



Patuxent Valley Middle School Parent Teacher Association, Inc.

General Membership Meeting

September 14, 2023

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT (UNTIL APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING)

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

❖ **Introductions/Welcome** - More than 25 parents/guardians in attendance tonight. Welcome! We went around the room (round-robin) asking what attendees would like to see at PVMS:

- PTA supporting the kids while they are in the school
- PTA president, want to do fun things as a community
- Some fundraising to be able to support activities
- Fun activities for the kids
- Events and represent what the whole community can do
- Help the students and the school
- Diversity, connection, and community
- Parents want to support the kids in whatever way is needed
- Parents want to support the PTA in whatever way is needed
- Meetings off to a good start with a lot of new people here tonight!
- Listened to a recent podcast that is called How to Talk to People – community ties and how much they do for us as people; would like to help facilitate ties so the kids feel they have a community watching out for them
- Activities that build community for the students
- Create a safe space for parents to help and for students to be able to fulfill our goals
- Would like to help stay informed
- Here to support whatever the kids and the teachers need
- Inclusion and awareness of the special needs committee, SECAC (see description in notes below)
- Want to be an actively involved parent. Cannot always be here in person. Virtual option would be appreciated.

❖ **PTA President's Report** – Hala

Back to School night was a success. Hala completed the required membership training with Freestate on 9/6/23; we will need one more board member to take this training next quarter. Back to School staff breakfast went well – full breakfast plus 20 goodie bags raffled off with schools supplies for staff. Agenda book sale was successful. All purchased agenda books have been delivered and the remainder were donated to the school. If you purchased one and did not receive it, please email us at pvmstamd@gmail.com.

- ❖ **Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve the June and the August Meeting Minutes – Accepted and seconded (at the end of this meeting – see details at end of notes). Meeting Minutes are approved.
- ❖ **Principal's Report** – Mr. Richard Smart – The young people are amazing here! It has been a challenging start to the school year for everyone (first: the buses and now: the new school times). He loved seeing the attendance at Back to School night. Pleased to see a lot of former Thomas Viaduct parents here in the room. Guilford students reunited! Talked about doing grade-level meetings with some of the new/redistricted kids to see how it is going. Going to do something for Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept-October). A door decorating competition for homerooms. Looking at having a community night for our Latino families.

Q: Anything the principal is concerned about? A: Numbers: We have a lot of students here – so many young people. The four portables are new. Spending a lot of time figuring out how we manage our structures. Working more on professional learning this year. We are a TSI school. Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI) designated by the State of Maryland. (Close to 2/3 of the schools in Howard County are TSI schools.) Transportation – hopeful it will be worked out soon. We want to make sure to get everyone learning. Want to spend our energy on learning in the classroom and not on how to get here.

Q: One parent's daughter sent a message to the principal (without the parent even knowing it), and the principal responded to the email. Parent wanted to thank Mr. Smart! A: Yes, Mr. Smart encourages students to email him.

Q: Lunch overcrowding? Not enough seats? A: There are 291 seventh graders, 270 sixth graders, and only slightly fewer eighth graders. PVMS did just add 2 additional tables for seventh grade; now they have 22 tables and that's the max. (Don't want to put one on the stage and they are trying not to split the lunches.) Let Mr. Smart know of any continued issues you may hear from your student.

Q: Not enough travel time to get to some classes? A: This is an ongoing issue. They have 2-minute passes (between classes) since they did the pods. They are considering making it 3-minute passes; the choices: either go to 3-minutes. Or allow a grace period for students who are coming from related arts or other areas (which some staff members are doing already, but they could formalize it.) If you hear from your student that a staff member is overly concerned about late class arrival, then please let the principal know.

Q: Is there any supervision outside at the portables? A: Yes, but it is complicated. Sometimes the principal is outside, sometimes it is a vice principal. They have rotating staff. They have asked the four

staff members to be standing at their doors. Yes, cameras outside. In the last three weeks, had two people on campus who shouldn't have been here; they were asked to leave and complied.

❖ **Treasurer's Report** – Holly

Circulating a revised budget today based on comments and suggestions from the last meeting. We won't vote on it until next meeting since there was no notice for this meeting. Membership: we are already at \$1,700. Otherwise, we haven't had a lot of expenditures, but we haven't had fundraisers either. We do have carryover from last year.

- ❖ **PTACHC - PTA Council of Howard County Report** – The PTACHC meeting was held on the first day of school. Amy Hamilton reported on the meeting. Much of the discussion was about the bus situation (which is evolving). Amy would like to highlight one presentation from the meeting: The Purple Star School Status presented by Lisa Terri from the HoCo Office of Veterans & Military Families <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans-military-families>. Lisa would like the opportunity to meet with school level PTAs that might be interested in pursuing recognition/certification as a Purple Star School this year. We don't yet have any in Howard County, and the state and county have just funded/provided more resources to make this easier than ever to do. There were about four items that a School has to think through and do to be recognized as a school that is supportive/helpful for military and veterans families. Is anyone willing to take the lead on this, if it would be close to their heart to help on it? Amy also reported that PVMS's own Daria Wise presented at the meeting about special education. Thank you, Daria!

❖ **Committee Reports:**

Membership – Hala

- 96 members registered in "Givebacks" (previously called MemberHub); 14 of them are faculty.
- PTA has promoted membership at 5 different events
- We need to go through memberships to sort/deliver any memberships that receive special items (stickers, magnets, lanyards)

Fundraising – Hala

- No Joe Corbi fundraiser at PVMS since FRES is already doing this fall
- Considered a PVMS Turkey Trot in November, but BBES is having a fun run and Girls on the Run is in early December
- Brandi looking at a 2nd Avenue fundraiser (PVMS would get \$ for our donations to the store) or sneaker drive – timing: November/December as families declutter for holidays
- Fundraiser ideas for the rest of the school year:
 1. Spring Fun Run
 2. Silent Auction

3. Doublegood popcorn
 4. Taharka Bros ice cream
 5. Candygrams (spring sunshine) (possibly an 8th grade fundraiser?)
- Possible ideas for fundraisers discussed:
 - New Coldstone Creamery ice cream nearby
 - Chipotle – Broken Land near Snowden
 - Raising Cain chicken – Snowden
 - Silent Auction – Staff activities with the student (Principal for a day), slime the Principal
 - Guilford ES last year - Nothing Bundt Cakes
 - Flowers – Guilford does fall mum sale. Could do a spring flower sale.
 - Gibbets – go in the crocs. Wilde Lake successful sale.
 - Hosting craft fair around the holidays, local vendors.
 - Yard sale (rent spots in the parking lot)
 - Is there any way with collaborating with another school – or does it get too complicated? We'd have a better turnout if we stayed away from Joe Corbi. Or could we collaborate on the Turkey Trot? The trouble is finding volunteers for competing events.
 - Cinnabon out of the Arundel Mills store
 - Rolls from Texas Roadhouse for the holidays
 - One parent talked with Norma Broadwater at the Savage Christmas Tree lighting
 - General fundraising \$5,000
 - Total fundraising goal for everything? \$10,000
 - Thinking of a specific 8th grade fundraiser. Also, Shakespeare grant.

Spirit Wear – Kendra

- Sold 90% of spirit wear/shirts we had purchased.
- Current sale going through 9/29. Get your spirit wear now if you like it because it may be a different vendor in the spring with a new design. We have a minimum order to meet or we will pay a penalty.

Staff Appreciation – Hala

- Coffee cart will run 9/28 (and every other month) Brandi and Jen M. to staff. See signup genius.
- Sunshine Families will run other months (alternate to coffee cart).
- Staff luncheon/dinner the week of conferences: November 20, 21, 22 – possibly the first day, with leftovers to be utilized on the second/third days? PTA will consider the options. TBD exact timing. Would be good if food could sit out due to timing of staff breaks between conferences. Last year, we did sandwiches from PepperJacks. Ideas: spaghetti, baked potato bar, soups and a crock pot? Possibly sandwiches funded by donations on Memberhub/Givebacks. A lot of businesses may donate to non-profits. Or could get a restaurant each day?

Spirit Nights – Amy

- Merideth has been spearheading it. Amy is reporting.
 - Papa Johns: 42 redemptions for \$340.38 profit to PVMS PTA
 - Restaurant nights coming up:
 - 10/11: Olive on Main – maybe the PTA can coordinate an order and drop off for teachers’ lunches?
 - November TBD: Chipotle
 - December 6: Dive Bar & Grill (Savage Mill)
- Game night in October – need to coordinate reservations for the space.
- Would like to have some sort of community activity every other month.
- Paint night TBD?
- CultureFest? The Spirit committee would like to be supportive of this spring event.
- Hispanic Heritage Night will be after school or in the evening. Mr. Smart will check the calendar and bookings.
- Concessions at the Game Night? Yes, everyone agrees that concessions could be helpful.
- Inclusivity week is in November. Maybe we can do something to bring awareness about the different kinds of disabilities. It’s understanding and respecting that everyone is different.
- Are we considering doing a dance in the fall? We can probably put on one school-wide dance - suggest February. Not make it a Valentine’s Dance but make it a red and black dance, school colors. What we liked what the PTA did last year. Concession in one space. Dance in the gym. Board games in the other space (media center?). Will need a lot of parent volunteers.

6th grade Committee –

- Middle school survival bags were put together and given out to all 6th graders and redistricted students at the new student orientation in August.
- What did 6th grade committee do last year? Nothing (there was no specific 6th grade committee last year.) But each grade does have a budget. If you or the team lead have an ideas. Would we be able to do an event for, say, 6th grade? Team lead is Mr. Howe.

7th grade Committee –

- 7th grade tends to get forgotten (observed in previous years).
- Ms. Salik is the team lead.

8th grade Committee –

- Ms. Roberge got the 8th grade grant.
- Ms. A-C is the team lead.
- Holly: Should be doing differently than we’ve done in the past. PTA should be giving the school a donation and allowing the school to deal directly with it.

Social Media/Communications –

- Kelly Rende taken over updating the PVMS PTA Website
- Updating and sharing current events/news on Facebook? Will talk to Beatrice.

New Business –

- **SECAC** – Darria Wise, PVMS parent. Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee <https://howardcountyseca.com>. The first meeting was Sept. 5. Monthly meetings will be the first Tuesday of every month here at PVMS. Looking to bring in speakers and bringing in a great vibe and educating the community. Want PVMS to be on the map that we are inclusive. Administrators, special education department – they attend our meetings. All are welcome. If you know of families who should attend, please invite them!
- **Virtual Options for these PVMS meetings** – We will set one up for the next meeting. Can use the owl. Can use the Zoom from a parent (Thank you!)
- **Hammond HS Homecoming parade** – Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. – field trip request for PVMS dance class. Is there a bulldog costume? Yes. We have a PVMS banner. Kids could throw out candy.
- **8th period** (after-school programs that usually start in mid-October) – Mr. Smart is working on plans. Challenges with buses but they are working on that.
- **Two possible upcoming activities** (outside of PVMS school officially, and outside of PVMS PTA):
 - **Girls on the Run/Heart and Soul** – want PVMS members. Staff member who would be a volunteer coach. Looking for a second person.
 - **Basketball conference for Howard County Boys** – spoke to two people – involves PVMS kids. PVMS took second in the district last year! Maybe we have some good players joining us from Thomas Viaduct!
Maybe the PTA could promote both of these things – would be very helpful once it is up and running if we could share it!
- **Any field trips?**
 - Grade 6 – Field Trip to Terrapin Adventures nearby. Team building.
 - Grade 7 – Will there be a field trip? Yes.
 - Grade 8 – Many activities planned for 8th graders typically (Dance, Shakespeare, etc.) Details TBD.

Meeting Minutes

- Motion to accept the June 2023 meeting minutes. Motion, seconded. Passed.
- Motion to accept the August 2023 meeting minutes. Motion, seconded. Passed.

Motion to adjourn; motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 12th, 7 p.m.