



PTA General Membership Meeting

May 11, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

- ❖ **Approve March Meeting Minutes** – Jessica Petro motioned; Penny Keller seconded. Minutes approved.
- ❖ **PTA President’s Report** – Refer to Committee updates below
- ❖ **Treasurer’s Report** – Staff appreciation week activities donations – received just over \$500! We are doing well. We have expenses coming in but we are in good shape.
- ❖ **Principal’s Report** - Principal Rick Robb
 - Thank you to the PTA for the lunch today and all of the appreciation this week! The staff is so appreciative.
 - Testing this week – Kids are out of their routines a bit with the testing. Testing continues.
 - Community concern: There’s an Instagram page where kids are posting PVMS student fights. Two emails to PTA about this. Also two emails to Admin/Mr. Robb. Twenty-one posts. It’s jarring. Account since November 2022. We cannot determine who put up, so we can’t ask them to take it down. What we can do is continually fill out a form for each video saying/complaining that it is a bullying video. (A few of the 21 fights are from last year.) Admin is aware of who is in the videos and they have taken corrective action with the students immediately. Looked at the data and since February 2023, PVMS has been trending down regarding the fights. We have had two years of post-COVID students who are—from a social-emotional standpoint—two years behind. Yes, it is unnerving for teachers, and it is unnerving for parents to hear from students about this. We have had about 50 fights that we encountered this school year. Sounds like a lot but it has been decreasing since February. Working with student services and liaisons.
 - Questions: Are the fights posted reported to police? No, not unless there is a threat to the school. Do teachers have training available to them regarding fights/conflict training? No specific training to break up fights; safety training: 1. Be a deterrent (be around). 2. An alarmist (start screaming “stop fighting”) 3. Informant (who is it, what’s involved), and 4. Crowd control. It has been communicated with the staff what they can and can’t do. There are specific people in-house who do have that training, but teachers do not. They try to figure out how to best handle the situation. The staff cares deeply.
 - This is not just at PVMS. Look at the Columbia Mall. Now restricted after 4 p.m. weekends.
 - Watch Dogs can help be a presence – next year. Mr. Robb’s is requesting/advocating for Assistant Principal (AP) Intern next year with more than 850 kids projected in attendance. TBD.
- ❖ **PVMS Teacher Rep** – Ms. Ryan
 - May 15th and May 22nd Sweet Frog fundraisers for the theater program! Funds would go to supplies for set, costumes, sounds - takes a lot of funds. Would like to do more fundraising.

- Supplies – Teachers run out of tissues all the time. Love food but would be as excited to have tissues in mailboxes (even the little packets) – to support the kids! If there are thin boxes that can be put in mailboxes. Or we can put on a table and say, “take one.”

❖ **PTACHC Delegate Report**

- Topic: Blueprint for Maryland’s educational future. Speaker discussed the breakdown and how it requires counties to meet a lot more needs. The \$ doesn’t necessarily increase per county. Issues putting it in place. Howard County has difficulty adding the “free” pre-K since schools are already crowded. One of the goals is trying to increase teacher salaries. However, support positions are not supported as part of the Blueprint. College and career readiness: a substantial amount of \$ going to the workforce in each county to help kids learn different career paths (outside of a 4-year college). They will start having a presentation from rainbow youth LGBTQ support. June 5-10 Pride Week for Howard County schools. LGBTQ prom held at Homewood.
- Reminder: June 1st bus deadline – let’s keep reminding families – Admin and PTA both have been reminding and let’s keep reminding.
 - Only 40% of the county has done it. Front office staff is asking parents who pickup for early dismissal or otherwise visit the office.

❖ **Nominating Committee**

Elections at next meeting. Slate: ~~President – Angela Vogel~~, VP1 – Jen Macomber, VP2 – Open, Secretary – Lauren Giles. Corresponding Secretary – Ms. Rende. PTACHC - Nicole. Treasurer – in need of a Treasurer. PTA Audit – can’t start the audit until July – Jessica and Dave Petro. (Thank you!)

- ❖ **Committees: Membership** – no update. **Fundraising (General)** – TGI Friday’s check – haven’t received. Sweet Frog – received check last night (from November!): \$125; Sweet Frog gave 270 coupons for the 8th graders. **Fun Run Fundraiser** – Up to 7 runners and \$1,000. May 20th in the morning. Registration 8 a.m. and the run is 8:30. We have the arch and the stakes (Jen M.) Penny has a blower. We have the bibs and medals. We have the donation of the cookies. Top three will get a medal. **Staff Appreciation** – May 8-12. Monday – M&Ms for teachers and treats for bus drivers! Tuesday (donuts), Wednesday (cookies), Thursday (luncheon – Puttin’ on the Ritz), Friday (we soda appreciate you – coozie and pick out a soda or seltzer from the staff lounge). **Block Party** – Difficulty with the vendor and only one parent on Signup genius. Fun Run is still on that morning of the 20th. We still want to raffle off the PVMS corn hole boards. Orchestra, band, choir. Go ahead and have a raffle. Show the boards but also sell online via MemberHub. **Spirit wear** – We did place one more order and should arrive soon. **Movie nights** – No updates. **Restaurant Night** – No updates. **8th grade committee** – Have been meeting and have the 8th grade dance under control; Jessica met with Ms. Roberge about the picnic. Upcoming Dates: 8th Grade dance is Friday, June 2, 7-9 p.m. 8th grade ceremony is Thursday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Reservoir’s auditorium. **Watch DOGS (Dads Of Great Students)** – One parent (Jeremiah at Bolman Bridge ES). Mr. Robb would like to have a meeting and walk around with him. Jen Renkevans would like to get to know him and could help get set up. **GTAC report** – None. **CAC report** – None.

Motion to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 25 at NEW TIME 7:30 p.m. [Update: Moved to June 12 at 7 p.m.]