretaries are managing calls, staff are staying late. School is tracking for extra pay for those that stay late. It has been the toughest year yet regarding transportation. Hats off to Ms. Trainy!!! The central office is making sporadic visits, doing traffic surveys, and monitoring buses/cars. They have complimented FRES.

Thank you to PTA and Community for teacher breakfast and the 1st day treat welcome bag/survival kit.

Ms. Lannon has a goal to make improvements to the staff lounge. She started by setting up an Amazon wish list for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, etc. It was a huge success. Families contributed 3 Keurigs, tons of coffee and all the stuff to go with it. The staff love it! Hope to paint and redecorate in the future.

School pics tomorrow, 9/7.

FRES fundraiser - Nothing Bundt Cakes (November before Thanksgiving)

Spirit Day Schedule for the whole year has been shared.

Back to School Nights 9/12 and 9/13.

Assistant Principal

Ms. Pazornik echoes the appreciation for the coffee bar.

Testing – MAP testing starts with 1st grade next week.

1st grade – 19th and 20th

2nd grade – 27th and 29th

3rd grade – 10/3 and 10/4

4th grade 10/5, 10/6

5th grade 10/10, 10/11

MAP testing is ELA and Math via computer. The test starts with grade level questions and as children answer correctly the skill level increases. Skill level decreases with incorrect answers. Results will be shared sometime after 10/19 when the testing window ends.

As of now planned field trips:

2nd grade – Howard County Conservancy 10/10

3rd grade – Science Center 10/19

4th grade – science center 10/27

Committees

Amy provided an overview of the PTA committees. The yellow flyer shared tonight has a description of each committee (attached to minutes) and a QR code link to sign up. There are many easy to volunteer. If your time is limited you can do something simple like bringing “cookies to appreciation day”. If you have a little more time you might “think about the plan and share your voice”, or if you can take on more responsibility, “I can lead a committee”. Those that volunteer to chair a committee are then members of the Board. Executive Board members are always available to support committees.

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)

The first meeting of PTACHC was held on Monday, 8/28

- Dr. Martirano spoke to the busing issues and Amy was able to speak. There was time allowed for representatives to share directly the problems happening at their schools. The bus situation is continuing to unfold and there is more up-to-date news on that every day. It was obvious at the meeting that it was a complete systemic collapse and they have a lot of work to do to fix the routes, timings, and plans.
- SECAC (Special Education Citizens Advisory Council) is being revived and has a very passionate chair this year. Their website is updated and the county-wide meetings this year will be held right around the corner at PVMS at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. They are asking all HoCo PTAs to: update their websites to include listing SECAC as a resource, their monthly meeting time/location, and a link to their website: <https://howardcountysecac.com/> and announce to their school's PTA that the PTA needs a SECAC Representative that will represent the views/voices of families with Special Needs both at their own school's PTA and by attending the monthly county meeting
- The Purple Star School Status presented by Lisa Terri from the HoCo Office of Veterans & Military Families. <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans-military-families> Lisa would like the opportunity to meet with school level PTAs that might be interested in pursuing recognition /certification as a "Purple Star School" this year. We don't yet have any in HoCo and the state & county have just funded / provided more resources to make this easier than ever to do. There were about four items that a School has to think through and do to be recognized as a school that is supportive / helpful for military and veterans families.
- Free State PTA has announced an upcoming online training series for PTA officers to meet compliance requirements for training.

Please email president@frespta.org or contact@frespta.org with any questions or concerns

Stay up to date! frespta.org, Forerunner, FB FRES PTA & FRES Guardians Groups