



Patuxent Valley Middle School Parent Teacher Association, Inc.

General Membership Meeting

March 14, 2024

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT (UNTIL APPROVED AT THE APRIL MEETING)

Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m.

- ❖ **Introductions/Welcome** – Approx. 12 were in attendance + parents/guardians on Zoom
- ❖ **Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve Feb. 2024 Meeting Minutes approved, seconded.
- ❖ **PTA President's Report** – Hala does not have anything specific; her reports are within the Committee reports.
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report** – Overall doing very well; look at monthly budget: our fundraising isn't quite where we had budgeted but we've spent less. We are \$6,500 to the positive at this point.
 - Handout 1: Updated budget due to the 8th grade Shakespeare experience coming up in May; the update is that it was the PTA that was applying for the grant – not the school. For the Shakespeare experience, we have an extra \$3,200 not planned, plus \$4,000 budgeted. But the cost went up to \$4,500. So, we are still \$1,800 to the good. Needed to amend the budget to pay out the additional \$500. PTA is now going to give the school the grant, after we vote on the amended budget.
 - Handout 2: copies of the by-laws if we want to move from a PTA to PTSA. Tracked changes version (in-line) on the tables for us to look at. There are additional changes noted beyond PTA to PTSA – some of it is clarifying language regarding the Maryland PTA/Free State. For those of you who are online, a copy of the revised by-laws will be posted online tomorrow. Tonight, the officers will vote and then it will go to the general membership to vote next meeting. Q: Does the governance change when moving to a PTSA? A: No. The students are not on the board/not voting members.
- ❖ **Vote on Amended Budget as circulated:** All the amended portions are on the far right-hand side. Will vote at the end of the meeting.

- ❖ **8th grade dance:** Still \$2,000 for the dance. The general membership votes for the overall category. Carryover we had budgeted \$4,000 but we only spent \$800 in the end. So, there's \$3,235 net for 8th grade. 8th grade t-shirts.

Move to approve the amended budget; seconded. Unanimous approval!

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

- The last meeting was this past Monday, March 11.
- The PTACHC Candidate Forum will be held this Saturday, March 16, at Howard High School from noon to 3 p.m. – all community members are invited and encouraged to attend.
- Much of the discussion at this March PTACHC meeting was the operating budget. The County Executive has to officially present the budget before any changes can be made.
- PTACHC would like to encourage more diversity across the county in PTAs and is planning to form a council on how to bring additional diversity to PTAs.

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

- Black History show held on March 7th – it was the first of its kind (in recent history) at PVMS. Great energy and looking forward to making it an annual event.
- PVMS Play – High School Musical this weekend – March 15 and March 16 at 7 p.m. and March 17 at 3 p.m.
- Dance concert – Thursday, March 21st 6 p.m. at PVMS
- Social studies – visiting Ms. Seipel and Ms. Black – yesterday they had visitors observing their classes. Earlier this year, all content areas had walk-throughs from Central Office. Then they decided to have other teachers visit us (Mr. Smart will put in his newsletter tomorrow.)
- The Gen Cybercamp last summer was a \$133k grant – one of the largest grants in the county. Getting ready to hold a STEM night in April as the grant winds down. Will be great opportunities for students to be involved in some things.
- Hala and Mr. Smart went to a learning session last week about restorative justice and the community. Mr. Smart and Hala have ideas about different activities related to this.
- Band trip is May 17 to King's Dominion – Music in the Parks - cost is \$110/student. [Note: For 7th and 8th graders only.] Just approved today. Coach buses (not school buses to go out of state). Student scholarships could be available if students need them – there will be guidance going out when officially announcing the trip.
- Horse Farm trip last year for 6th graders (Ms. Dill) –

- A parent noted that student learning requirements showing as zero for the end of the 2022-23 school year.
 - Mr. Smart is looking into it because most 7th graders and often 8th graders are not showing the 25 credits. If you have the same question, then the parents can email Mr. Smart and he will forward the requests.
 - Question from a parent whose student was previously at Thomas Viaduct may have same issue. May want to reach out again to Admin or Secretary (those who document student services)
 - Yes, all students working on their hours this year (6th, 7th, and 8th) – working on a variety.
- Question: Any concern about instructional programs with the upcoming budget cuts? Answer: 838 to 862 students now enrolled (this increase just since the start of the year) so we are likely to see few staffing cuts since we've already.

❖ **Committee Reports:**

Membership – 111 active members

Spring Dance – Amy Hamilton – Leading effort for a PVMS Spring Social, 4/27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – this timing will allow the kids to see their parents for pickup, or also otherwise get home before it is dark. Parents helping and Ms. Seipel who runs the student council has put together a student council committee checking in w/ their opinions. The dance will be free due to the wonderful funding from the PTA. Will charge \$1/item for concessions – want to follow the correct protocols. Parents could also help donate some snacks. Just signed contracts with DJ recommended on PTACHC website. Balloon decorating and photo backdrop. Please recruit many chaperones. Chaperone signup go out the week prior to spring break and keep hitting it afterward. The order in which receive the online permission form will be FCFS based on the number of chaperones they can get. An additional safety item: traffic and pickup. As of right now, we are thinking volunteers check in at the front entrance. PVMS parking lot in front for volunteers only. Bus lane Guilford or BBES; Forest Ridge family would go to the BBES parking lot to pick up. Definitely need to adhere to Fire Safety rules. Jacqueline and Holly attended a Crowd Safety Manager (perhaps two Hollies attended). Considering looking at area rugs or mats (could be wiped down). Amy is wondering if we have any tips on wholesale flower distributors? Maryland Flowers – wholesale – that is who Guilford has worked with. Frank's doesn't open up until April 1st; could talk to them also.

Looking ahead to 8th grade dance – need to have four trained Crowd Safety Managers since it is based on the occupancy of the building, not the forecasted attendees.

Fundraising – Taharka Brothers Fundraiser will run the week of May 29th, with the home delivery option. \$5 per order will go to the PTA. (Discussion on what home or delivery option definitions mean – can double-check on the options.)

Spirit Wear – We have 21 orders with 30 pieces. We need a minimum of 36. We could fill the order and the PTA has the shirts and items to sell at back to school night.

Staff Appreciation – PTA was able to provide pastries to the staff the end of February for Employee Appreciation week. Upcoming: Trail Mix bar next week – Tuesday, March 19, Jen and Lauren will set it up. Donations are Monday, March 18, and due Tuesday, March 19 – setting up that day. Plans for May Staff Appreciation week – Hala will set up a committee. Idea: Summer Olympics theme – “punny” things for Olympics.

Spirit Nights & Upcoming PTA Events

- Looking at possible movie night Cinemark on April 9th (no school the next day).
TBD what movies will be out for viewing that day.
- Main Event night – could do this on May 13th since there’s no school on May 14th.
Not a drop off event.

8th Grade Committee – Considering a fundraiser at Cold Stone on April 10th (this is a day off from school). The 8th Grade Committee (Lauren, Jen, Toya) is looking for additional parents to join the 8th grade team and will send out a note and link to ask parents/guardians to join. Priority: T-shirts and 8th grade dance. Will ask 8th graders to vote on a theme. Promotion ceremony to be held at Guilford Park HS June 11th (evening). May 6 – Shakespeare. Trip to the Zoo – June date has been confirmed. We’ll try to get the dates out to everyone very soon now that everything is getting confirmed.

New Business – We’ll need a nominating Committee since we’ll have two open Board positions for next year (Recording Secretary and PTACHC representative). We’ll also need someone to update the marquee next year since Lauren Giles is leaving as parent of an 8th grader.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.; motion seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 11th, 7 p.m.

Follow-on Meeting of Executive Board and Standing Committee Heads (9 people)

Motion to approve the purchase of PVMS spirit wear at \$18/each – to purchase 15 shirts, for a total of \$300. Motion to approve and seconded; passed. (These shirts can then be sold at back-to-school night or other events if needed.)

Motion to approve the amended by-laws. Seconded and passed.