

PTA Meeting Minutes

Patapsco Middle School PTA Meeting November 15, 2011

Attendance: Cindy Dillon – principal, Kim Hopkins – teacher representative; PTA Board members Allison Anderson – president, Emily Rice – first vice-president, Caroline Bodziak – second vice president, Kari Schumm – treasurer, Patti Lizzo – corresponding secretary, Tina Siedlecki – recording secretary, invited guest Brian Meshkin, Howard County Board of Education member.

The meeting was called to order by president Allison Anderson at 6:35 pm in the library of Patapsco Middle School. Twenty-one members were in attendance. A quorum was present.

Meeting minutes from October 18, 2011 were presented for review, and approved as written.

Cluster Representative/Board of Education: Brian Meshkin is our cluster representative (for St. John’s Lane, Hollifield, Patapsco Middle and Mt. Hebron) on the board of education; representatives rotate annually. He introduced himself, discussed board priorities (redistricting, budget, introduction of “common core”) and addressed parent questions, particularly about redistricting.

He encouraged parents to contact him: brian_meshkin@hcpss.org (Board of Education of Howard County, 20910 Route 108, Ellicott City 21042, phone 410-313-7194).

Principal’s Report: Cindy Dillon reported that she and Ms. Ketterman have been speaking with students in each grade on college readiness; seventh grade discussion postponed until after Thanksgiving. She presented overview of proposals to meet Race to the Top program and Common Core State Standards for English and Math, their possible impact on programs and planned timeline.

Staff Report: Kim Hopkins reported on first meeting of the Conversation Club, where foreign-speaking parents talk with English-fluent parents in an informal setting to practice language skills. Upcoming club meetings are on November 28, December 12 and December 19 from 7 to 8 pm. Parents interested in volunteering should contact Kelli Nitsch (kelli_nitsch@hcpss.org).

Turkey Trot is this Thursday, November 17 for eighth graders. Collecting canned goods from all students; donations will be part of baskets given to families (Patapsco) for Thanksgiving. Ms. Dillon reported that this year Patapsco has experienced a four percent increase in free/reduced price meals.

Patapsco Faire Activity Day is November 22. Need parent volunteers from 8:00 – 11:15. Email Kim Hopkins (kim_hopkins@hcpss.org).

Financials: Kari Schumm presented report of expenditures to date vs. approved budget. Copy attached to minutes. Largest recent expense was for spirit wear order. Audit report has been completed and sent to MD PTA.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Dana Hemelt reported that we have 389 members to date with some registration still coming in (211 families, 20 staff). Have received \$2611 in membership and \$4715 in donations, an increase of \$700 from last year. We increased members by at least 10, so received award from Maryland PTA. Still hoping to increase staff membership.

School Spirit: Hospitality Committee will send email requesting help with staff lunch on November 22. Contact Kim Miller (kimfmiller@verizon.net) or email PTA.

PTA Reflections: Deadline for entries for art, writing, music and dance is November 18. Volunteer chair is Nhung Tu.

Vice Presidents Report: School Play. Play production this year will be Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Emily Rice will be sending flyer out soon. Production coordinated by Drama Learning Center with shows on April 27 and 28. Fees are \$225 per student, or \$80 per student for tech class, plus \$7 facility fee. Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays. Contact Emily Rice (therices5@verizon.net). Safe to School. Emily also reported that we need volunteer callers for Safe to School Program. Parents needed who can volunteer any days after 9:30 am for about 45 minutes.

President's Report: Allison Anderson reported that Patapsco PTA will again this year receive donations from Harbin Farms on purchases of holiday greens. Recommendation made to explore and address for next year how to handle, as Mt. Hebron Vikings also have holiday greens sales to support the school.

Redistricting: Krista Suri, PTA president at St. John's Lane, attended to report on their efforts to address proposed redistricting. SJLES PTA has met to discuss elementary school proposals and sent email to create community awareness, indicating support for community schools with 100% "feeds" such as our cluster (SJLES, Hollifield, Patapsco, Mt. Hebron). They are circulating petition for signatures. Next meeting to discuss middle school alternative approaches is November 28. If interested, contact Krista Suri (silesptapresident@gmail.com).

Door Prize: Door prize for attendees donated by Peer to Peer Tutors. Caroline Bodziak won a free tutoring session.

New Business:

No new business presented.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Tina Siedlecki