

**Minutes of the PTA BOD Meeting
Held January 13th, 2016
WES Media Center**

In Attendance

Kathy Jacobs
Karyn Peluso
Kelly Balchunas
Nancy Pitrone
Saral Patel
Susan Walker
Nicki Mantzouris
Tracy McEvoy
Silvia Rocca
Ellie Paczkowski
Kim Warren
Cris Boarman
Shari Haddaway
Scarlett Goon

Approval of December's Meeting Minutes

President's Report Karyn Peluso

Thank you . . .

- Thank you for attending the Holiday Party/meeting and for the lovely gifts
- Thanks to Kelly for hosting
- Tracy and Saral for continuing to collect Glory Days receipts
- Jamie Harper – already planning for Back to School Kits (kindergarten registration)
- Stacey Seitchik and Jen Donahoe – getting Backpack Buddies up and running (save plastic grocery bags - there's a big bin in the PTA room that can be used to bag the food)
- Hospitality who has started planning for another Conference dinner for the teachers
- Cultural Arts for the Reptile World Assembly and another assembly coming this month – Blue Skies Puppet Theatre (character building assembly)
- Liz Page – make reservations for Club SciKidz
- Scarlett Goon – Box Tops check came in this month for the 1st half of the year

- Family Enrichment – planning the winter dance
- Bernadine Chin – helping me begin Valentines Day Preparations (craft)
- Amy McClenahan – updating the sign
- Christy and Yearbook – for always taking pics
- Robyn for updating the website
- Mickey and Kim – collecting mail
- Cristen and Book Fair – for getting things ready for that huge event
- Dani for answering a million questions!

The Executive Board needs to start pulling together a Nomination Committee. We need 3 at the least and no more than 5 people. Karyn will be soliciting the BOD through the month finding out who wants to stay in their spots, if they want to move, etc... The Nomination Committee for next year will find out who is staying on their committee. If people are not staying then the Nomination Committee will need to recruit.

Later this month – Liz Page, Dani Boarman and Karyn will begin the process of updating the by laws.

Future dates

- 1/22 – Winter Dance
- 1/25 – registration for conferences – session 2 teachers
- 1/27 Blue Sky Puppet Assembly, Kindergarten Backpack Buddies Collection
- 2/4 and 2/5 – Conferences – Hospitality to provide dinner on 2/4
- 2/12 – Valentines Day Parties
- 2/18 Club Pictures
- 2/22-2/26 – BOOK FAIR
- Stem night is March 22nd

Thank you to Nancy Pitrone for stepping in to fill the Vice President position.

Principal's Report

Kathy Jacobs

The sweet treats before the holidays were greatly appreciated.

Very much enjoyed Reptile World, looking forward to Blue Skies - Thanks you to Cultural Arts for taking the lead on the school wide and team assemblies.

MAP is under way. Started Reading this week. Next week we move into Math

Recently enjoyed the Cluster Concerts - included 3 elementary, 2 middle and the high school. All came together and made beautiful music last Friday. Awesome to see former students!

Parent Conferences are on the 4th and 5th of Feb. Synergy registration will be open on the 25th of January. Registration will close on the 1st of February. The conference is for your session 2 teacher. Information will be sent out regarding scheduling.

Looking forward to the PTA organized meal during conferences. Wondering if possible to have dinner ready at 4:45 due to teacher time constraints. Tentative plan for soup and salad sounds great but there are concerns about being able to eat a salad in the minimal time period. Perhaps a small sandwich instead?

Tomorrow night is Parent Informational Night for international families - gives an overview of a typical day at WES. Also a time to answer questions regarding the health room policy. 10-12 families have registered and interpreters are available. This will probably be a yearly event. For PTA budget purposes this could be a budget item of @ \$50 to provide coffee/donuts/something.

Looking forward to Valentine's Day. Each grade has submitted their craft preferences. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade would prefer a box rather than a craft. Kindergarten requested that their craft be given to them at least one day in advance of the Valentines Day celebration.

Please remember that kids are going out for recess and should be dressed appropriately.

Teacher's Report

Shari Haddaway

Kindergarten readiness assessment scores went out Friday, January 8th. Any parent questions can be asked at conferences. Keep in mind the test was from the fall.

Would the PTA be willing to help with the Kindergarten Registration? PTA can not record information but can greet and direct. Feb 29-March 4th is Kindergarten registration.

Kindergarten orientation has \$100 in the budget.

Thank you for all your support

Vice President's Report

Kelly Balchunas

We have potential dates for Screen Free Certificate Ceremony - will have set date the next time we meet.

The Howard County G/T Advisory Council Parent Steering Committee hosts an Educator Recognition Night every year. Nominees are those educators who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the needs of advanced-level learners and whose contributions to the Howard County G/T Education Program are exemplary. This evening is a great way to recognize all the amazing teachers who work with our kids! If you are interested in nominating an educator, please use the following link:
<http://goo.gl/forms/TI7WyyBcVu>

The G/T Educator Recognition Event will be held on April 14th at 7:00pm at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. *** The nomination deadline is Friday, February 26, 2016. ***

In addition to nominations, you may also email positive comments about experiences with the GT program as a whole to gtteachrec@aol.com. All comments will be used in a slide show at the Educator Recognition Event on April 14th.

Treasurer's Report

Saral Patel

- Annual Charitable Organizations Update was filed with MD Secretary of State in the end of December
- Maryland Sales and Used Taxes were filed as 0 dollars in December
- We received a check for \$1254.60 for box tops
- Membership recap- we got another 4 or 5 members to join. Please remember that in order to serve on a committee, you must be an active member of the PTA (dues are \$12).
- Holiday Shoppe was a success, they made more money than the budget predicted.
- IA requests keep rolling in
- Reminder valentines party- budget is \$850
- Budget recap- I need committee chairs to review the disbursement that occurred in the first half of the fiscal year.

Council Delegate's Report

Nicki Montzouris

January PTAHC Meeting

Agenda Item: minutes from December meeting were approved

Agenda Item: Treasurer's report was approved

Agenda Item: Superintendent's Report

John White, HCPSS Director of Communications spoke, notes below

Important Dates:

1/7: Superintendent presents the proposed operational budget to the Board of Education

1/14: Board of Education is scheduled to take action on the proposed school calendars

1/15 12:00 - 1:00, live budget forum, presented over the HCPSS channel streamed live on on the HCPSS website. Viewers are encouraged to submit questions live via Twitter, using #HCPSSInsight, or ahead of time via email to insight@hcpss.org

PARCC Info sessions:

1/5 7:00 - 8:00 Atholton HS

1/6 7:00 - 8:00 Stevens Forest

1/11 7:00 - 8:00 Clarksville MS

1/12 7:00 - 8 :00 Oakland Mills MS

Career Academy session

1/14, Applied Physics Lab

1/8: Deadline to nominate Teacher and/or Principal of the Year:

1/29: Deadline to nominate people/businesses for Friends of Education Awards - forms on the HCPSS website

Agenda Item: HCPSS Strengths Finder session

Led by Scott Ruehl, HCPSS Director of Leadership Development

He provided a few slides and an overview of the Gallup Strengths Exercise now used by HCPSS. The test is 177 questions, users are given 20 seconds to answer each question, will ultimately receive their strengths in order (there are 34 themes identified).

There are 3 phases of strengths development: Name -> Claim -> Aim

We then participated in a short exercise with our table mates: given a scenario, identify what different strengths bring to that scenario (we were provided with the scenario and the descriptions of about 12 different strengths).

The administrative leaders of the different schools have taken the Strengths Exercise, some school staff, and it is still on-going. In addition, students in grades 6-12 have taken (or will take) the Strengths Explorer, which identifies their top 3 strengths

If any PTA would like to have their own presentation, please contact Scott Ruehl (*WES is planning to have a presentation*)

Question: Was parent permission sought before having children take a psychological test? And how is the data used, and who keeps the data?

Answer: Mr. Ruehl did not know how the Strengths Explorer was being implemented, he deals with the adults

Proposal: PTACHC will request how data is being used by HCPSS (e.g. are students being "labeled," are there efforts to "match" students to teachers based on strengths, etc.), and how data is being shared.

Agenda Item: Discussion of topics from December, and New Business

PTACHC wants to know what topics are important to each PTA - delegates should bring back issues to PTACHC

Topics for future meetings:

There are still issues with CANVAS - trouble with notifications, trouble with both parents being able to have access to the system

Navigating the school system when your family enters after kindergarten, or mid-year

Experiences of minority students - is there a disparity in learning?

Issues with after school transportation (e.g. schools cannot offer after-school activities because of a lack of transportation)

Are PTAs unwelcoming to newcomers (PTAs often run by a "clique" that may be unwilling to accept outsiders)

Committee Reports

Backpack Buddies

First group for food collection is Kindergarten - Tuesday, January 26th

Will bins be provided for collection?

Cultural Arts

Ellie has a spreadsheet with assembly presentation info if anyone would like a copy just email her ptellie@aol.com

Looking into having a female juggler for Field Day

Hospitality

Question - How much money does hospitality have to spend? \$2200 for year but only \$640 left for next 6 months

Old Business

Got the OK for the PTA shed -

Scarlett Goon talked to a friend of hers who is doing Waverly construction and they volunteered to build us a new shed!

New Business

Clothing/Textile Drive - need to pick a date for another drive (collected \$304 last year)
The money is to be used for Green School initiatives (idea to possibly use some monies for teacher training/education regarding Green School - which is a requirement to be a Green School)

Last drive coincided with Earth Day - April 22nd. This year Screen Free week ends on April 22nd and Passover is also that weekend. Date TBD.

Cris Boarman - Mrs Brandt has gone out on medical leave. The school usually takes the initiative and the PTA contributes - 50/50. Susan will touch base with Cindy Deckman when she returns to determine the PTA contribution.

Jump Rope for Heart - Can the school be sure that kids who are in before and after care and Parks and Rec at Waverly are dismissed to and returned from Jump Rope for Heart?

Jump Rope for Heart - forms did not all come home at same time for each grade/class. Is there any way to ensure that everything goes home on the same day for all kids? (rather difficult - could have been a sub or other things that can't be controlled for)

Adjourn