

CES PTA Meeting Agenda January 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm Media Center

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Attendees:

Board Members:

Eileen Brewer (President), Julie Kim (1st Vice President), Mikkola Gomes (2nd Vice President), Carmen Cheng (Secretary), Meghan Nickerson (Treasurer), Evelyn Sommers (PTACHC Delegate)

Members:

Becca Gorsuch, Valerie Owen, Gosia Margaret Curtin, Emily Kroiss, Karishma Chengappa, Eileen Buckle, Kumaravel Jagasivamani, Micaela Crooks

Staff:

Dina Brewer (Principal), Tina Lewis (Assistant principal)

1. Principal / Assistant Principal's Items

- Welcome and introduction
- Question about SchoolStore fundraiser; money raised from fundraiser benefited indoor classroom equipment

2. President / Vice President Items

- Policies for Meetings
- Approval of Minutes - November
 - Meghan Nickerson asked for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Becca Gorsuch seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- 501c3 Status Reinstated thanks to the efforts of our VP Julie and our Treasurer Meghan, along with the help of pro bono consulting from KPMG and FreeState PTA bookkeeper. THANK YOU!!!!
- Bylaws Committee - need to revise every 3 years per bylaws
 - Emily and Eileen volunteered; will present and vote at next meeting needs to be finalized March/April)
- Nomination Committee - needs to be formed by February (Eileen and Evelyn volunteered); if any additional volunteers, let board know
- Need to get email to teachers about reimbursements/membership - Grant program
 - Eileen has contacted front office staff and there are questions
 - Grants \$250 for 10 groups (2 grants per year) - 1 per grade, related arts, front office, building services/cafeteria, academic specialists (reading specialists, GT)
 - Remove building services/cafeteria
 - Add: ALS or special ed teams
 - Need to define academic specialists
 - Money should go to school (not teachers)
 - Suggestion: school grant
 - Principal suggested that table this and she will gather more info
 - Every grant will need to be <\$500
 - \$6000 is total budgeted amount

- Micaela Crooks asked for a motion to provide a \$6000 grant with allocation as per CES admin recommendations. Meghan Nickerson seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Need to f/u with cultural arts program \$2000
- Black History Month Upcoming
 - Ideas: MLK Jr. Birthday - service activity
 - Ms. Hoover helped with activity last year
 - CES admin will f/u and build on previous activities
- Penny Wars
 - Students bring change (penny = 1 points, dollar = 100 points; nickels, dimes)
 - Potential beneficiary - California fire victims or hurricane victims in NC, TN, FL
 - Requires daily volunteers and prizes
 - Discussion: alternative service activities (previous success w/ food drive, winter drive w/ 5th grade in December); combine food drive for Columbia Community Cares with Book Fair Bingo (book fair: Feb 3-Feb 6)

3. Membership Update

- Total members YTD: 135 (Total PTA members last year)
- Total membership payments YTD: \$1795
- Total Cougar Patron donations YTD: \$3700 [\$500 specifically stated for classroom enrichment]

4. Treasurer Report

- 2024 taxes submitted
- Need to submit charity info to state of Maryland
- PTA dues for teachers
 - CES admin advocated that all staff should pay membership fee.
 - Micaela Crooks asked for a motion to charge \$5 dues for teachers. Carmen Cheng seconded. A voice vote was called with no opposition, the motion carried.
- Family Fit Night (pending confirmation)
- Eileen will send copy of schedule of upcoming meetings and activities to CES admin
- Tax exemption for fundraising is on tax letter
 - Note that Giant provides \$25 gift card monthly

5. PTACHC Report

- a. See end of minutes for report

6. Committee Reports

- 5th Grade Committee
 - December - Grassroots event occurred; winter drive
- Class Representatives - Karishma Chengappa
- SECAC - no report
- BINGO - with book fair; continue with pizza; add food drive; Feb 4: 6:30 pm
 - Need laptop (use school's projector)
 - Cafeteria has sound system
 - Micaela will help photocopy flier
 - Eileen will share website for BINGO
- Yearbook - [Link to Upload Pictures](#)
- Hospitality/Staff Appreciation - Thank you for November and December activities
 - January: Lunar New Year staff appreciation lunch
 - Holiday gift card drive: received \$2885, including \$250 for 2 families at RHHS (need alternative methods next year; most donations came after personal venmo)

info)

- Cultural Night: Friday, 5/23 at RHHS
- Kindergarten Connection - Kindergarten preview night on March 3 (6:30-7:30 pm)
 - Need flyer from school and Emily will share it
 - If families join earlier (before July 1) - discuss at next meeting how to handle
- Reflections - winners selected to move to Howard County
- Summer Bridge
- After-School Programs - No chair
- Events - No chair
- Fundraising - No chair
 - Restaurant Night - Becca will help organize
- Spirit Wear - No chair
- Spring Fling - Sunday, 4/27 (3-7 pm); Need Committee Members
- Other (Website, Front Sign, Fall School Supplies, Communications)

7. Q & A

8. Adjournment

Upcoming Dates:

Feb PTA Meeting - February 18, 2025, 7:00 pm

PTACHC Delegate Report Form

Date of Meeting: _____

Refer to agenda for notes on main points/issues of meeting:

List issues voted on, what they were and what was the result of the vote on each issue:

List any matters referred to local units:

List future meetings:

Delegate's Signature: _____

PTACHC Delegate Report Form

Date of Meeting: January 13, 2025

Refer to agenda for notes on main points/issues of meeting: ___ Policy on Cell Phones expected to be reviewed and approved by Board of Education January 30th. Operating Budget Review Committee is meeting. Four focus areas of the budget: 1) Staff Retention; 2) Staff compensation (rises 4%); 3) Special Education (adds 35 FTE and is working to fill vacancies; 4) Safety and Security adds 33 HCPSS security assistant personnel (1 per MS and 1 per HS to the separate School Resource Officers provided by Howard County Police) Unfunded Priorities: Athletic Trainers, Central office (lowest in Maryland), School admin (HR, Secretarial, compliance, etc.), Staff compensation, Operations / Facilities; Specialist Coaches, Passages Program; Dual Enrollment; and Deferred Maintenance. Message to PTAs: Email or testify at the Board of Education Public Hearing. Identify in your PTA what an area of the budget is that is a priority to your unit; Advocate for what's good in the budget and tell how your school and students will benefit; Raise up what might be missing in the focus areas and unfunded priorities, dig into the details - there may be better ways of achieving the same goals. Anecdotes are helpful. Total budget \$1.219B. Testimony opens up 1-2 weeks before hearing. Please note the first step is the Board of Education. Any budget that is approved cannot be more than what the Board of Education approves. Send any issues for the operating budget / feedback to VPissues@ptachc.org.

List issues voted on, what they were and what was the result of the vote on each issue: Bills from Howard County Delegation: 2-25 PTACHC opposes changes to the current election cycle.. PTACHC supports compensation commission as laid out but is concerned about cost. 3-25: PTACHC supports public campaign finance (general support). 11-25: PTACHC supports legislative requirement of 4 weeks severance per year served in contract (4 year terms) and 1 year of healthcare. 15-25: Study on deadly weapon use in middle and high schools - PTACHC did not have consensus and did not vote. 10-25: PTACHC opposed the bill due to the level of control over the calendar it could remove from the county.

For Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO): PTACHC House Bill 38 establishing maximum cap wait times for building in overcrowded school districts. We need to advocate for the APFO. Hundreds of millions of dollars for the school system are at stake. We don't want overcrowded and underfunded schools.

List any matters referred to local units:

To be in good standing with Free State PTA, your local PTA needs four things: 1) Submit list of officers to Free State; 2) Submit a copy of your insurance to Free State (should have been paid May / June before this fiscal year; 3) Send dues to Free State PTA; 4) Update bylaws this fiscal year (Free State needs to see updated bylaws).

Identify issues of importance to Clarksville ES PTA in the Operating Budget Proposal and email them to VPissues@ptachc.org

Advocate for schools in APFO meetings. If PTAs are interested in learning more, Legislative Chair can come speak to local PTAs.

List future meetings: February - review of Capital and Operating Budget with Dan Lubeley & Darin