



Patuxent Valley Middle School Parent Teacher Association, Inc.

## General Membership Meeting

October 12, 2023

### Meeting Minutes

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

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

#### ❖ **Introductions/Welcome**

- Approximately 20 parents/guardians were in attendance with an additional 11 participating via Zoom. Welcome!
- We went around the room (round-robin) asking what attendees' PVMS student(s) are excited about for this school year: Chorus; bass clarinet in band; science; French; debate; D&D club (8<sup>th</sup> period); jazz band club; history day; video games club; Big Bear band was awesome!; the play/theater production; excited to take art class all year; Mrs. Seas' math class; Terrapin Adventures

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

- ❖ **PTA President's Report** – Hala defers to the Committee Reports below

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

- Mr. Smart is still loving being the principal here! He has been asking HCPSS Central Office teams to visit and do a walk-through in classrooms. Math, science, English then social studies, then performing arts. There are amazing relationships in our classrooms, caring interactions where students are talking to each other. Looking at instruction and other important things. Sharing feedback with teachers – always wanting to improve with feedback.
- Staggered dismissal – tried it last week. Two crowds – fewer students going outside. Got feedback – very stressful. New: 6th graders and related arts first at 2:34 p.m. Then 7th and 8th graders at 2:35 p.m. Asking staff members to go out with students. No lockers after lunch. TBD how it will go; can modify as needed.
- Q: Can't use the stairs here in the media center? A: Yes, that was started this year.

- Q: “Change time” between classes – is it only 2 minutes? A: Yes, kept it for now. Keep reviewing it. Also, the last two minutes of class should be used as pack-up time. Relayed to staff. Students can always Inbox the principal with concerns.
- Q: Tickets for sale for the play. Is there any info.? A: Friday, Saturday, 7 p.m. then the matinee on Sunday is at 3 p.m. Booktix website. Believe last year they sold tickets at the door. More information to be provided tomorrow.
- Q: A parent noted that in a recent (October 11<sup>th</sup>) Howard County Public School email, Mr. Smart was featured as one of several new principals! Check it out.
- Q: Are asynchronous snow days gone? A: Correct; it has been announced that there will not be asynchronous work on snow days this school year. They will all need to be made up at the end of the year.

❖ **Treasurer’s Report – Holly**

- Motion to approve the budget for 2023-24. Seconded. Approved.
- Slow for the last month (mid-Sept to mid-October). Got the check for Papa John’s late yesterday – we are close to \$400 better than showing here (in handout). We are doing well!
- Had budgeted \$4,000 for the 8th grade Shakespeare performance. Ms. Roberge was granted \$3,600. Only need to cover about \$1,200 of it this year.

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

- The meeting was held October 2. The Howard County State Delegation – senators were in attendance Majority of the discussion was about updates that are needed at schools: particularly repairs to Oakland Mills HS and another school.

❖ **Committee Reports**

**Membership**

- Currently 102 active members
- Need to go through memberships to sort/deliver any memberships that receive special items (stickers, magnets, lanyards)

**Fundraising**

- Brandi and Mataya are part of our fundraising committee. Planning to do a fundraiser around early December – a combo of a sneaker drive and FUN drive. Second Avenue thrift store. Bring in donations of gently used sneakers, clothes, and household items. Brandi looking at a 2nd Avenue fundraiser (PVMS would

get \$ for our donations to the store) and sneaker drive (send out to a company and they give us a profit based on sneakers that we donate to them).

- Re: the fundraisers that we do this year – not looking for income, so if we can find a way that we can do a fundraiser for a specific event for the kids. There was talk of chorus or band needing a field trip and needing help, for example. See how we can help with a particular need with the school.
  - A few ideas – spring flower sales. Or a silent auction. Popcorn. Taharka brothers ice cream, candy grams for 8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser.
  - Donation ideas - Jacqueline – need for additional orchestra instruments. (So some students could borrow) We do have 50% FARM at PVMS and so more kids need to borrow.
  - Q: teachers were purchasing books for kids. Can we reimburse the teachers?  
A: The PTA can't purchase items like books. But we can help with items that are not to be provided by the school system.
  - Suggestion: Ask teachers what their needs are. A: Yes, we can. Donated hand sanitizer and tissues in the past.
  - Chorus will be doing a field trip. Costly. Maybe we can help fundraiser for this. Buses for field trips.
  - Reach out to the theater program to see help.
  - Years ago, there was music boosters – back to 2020. Haven't heard any for this year.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee** – Q: Concern about the 8<sup>th</sup> grade budget since there was a large donation last year, so we may need more fundraising than last year as a result? 8<sup>th</sup> grade costs: t-shirts – school may need help with fundraising for t-shirts. TBD costs for this year. \$1,900 for the dance is earmarked. Other needs TBD. Last year, there was a large donation of \$7,000? A: The Principal's secretary from last year left PVMS, so Mr. Smart is currently having audits conducted. Action: Need to have meeting with Ms. Roberge (8<sup>th</sup> grade team lead from last year), Ms. A-C (8<sup>th</sup> grade team lead for this year), Mr. Smart, and Lauren and Jen (in attendance tonight) can attend. The goal of the meeting will be to determine how much fundraising we'll need to do for 8<sup>th</sup> grade in lieu of the donation from last year.

**Spirit Wear** – Needed to sell 36 pieces to not have a penalty, and we sold 75! Should ship next week. Kendra will coordinate with secretaries re: how best to distribute. Hopefully week October 23<sup>rd</sup> when they will arrive in the building. Kendra is looking for another vendor for the spring (March/April timeframe).

**Staff Appreciation** – Jen M. and Brandi ran the coffee cart in September – went very well! Got a lot of donations. Going to plan to do that every other month or so. This

month (Oct) will be the sunshine family for the staff on October 25<sup>th</sup>. November – provide a lunch for the staff on Monday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Or some sort of a catering. The only in-person day is the 20<sup>th</sup>. Both the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> are virtual conference days. Signup Genius – no history in there (PVMS) Can ask for parent donations in the Signup Genius (and provide a link to our PTA donations page/MemberHub). Perhaps next coffee car - set up for Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Nicole will let Hala know the date for the sunshine family for December.

### **Spirit Nights – Jacqueline**

- Olive on Main yesterday – don't have the \$ results back yet.
- Upcoming Spirit Nights:
  - Chipotle – November
  - Dive Bar and Grill – December
  - Panera Bread – January
- Game night – October 18
  - Sell concessions for cash. People can order whole pizzas online. School pricing for Papa John's whole large pizza.
  - *Parents need to stay.* What if an unaccompanied student shows up? Need a plan. Can take the student aside and have them call their parents. Can spot parents at the door during drop off and catch them then.
  - Action: Revise the game night blurb to make it clearer that a parent must attend.
- Advertising more to kids? We want to kids to have access the announcements. They are getting older and should be bringing to their parents. How are we getting the word out about events?
  - School resources page (emails)
  - Morning TV announcements (Ms. Chelidona)
  - Asking Ms. Gallagher – can you push out this email?
  - “Old school” flyers – we hang up around the building.
- Suggestions for future events
  - Winter painting idea – Amy Hamilton trying to figure out a paint night.
  - Dance: the kids are really looking forward to it. Looking at February. Kind of need to get on that now. Will need to secure a lot of volunteers.
  - Probably no spirit night in December – people are too busy.
  - Maybe painting idea in January if it is possible? Or a possibility of Main Event? Parents on the Zoom call noted they would go out to an event in January – may be a time to go out.
  - Any other ideas? Please bring to the committee!

## **Social Media/Communications**

- Kelly revamped and updated the PVMS PTA website.
- Utilizing social media to get the word out about events. What social media to most parents use?
  - PTA Facebook page.
  - At the elementary school, they have a Facebook group that people have to join.
- PVMS Discord channel? Many kids have Discord.
- Kids have Instagram. High school a lot on Instagram.
- Anything that is branded by us are connected to us, we are responsible for messaging with it.
- Whats App or Group Me – could do a PTA list and communicate. Can be a QR code to join.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade Committee** – Just getting started into the school year. Each child in 6<sup>th</sup> grade should now have an agenda book. Sent out. If do not have one, could stop into math teacher to pick up.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade Committee** – An email was sent out but did not get a follow on. Hoping to maybe bring some ideas to the teacher and not leave a burden on her. Ms. Salik – will email her again. Ms. Rende – please add her to the list. 7<sup>th</sup> grade doesn't seem to use their budget. But maybe they want to use it. Another teacher asking about field trips.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Committee** – Hala made the introduction via email. They have all the documents needed for the Shakespeare grant. Action: Set up meeting to discuss budget and fundraising needs, etc. (see item above)

## **New Business**

- Grocery Rewards – Weis and Harris Teeter! Sign up each year. Look at our PVMS website <http://pvmspta.weebly.com/> under “Fundraisers” to sign up.
- Veterans’ Day – Scouts. Ms. Minnick. Talk about Purple Star – Mr. Smart put out an interest form on behalf of the school. Waiting to hear back. Ms. Porter is interested in Purple Star. Interaction or having events. Organizations and county can host all kinds of events.

## **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn; motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.