

Hammond Middle School PTA

Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2017

Attendees:

- Sumaira Bajwa, President
- Mollie Baer, 1st Vice President
- Mary Coleman, 2nd Vice President
- Lisa Beck, Treasurer
- Tricia Miller, Secretary
- Tami Baldwin, PTACHC Rep
- Kerri Ukstins, Staff Appreciation Co-Chair
- Lynne Ward, Staff Appreciation Co-Chair
- Deveonne Hamilton-Stokes, Giftcard Chair
- Tatiana Pham, Student Directory Chair
- Aaron Dale, HMS Principal
- Gabrielle Jacobson, HMS Teacher
- Dawn Czahor, HMS Teacher
- Jesse Mackey, HMS Teacher
- Margie Alston, Parent / Member
- Rosita Scarborough, Parent / Member
- Melody Morales, Parent / Member
- Dara Glenn, Parent / Member
- Andrea Christiansen, Parent / Member
- Anne Braun, Parent / Member

Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by PTA President, Sumaira Bajwa. Introductions were made.
- **Secretary's Report (Tricia Miller):** The minutes from the June 6, 2017 and August 30, 2017 PTA meetings were presented for approval. No revisions were proposed. Lisa Beck made a motion to approve the minutes; Lynne Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections. The bylaws committee has been formed and will meet soon to update the bylaws. The committee is on schedule to comply with the 1/13/18 deadline.
- **Treasurer's Report (Lisa Beck):** The current cash position for the PTA is \$11,036.93. Lisa reported on membership income, income and expense for color run and spirit wear and the Back to School Lunch

(Staff Appreciation) expense item. The audit committee is scheduled to conclude the audit of last year's books by October 12th (deadline is 10/31/17). No concerns noted to date.

- **Principal's Report (Aaron Dale):** Dr. Dale reported that there have been a number of "social media" issues to date. The administration takes these matters seriously and conducts thorough investigations which may include student interview. A parent requested that Dr. Dale include tips on social media in the school newsletter to increase awareness. Dr. Dale will be participating in a Howard County committee on implementing restorative practices in a consistent manner county-wide. HMS staff has received training on restorative circles/practices. Administration and Staff are contributing to a biweekly newsletter. HMS has had a great start to the new school year. Mrs. Czahor mentioned that the SGA (Student Government Association), now called the Vikings Voice, meets every Tuesday from 3:00-3:45.

A discussion followed addressing several after school programs that are or will soon be ongoing: Let Me Run (a male version of "Girls on the Run"), Robotics, Homework Club and Creative Writing to name a few. Many parents expressed surprise at the many offerings. Mrs. Bajwa asked that teachers send a blurb for the PTA newsletter advertising these after school opportunities as many middle schoolers do not share this information with their parents.

- **PTACHC Report (Tami Baldwin):** no report was provided at this meeting due to time constraints. We look forward to hearing from Tami next month!
- **President's Report (Sumaira Bajwa):**
 - Chess Club Fundraiser: We have 14 registered for the fall session. PTA receives a \$10 donation per registrant. There will be two more sessions – one in winter and one in spring.
 - Fall Fling: We are trying a new check-in procedure. Students will receive a pre-numbered bracelet during homeroom which should expedite check in for the event. Check out volunteers must reconcile the parent picking up to the name provided on the permission slip. We currently have 104 registered but really need 150 to break even. Dr. Dale will send a note to the staff to help promote the event. He also confirmed that aftercare will relocate the kids to the HES side of the cafeteria and that the custodial staff will block hallways to limit student access to the school during the Fall Fling.
 - Spelling Bee and Reflections: We need a spelling bee chairperson. Reflection entries are due November 15th. We need help from the HMS staff promoting this program and emphasizing the deadline.
 - Proposed Intramural Model: after the severe budgets cuts last year, many after school programs could no longer be funded. Sumaira presented a model currently used by another HC school to increase the after school offerings. The program would be administered by PTA but organized and staffed by teachers. Teachers would be compensated by registration fees paid by students. Dr. Dale will discuss with staff to gauge interest.
 - HMS partnership with McDonald's: Rather than having both HMS and HMS PTA using Chick Fila for fundraising events, Dr. Dale proposed that the PTA use Chick Fila and HMS will switch to McDonalds. It was noted that all Harris Teeter Shopping Benefits will go to PBIS activities going forward.

- **New Business:** Mrs. Jacobson, HMS Teacher, presented her proposal requesting that the PTA fund an after school bus so that more students could participate in the current after school offerings. A lively conversation followed with active participation by all who attended the meeting! Several ideas were discussed – whether the current after school program could be combined or replaced by the proposed intramural model or if the programs could be administered separately. The financing of the bus was discussed briefly and Mrs. Bajwa stated that the PTA has already budgeted \$1,000 for this type of expense. Parents and Board Members all seemed eager and enthusiastic to increase the amount and type of after school offerings. Ultimately, it was decided that more information was needed before a decision could be made. Mrs. Jacobson agreed to investigate further and report back to the Board.
- **2nd VP Report (Mary Coleman):** Mary has sent thank you letters to all members for their membership dues and Viking Club donations based on the names posted to the shared Google Doc. Need to follow up with Ravinder to see if the Google Doc is current.
- **Reports:**
 - **Fall Fling (Tricia Miller):** All volunteer slots have been filled. Everything is on schedule
 - **Launch Spirit Night:** Coming up on October 19th – will send eblast to promote
 - **Box Tops:** Dodi conducted a raffle during lunches this week to promote program
 - **Adopt a Staff (Tami Baldwin):** mostly ready to start program. Have 2 still to be matched up.
 - **Membership and Directory:** membership cards have not been distributed yet. Coming soon.
 - **Restaurant Nights:** Should proceed smoothly now that Chick Fila matter resolved.
 - **Geo Bee:** Roberta should be in contact soon with Lisa to get check.
 - **Color Run:** Numbers mostly finalized. Waiting to hear from Michelle.
- **Closing:** Next meeting 11/14/17. Kerri Ukstins made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mollie Baer seconded; the motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tricia Miller, HMS PTA Secretary.