



Patuxent Valley Middle School Parent Teacher Association, Inc.

General Membership Meeting

January 11, 2024

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT (UNTIL APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

❖ **Introductions/Welcome**

- Approximately 17 parents/guardians were in attendance + parents on Zoom

❖ **Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve the November 2023 Meeting Minutes accepted and seconded. Meeting Minutes approved. (Note: No December meeting = no minutes.)

❖ **PTA President's Report** – Hala discussed the idea of our PTA changing to be a PTSA (Parent Teacher *Student* Association). Hala has been doing research on this topic. The Student Council is interested in participating and leading with us. She is confident that our kids have the skills to be able to do that. A change to PTSA can be done by modifying the by-laws. Hala would like to try to implement for the next school year. Only 5 middle schools in Howard County are PTSAs; the rest are PTAs.

❖ **Treasurer's Report** – Holly

- Slow/quiet end of November through December.
- Earned \$439 from 2nd Avenue Thrift Store.
- Box Tops – earned \$184 from last year. Thank you to all who scan your receipts!

❖ **PTACHC - PTA Council of Howard County Report** – Tammy

- Be prepared for class sizes to be increased due to lack of funding in the county.
- The Board of Education will review Policy 5200 (Transportation) on February 8.

❖ **Principal's Report** – Mr. Richard Smart

- Please let Mr. Smart know if we'd like to hear about specific topics.
- Recently looked at a "state of the school" for the staff as we approach the middle of the school year. More interventions than in previous years at this time, but those are alternatives to suspensions. He had to send out an email about social

media last week. Change of leadership in the school system. Dr. Martirano retired; Mr. William Barnes began his service as Acting Superintendent on January 10. Mr. Smart knows of Mr. Barnes from other roles in the county. Budget will be a topic.

- Celebrations for honor roll – families invited. Families will be invited again next quarter. “Honor Roll” and “On a Roll.”
- Q: Times for the concerts – can they be included in the principal’s report? A: Yes!

❖ **Guest Speakers** - Presentation from 6th Grade School Counselor, Ms. Jamie Kim

- Since 2018, there has been a 400% increase in vaping. Companies are targeting middle school and high school students to get their money. While they are underage and can’t purchase, they find ways. Very accessible. Vaping: more prevalent especially in high schools. Not as prevalent in middle school. But have seen devices at PVMS. Handouts with photos of sample devices were circulated.

❖ **Guest Speakers** - Presentation from PVMS Students Lois and Nyla

- Students would like to have a say in events and fundraising activities.
- Student Council Bulldog pride, Students speak, and fundraising committee.
- Student Council planning: Culture Day, Candy Grams, Spirit Week, Student representation in staff meetings

❖ **Committee Reports**

Membership

- Currently 109 active members

Fundraising

- Earned \$439.35 from 2nd Avenue Thrift Store fundraiser. We successfully donated 1,718 lbs. of clothing, 632 lbs. of misc. items, and 651 lbs. of books. Thanks to all of the families who donated!
- Spring flowers fundraiser – proven difficult at other schools; will not pursue.
- Ideas for other fundraisers: maybe one should be dedicated to 8th grade? Taharka Brothers or a silent auction (would need to start collection donations)

8th Grade Committee – We do need to set up a fundraiser. Perhaps a restaurant night and other fundraiser (see above). The 8th Grade Committee (Lauren, Jen, Toya) will schedule a meeting with Ms. A-C and the 8th grade team. Thank you to the students who presented this evening. We had been thinking of a candygram fundraiser; we will not!

Spirit Wear – Ms. Seipel has agreed to send out a survey to students for their opinions on what they would like to see for spring spirit wear. Jen G. asked whether we could possibly benefit from a synergy of ordering 8th grade t-shirts with spirit wear? Kendra and Jen G. will talk offline to see if this could be possible. Could we coordinate an order for students at the elementary schools for spring spiritwear? Kendra will look into.

Staff Appreciation – Sunshine Family will run again in February. In January, we'll run a drive for teacher items: tissues, disinfecting wipes, dry erase (expo) markers, glue sticks, highlighters. Signup genius to go out.

Spirit Nights & Upcoming PTA Events

- Dive Bar and Grill for Fine Arts Department in December.
- Trip to King's Dominion for music dept. in the spring – need fundraisers!
- Panera Bread fundraiser coming up January 15.
- Suggestions for future events – discussion:
 - An event for early February?
 - Skate Night - a parent mentioned
 - Cinemark movies? New on Snowden
 - Bowling alley?
 - For a larger event, discussed choosing one of these options:
 - Large game night, virtual game, physical games in the gym
 - Spring carnival (block party) - petting zoo, dunk tank, purchase tape to tape Mr. Smart to a wall, snow cone machines (Ft. Meade)
 - Spoke about the school dance. The kids still want to explore it.
 - As long as PTA books the space.
 - Sell tickets to the dance.
 - Get a DJ/ipod for music.
 - Volunteers needed!
 - Trained crowd control representative. Monthly trainings.

Social Media/Communications - No updates

6th grade Committee – Nothing to report yet

7th grade Committee – Looking at field trip

8th grade Committee – See above

New Business

A parent asked for ideas on where kids may volunteer since National Junior Honor Society students need 10 hours for the school year.

Ideas:

- Look at hocovolunteer.org (check for age limits)
- Glen Mar Church Ellicott City, MLK holiday: sew pillow cases, meal prep – website
- Columbia Community Care – signup genius open for year-round volunteers
- Patapsco Heritage - cleanups

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn; motion seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 8th, 7 p.m.