

Patuxent Valley Middle School Parent Teacher Association, Inc.



General Membership Meeting

November 9, 2023

### Meeting Minutes

**DRAFT (UNTIL APPROVED AT THE JANUARY MEETING)**

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

#### ❖ Introductions/Welcome

- Approximately 12 parents/guardians were in attendance with an additional 8-10 participating via Zoom. Welcome!
  - Introductions (child, favorite holiday activity)

❖ **Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve the October 2023 Meeting Minutes (online on our website now) – accepted and seconded. Meeting Minutes are approved.

#### **PTA President's Report** – Hala Sahli

- First Sunshine family teacher appreciation event in October - a caramel apple bar. The staff was very thankful and excited!
- There was a local fire that affected 3 PVMS families. The donation drive to help these families went very well and more items were added to the Amazon wishlist. People can still donate to this cause and these families will be added to other drives that will come up around the holidays.
- Facebook group - the PTA has now set up a Facebook group that parents and guardians can join. Members of the group can post comments and ask questions to the group. There is also a Group Me group available for parents to join. This info will be sent out so people can join if interested. You can join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/PVMSPTA> .
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#### **Principal's Report** – Mr. Richard Smart

- Report cards are out now. Conferences are coming up but the technology is still not working to sign up. Hopefully this will be up soon.
- American Education week is next week. Mr. Smart will be hosting a coffee meeting for parents on Wednesday and is encouraging parents to visit on

Wednesday in periods 1-3, though parents are welcome to visit any time during that week.

- There will be an Honor roll assembly next Tuesday. Students will be recognized for all 3 honor rolls. Parents and guardians are invited to the assembly, kids will also get snacks. Students who are “on a roll”, showing growth throughout the quarter, will also be recognized next week.
- Q - how is the change in the dismissal process working? 6th grade and related arts are dismissed first and staff members are asked to come out with the students. Students are allowed to go to their lockers or to pick up instruments at the end of the day if they need to. It is going well.

### **Treasurer’s Report – Holly**

- On track with our budget
- Waiting for funds from our recent restaurant nights (Olive on Main and Chipotle)

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

- No major updates.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership**

- Currently 106 active members

#### **Fundraising**

- Second Avenue thrift store fundraiser - the PTA will collect donations of gently used clothes, sneakers, and household items to bring the 2nd Avenue. We will receive a profit for these donations to the store. Items need to be dropped off at 2nd Avenue on Saturday 12/16/23 by 2 pm. PTA members will be outside PVMS starting around 11 am on the 16th to collect items. They are hoping to offer drop off at the school on Thursday and Friday as well. Volunteers with big vehicles are needed to help drive the items to the store on 12/16.

Items accepted by 2nd Avenue: Small household items under 18 inches, toys, beddings, gently used clothes. Soft items need to be dropped off in bags, while books and household items must be in

boxes. The PTA can provide boxes or bags if needed. The PTA will also send out a sign up genius to get an approximate number of items to be donated so they can determine how many vans will need to deliver the items to Second Avenue.

- Next fundraiser in late March - one of three ideas: spring flowers sale, silent auction, or Taharka Brothers. (If we do the silent auction, we need volunteers to reach out to local businesses for donations starting in January). We are also looking at doing candy grams to support 8th grade activities.

**Spirit Wear (Kendra)**– talking to a new vendor. We need to market spiritwear better, including to staff. Ideas include putting fliers on the wall with a QR code, or doing a survey for kids, families and staff to vote on designs. We can also include new designs and different types of shirts with smaller designs (such as zip up shirts). Multiple color designs are more expensive so we may go to one colored designs. Our current vendor has a minimum of 35, while the new vendor minimum is 24 pieces per design. Kendra would like to provide the business to a local business.

**Comments/questions online:** Is there a list of items that can or cannot be donated for the second avenue fundraiser? Anything in your home or clothes that are in good shape is acceptable. Items must be smaller than 18 inches.

Do families need to sort the items? Yes. The PTA can provide bags or boxes if needed. Soft things need to be sorted into bags and other things in boxes.

Suggestion: NHS students need volunteer hours - perhaps students from these groups could help with the fundraiser if needed.

Comment: Next spirit night is 12/6 at Dive Bar to benefit performing arts.

Q - Are there preferred days for parents to visit for American Education Week? There will be an honor roll on assembly on Tuesday, as well coffee and pastries with Mr. Smart on Wed morning. Wednesday is the recommended day to visit classes and a link went out where you can sign up. However, parents are welcome to visit any day.

Q- can you talk to teachers to sign up for conferences since the link isn't working? This should be coming up soon. Please wait and sign up on the

system. If parents already signed up before the system went down, these conferences should still be accounted for.

### **Staff Appreciation –**

- We will provide a staff lunch on the first conference day, 11/20. The PTA will purchase sandwiches from Pepperjacks and a signup genius went out for parents to donate desserts, snacks, and drinks. Please consider donating!
- We will have another Sunshine families event in December on 12/7. Nicole and Mel are planning this.
- We will also have a December Coffee cart on Thursday, 12/21. A donation sign up will go out after the holidays.
- Hala is organizing a Tissue/sanitizer drive the first two weeks in January to resupply the staff with these items.
- The Coffee cart will run again in late January.

### **Spirit Nights –**

- Chipotle night was yesterday, 11/8/23. \$314.81 was raised.
- Dive bar and grill - 12/6/23, this will benefit the fine arts department. We need to check in with Meredith and Ms. Clark to confirm who this fundraiser is benefitting. Is this for theater? Or theater and dance? Or all performing arts? We need to clarify who this is benefitting so the school knows where the money goes. Which percentage goes to which program?

Clarification - this fundraiser goes towards all performing arts groups (theater, band, chorus, orchestra, and dance) and the funds will be split evenly between the 5 groups.

- Panera bread is coming up in January, 1/15/24.
- Game night went really well. Do we want to host another game night? It could be the last week in November or early December. Can we do a different day of the week for some of these activities so more people can attend? Maybe a Friday night? It was decided that December is too busy for another activity so we will move the game night to January.
- We are still hoping to do a paint night, possibly in January. Amy is trying to coordinate this.
- School Dance - We will have a school dance in February and we need to create a signup genius and a planning team soon. Hala will reach out to parents who were interested in helping with a school dance.

**Question for Mr. Smart** - Can we set criteria to attend the dance? (no suspensions etc.) (We did not really get an answer for this question.)

HS dances are school sponsored and PTA supported. Can we do that here? Mr. Smart is going to talk to other MS principals to get more info. If it is a PTA event, PTA members have to be the chaperones. If it's a school event, staff has to be the chaperones.

Parent comment: At TVMS, there were issues with the ratio of kids to tickets and kids who tried to sneak in. Answer- There is only one available entrance for the PVMS dance, so kids can't sneak in. Parents watched all other doors at the previous dances so kids couldn't let other kids in. Students also couldn't leave once they came in. The 8th grade dance in the past was a joint event between the school and PTA. Friends from other schools were turned away, parents were called and they sat outside with the principal when they were turned away. Last year kids had to sign up beforehand and were checked in off a list. There was one table for each grade and kids signed in. Staff members helped sign the kids in because they know many of the faces. PTA chaperones were around the building.

Mr. Smart advises that we get a team together to start planning and he will follow up on whether the school will sponsor and participate etc. The PTA will be a part of it either way.

A concern was voiced regarding the last dance – since everyone left at once, it was very chaotic and not orderly at all. It was suggested that we can do the dance earlier than high schools do so it's easier for parents to pick up kids.

We need to advertise that there will be a dance and games and not just dancing – should we call the event something else? February is Kindness Month so we could possibly call it something like that - Kindness festival or winter festival? We do not have a date yet, we need to get a team together first.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade Committee** – nothing to report now

**7<sup>th</sup> grade Committee** – Kelly is following up with Kandyce to see how they are using their budget this year.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Committee** – Jen had a budget meeting with Ms. AC, Ms. Roberge, and Mr. Smart. Last year the school paid \$3000 for the tshirts. We may need some fundraising opportunities to cover some of these expenses.

- The 8th grade team is hoping to do a dinner cruise for the 8th grade trip which will be approximately \$65 a kid. They may need PTA support to help lower the cost. The teachers are checking with vendors etc.
- Shakespeare - We have budgeted \$4000 but only need to use \$1200. They are doing the field trip part of it as well this year - going to see the show. Can we use some of the budget to help bring down the cost of the field trip part (\$15 a kid plus bus) since we do not need to spend as much for the in school portion?
- Promotion ceremony - They will need programs and the PTA can also help with cake or decorations. Students will be asked to design the program cover, which the PTA can help promote. Mr. Smart is looking to have the ceremony at Guilford Park HS.
- 8th grade dance - The PTA will help provide light snacks/drinks/cupcakes. We need to confirm who is responsible for the dance (School or PTA). In the past, it was supported by staff and parents. We will determine the date after the dates for other 8th grade events are decided.
- The school has earmarked \$2000 out of the school activity funds for 8th grade. The PTA can do fundraisers to donate as well.
- Candy grams - Can we sell at lunch and deliver to classes? Mr. Smart says the PTA can get a table and a space to sell. We can use funds from a spring fundraiser to go towards 8th grade as well.
- We have \$1900 earmarked for 8th grade from last year due to the grant that covered a lot of last year's costs. We need to clarify if this money can be used on any 8th grade activities or just the dance.

**Question online** - Does Mr. Smart have any comments or information regarding the recent lockdown at Hammond HS? Answer: Mr. Smart doesn't have any additional info aside from what went out the community. The issue was taken care of quickly by staff. It is important for students and community members to know that if you see something, say something! All high schools have had similar issues over the last year, not just Hammond.

## **New Business**

**Social media** - We now have a Facebook group and app chat. We will email out this info so parents have options to connect socially.

**Student Council** – Hala met with Ms. Siepel, the Student Council Advisor, and would like the Student Council and PTA to join forces so student voices can be heard. They are now electing their officers and we will have student council reps at our upcoming PTA meetings to hear their input.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn; motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 11 at 7 pm (no meeting in December due to conflicts at school)