**Clarksville Elementary School PTA General Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 7:00 pm in CES Media Center

*Meeting called to order at 7:01pm*

**Attendees:**

**Board Members:**

Carly Aderton (President), Jennifer Sager (1st Vice President), Malini Kishore (Treasurer),

Lauryn Lukin (Secretary)

 **CES Administration and Staff:**

Robin Malcotti (Principal), Lauren Slattery (Vice Principal)

**Members:** Hadi Kharrazi, Carmen Cheng, Leigh Hart, Kelly Cao, Wei Dai, Nancy Xu, Chao Wu, Stephanie Youngworth, Annika Lukin, Catherine Gandel, Kevin Gandel, Katherine Scherck, Lilia Kaplan-Robbins, Susan Artz, Hyon Kwon, Jennifer Van Kirk, Micaela Crooks

**Non-Members:** Neil Aggarwal

* 7:00 pm
	+ Welcome/Around the Room
* 7:05 pm
	+ Principal/Assistant Principal Report – Robin Malcotti/Lauren Slattery
		- Discussion on testing – MAP, PARCC, COGAT, etc. – Lauren Slattery
			* + Action: Ms. Slattery will post the chart of MAP versions on the school website and will also look for sample questions for parents to see
		- Elevated lead found in one faucet at CES.
			* The single faucet that was identified is a sink located on the back side of the media center which the school uses as a closet. The students do not utilize this area. As soon as the faucet was identified it was completely disabled.
		- Submitted topics:
			* Student incident handling process
				+ Action: Any bus incidents should be brought to Ms. Slattery’s attention
				+ Action: Parents of bus 664 should notify Ms. Slattery anytime the bus is late
			* HCPSS long-term leave policy (e.g. 1st grade)
				+ Action: CES is hoping to hire the new 1st grade teacher before winter break so there can be some crossover time
				+ Action: It was suggested by some parents that there be some observation of the current math classes to confirm consistency
			* Teacher award opportunities and nominating process
				+ Action: Information about the awards and the nomination process can be found at https://www.hcpss.org
		- Audience questions
* 7:30 pm
	+ Report from County PTA meeting with HCPSS Board of Education and PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) General meeting –Paul Scott
		- * + Action: Paul to give his report at the next meeting
		- Summary from BOE meeting below. Email will follow will charts from PTACHC General meeting.
		- Notes from meeting of PTA Presidents/PTACHC reps with Howard County Board of Education
		- Oct. 9, 2018

Meeting with attended to by all members of BOE except one. School Superintendent Martirano along with a number of his staff also attended. BOE member and Dr. Martirano equally answered questions.

Major topics

Transportation issues – HCPSS contracts for about 460 buses, serving about 40,000 student a day. Their big challenge right now is hiring enough bus drivers – with economy doing well, it is hard to hire. All drivers must be licensed, clean driving record, full background check, drug/alcohol screening. If when they are off-duty they have driving infraction HCPSS knows immediately

All current buses have at least 4 cameras on board; some of the newer buses have 5. Much of the conversation was then on the issue of external bus cameras, and the county wide problem of drivers not stopping for buses when they are loading and unloading students with bus lights on. Periodic surveys of bus drivers indicate that this happens close to 300 times each day in the county. It is a huge problem both in county, in state, and nationwide. The day of meeting there was news that a child in Harford County was killed by driver crossing to get on school bus. Current penalty is something like $500 fine and 3 points on your license. HCPSS working in partnership with HC Police to step up enforcement. HCPSS is working with County Council to get funds to equip all buses with external cameras – right now only certain ones have them

Changing School Start times/lengthening school year

Question asked about whether changing school start times would be easier if the school year was lengthened. Dr. Martirano answered that the big obstacle to that idea is that the start and end of each school year is mandated by the state of MD (Gov. Hogan announcement last year about this). So local counties have very little flexibility in terms of length of school year. This also adds stress to the issue of snow days since there is less flexibility at end of year to deal with make-up days if needed. Dr. Martirano did state at one point that he understand that spring break was important to the community and would not be suggesting making up snow days by decreasing spring break as has been done in other counties. There was really no further discussion of changing the school start time – the previous BOE had tabled the idea and given that 4 of the 7 BOE members at the meeting were not continuing after election day, it was suggested that the idea be brought back to the new BOE.

School Overcrowding/Redistricting

The BOE was meeting a few days after this meeting to consider the various ideas for addressing this issue, with a final decision in November. The several different options on the table were discussed, with a main focus on the idea of open enrollment – allowing students at overcrowded schools to enroll at those with space. The BOE felt that the issue of transportation would have to be addressed, and that it would not be equitable to make parents provide all the transportation – it might be that there would be regional bus stops that would pick up students and transport them to the schools. Dr. Martirano asked if there was a desire in the community for this option, as he had not received any (or minimal) inquiries from parents about this. In contrast, he had heard from parents who felt that it was better for their children to remain at their current overcrowded school rather than attend a less crowded one elsewhere in the county. He was assured by several individuals in attendance that there was interest.

* + - Support for children with dyslexia
		- There was brief discussion of this – a parent described the difficulties that they had encountered getting their child support for his dyslexia from the HCPSS. It sounded to me like HCPSS recognized that this was area that they were lacking in and committed to addressing it.
* 7:35 pm – Treasurer Report – Malini Kishore
	+ Account balance at end of October: $36,711.89
* 7:40 pm – Membership Report – Annika Luke
	+ - * + Action: Need to look in to selling ads in the directory next year
				+ Action: PTA will cover the cost for CES teachers to join the PTA?
				+ Action: Carly to look in to cost cutting options for the directory



* 7:45 pm - Old Business
	+ Ways PTA can support school via surplus spending: Ms. Slattery and Mr. Decker will put a wish list together
	+ Ms Malcotti will ask team leaders the best way to communicate curriculum information cohesively across all grades (ex. Some do newsletters, daily 5, host session for parents) and try to set up teachers to give information at future PTA meetings
	+ Jennifer will include Information about the Brain Pop program and how to use at home will be in the newsletter
		- * + Action: Need Ms. Volker to send information to Jen Sager to send out through the newsletter
	+ ASPs
		- Carly will put together a survey for parents to weigh in on what offerings they would like to see
			* Deferred
	+ Carly to update meeting dates after reviewing middle and high school pta schedules
		- Complete
	+ The Amazon Smile and Giant sign-ups are having some issues. Email Mrs Blalock about Giant. Carly to look in to Smile. Still need fundraising committee chair to help with these issues.
		- Still open.
	+ Committee Chairs will write a short summary of the different events and their volunteer needs for the year
		- See next agenda item.
* 7:50 pm – Committee Reports and help needed – see below for Holiday Shop/Hot Cocoa Social, SLT Gift Drive, Spring Fling, Reflections, International Night, Box Tops, Yearbook, Fifth Grade

**Holiday Shop and Hot Cocoa Social** – Committee Chair: Stephanie Youngworth

Holiday Shop is November 29 and 30. Volunteers are needed to help. The hot cocoa social, evening of November 30, will conclude the holiday shop. Information will be going home with students the week after Thanksgiving.

* Action: Stephanie will send out the volunteer sign up soon

**Student Leadership Team (SLT) Holiday Gift Drive** – Stephanie Youngworth

We will be having a gift tree with items families at CES can buy for children.  The gifts will be donated to the Salvation Army this year.  More information will be coming.

**Spring Fling** – committee chair: Malini Kishore

Please find a list of  the various Sub Committee Chair Volunteers needed to help with Spring Fling 2019 --

* **Volunteer Coordinator** - responsible for coordinating with volunteers (high school kids, parents etc.) before the event and assigning them to various time slots for the various games, stalls, and activities on the day of spring fling.
* **Rides and games** - coordinating the booking of games, rides, bounce houses etc. before SF and in charge of set up and visit the various games etc. and report back any anomalies toe the SF Chair co on the day of the event
* **Sponsorship** - arranging sponsorship from companies and individuals in the Clarksville community that would cover the various expenses of spring fling.
* **Advertising** - coordinating the making and installing of signs (some existing templates) for SF and spreading the word around the Clarksville community and neighboring schools to increase participation for the event. Supervise the positioning of the signs for the rides and attractions on the day of the event.
* **Food** - coordinating with food vendors (pizza, ice cream, food trucks) to have stalls for SF and guide the vendors on the day of the event.
* **Advanced Ticket Sales** - coordinating the distribution of tickets and bracelets to families based on presale lists provided to you.
* **Entertainment** - inviting local martial art groups, dance schools, etc. to perform at Spring Fling. Coordinating and booking a DJ for the event.
* **Cake Walk –** coordinating the cake walk event
* Action: Malini needs parents to volunteer for these subcommittees so they can start planning details of the April 6th event.
* Action: Ms. Blalock will send out information to the school

**Reflections Program**: Committee Chairs: Meng Zhu and Jodie Wang

Descriptions: We help host PTA Reflection at CES. National PTA's reflection program is a national competition that encourages students in Pre-K though Grade 12 to create and submit original works of art in the following arts categories: Film, Literature, Music, Photography, and Visual Arts. More specifically, we help (1) register our school, (2) promote the program, (3) coordinate the review of students submissions, (4) celebrate our student participants, and (5) wrap up and report program success.

Help needed from PTA:

1. ​Funding for promotion materials, gifts for judges, and certificates/awards students participants ($200)
2. Platforms (e.g., morning announcements) for promoting the program as well as for celebrating the student participants/winners at the end of school year.
* Action: Since due date for submissions is Nov 26th, is it too late to help?

**International Night:** Committee Chair Daisy Liu

Celebrating Diversity at International Night!

International Night is a celebration of CES's cultural diversity! This cultural extravaganza will take place on **March 15th at 6:30** at RHHS (snow date: March 22nd at TBD). It is an excellent way for our children to learn about other countries.

* From 6:30-7:30 families may visit each country to get a sampling of each country's culture.
* From 7:30-8:30 families will enjoy performances originating from the various countries on display.
* If you know of middle or high school students who need service hours, please let Daisy know.  We are in need of assistance.

Volunteers are needed to represent various countries. Please, team with your family and friends, bring the cultures you celebrate to CES. We will celebrate them together!

Your goal, if you are hosting a country, is to create a presentation that reflects the country's culture by sharing things like the following:

* A food item (with the ingredients written)
* Poster boards with facts such as population, tourist attractions, maps, and fun facts
* Pictures of the landscape
* Wear a traditional costume. There will be a cultural fashion show available to everyone who is dressed in traditional clothing.
* Prepare a dance or performance pertaining to your country.
* There will be a show onstage.
* Pottery and/or art

Other highlights of the night will include kids’ activities, flag parade, passport explorer and prize!
If you have any questions please contact Daisy Liu at daisyliu@gmail.com, International Night Committee Chair

* Action: The planning committee is looking for more performers
* Action: Need to decide if there will be a donation or charge associated with the event? It was also suggested that there be a way to donate ahead of time through the website

**Box Tops** – Amy Recks

Next collection: end of December.



**Yearbook** – Xia Chen

Contract signed with Classic Photography in October. We have collected pictures from open house, first day of school, walk to school day, pumpkin contest and Halloween parade.

Coming events in November and December are Turkey Trot, Hot Cocoa social, and STEM night.

**Fifth Grade**

Next 5th grade event is a walkthrough of the Symphony of Lights.

**Spirit wear**

* Action: They need volunteers to help sell at the Hot Cocoa Social and other events

***Adjournment***  *Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm*