

Clarksville Elementary School PTA General Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, December 11, 2018, 6:30 pm in CES Media Center

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

Attendees:

Board Members:

Carly Aderton (President), Jennifer Sager (1st Vice President), Meredith Sterrett (2nd Vice President), Malini Kishore (Treasurer), Lauryn Lukin (Secretary), Paul Scott (PTACHC Delegate)

CES Administration and Staff:

Robin Malcotti (Principal), Lauren Slattery (Vice Principal), Molly Miller, Susan Cihak, Samantha Baker, Eileen Volker, Hilary Becker, Lisa Johnson

Members: Kerri Finkelston, Stephanie Youngworth

Non-Members: Nicole Geiger, Debbie Engle

- 6:30 pm - Welcome/Around the Room
- 6:35 pm - Academic Life Skills (ALS) program discussion – Nicole Geiger, Instructional Facilitator Elementary Schools
- 6:55 pm - Principal/Assistant Principal Report – Robin Malcotti/Lauren Slattery
 - Audience questions
- 7:05 pm - November Summary – Carly Aderton
 - Board approved all school requested items as part of class enrichment budget
 - Mini Budget Ball Pit – Special Education - \$700
 - East Clean Room Dividers – ALS - \$129
 - Weed Edger/Trimmer – Custodial - \$250
 - Visiting Author – Media - \$2000
 - Family Fit Night – PE - \$850
 - Cubby Cabinet – Kindergarten - \$310
 - Classroom Supplies – 1st Grade - \$400
 - Rug – Art - \$353
 - Door Blinds – Health and School Counselor - \$60
 - Board voted to neither charge nor request donations for international night this year since we have a surplus. Will reevaluate in the future.
 - Purchased books for young authors
 - Purchased coats for children and parents in need at HCPSS schools.
 - Running winter coat/hat/gloves/scarf drive through December 10 to donate to Grace's Closet.
 - Distributed school directories. This information is directly from what parents filled out on HCPSS Connect Family File that they wanted included in the PTA directory.
 - PTA Meeting Minutes
 - Carly asked for a motion to approve September-November PTA Meeting Minutes. A motion to approve was voiced and seconded. A voice vote was called; with no opposition, the motion carried.
 - Vote for next year's directory format
 - Keep it the same – vendor prints directory (\$1163 cost this year)
 - Print on regular paper (likely cheaper)
 - Email soft copy – free and could email right when school starts and after all families have updated their family file. This is provided the directory NDA provisions allow this.

- Carly asked for a motion to change the directory process and look for a more cost efficient, faster turnaround. A motion to approve was voiced and seconded. A voice vote was called; with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Action: Carly to look into whether the directory can be emailed out?
- Action: Ms. Johnson to connect CES PTA with Lime Kiln PTA and share contact that prints directory for free in return for advertising.
- Board voted for PTA to be an interested part in rezoning (retirement community and Freestate renovation), meaning we will receive information on it.
- 7:15 pm - Report from County PTA meeting with HCPSS Board of Education and PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) General meetings –Paul Scott

Summary from meeting of PTA Presidents/PTACHC reps with Howard County Board of Education below:

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.

- Paul asked for a motion for the PTA to support a bill raising developer impact fees to market rate. A motion to approve was voiced and seconded. A voice vote was called; with no opposition, the motion carried.
- 7:25 pm – Treasurer Report – Malini Kishore - Account balance at end of October: \$33,385.95
- 7:30 pm - Old Business
 - 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, texts, Dojo app) and try to set up teachers to give information at future PTA meetings
 - Action: Ms. Malcotti will ask the teachers leadership team for suggestions
 - Action: Looking to do an evening for parents, Jan 31st possible date, details to come
 - ASPs - Carly will put together a survey for parents to weigh in on what offerings they would like to see – Coming!
 - 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.
 - Action: Carly to email updated link
- 7:35 pm – Committee Reports

Holiday Shop– Committee Chairs: Stephanie Youngworth and Leigh Hart

The holiday shop made \$1200 again this year; very similar numbers each day of the sale to last year. Leigh Hart will be taking over next year. Thank you to all the volunteers! We were happy to see so many new faces this year and hope you will considering coming back next year!

Box Tops – Amy Recks - Next collection: December 21.

Reflections – Meng Zhu and Jodie Wang

Program is going well. We are waiting for the judges to pick the top three entries for each category (they are expected to return the judged work as well as the outcomes to us by Dec 12th) and will then announce the top three school-level winners (which will also be submitted to county level by Dec 14th) through both PTA news and school broadcasting.

Spirit wear – Jennifer Van Kirk - Working on spirit wear for this year. Transitioning vendors. Trying to have current inventory will be for sale in the next few weeks.

Spring Fling– committee chair: Malini Kishore

April 6, 2019, 3-7pm

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 to 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: Need volunteers for these sub committees**
 - **Action: Need to reach out to Centennial Lane to learn more about their spring fling offerings and silent auction.**

International Night: Committee Chair Daisy Liu – planning committee is looking for more performers.

March 15, 2019, 6:30 pm

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 22**). 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

Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm