



HVES PTA  
GENERAL MEETING  
DRAFT NOTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome Siobhan Carroll, PTA President
  - Siobhan opened the meeting at 7:04 pm.
  
2. About HVES PTA & Coordinator Positions Siobhan Carroll
  - Siobhan introduced the board. She explained that she was not going to follow the order in the agenda in order to ensure that Mrs. Zolkower and Mrs. Martins had plenty of time for their presentation on the new MCPS report cards.
  
3. Walk to School Day Jana Rhone and Ben Theisman
  - Ben gave an overview of Walk to School Day, scheduled for the following day, October 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Students will meet at the points described in the handout that went home in Thursday folders and walk to school.
  - Multiple groups will converge at Wire and Franklin to walk together to Highland View, with the goal of arriving by 9 am.
  
4. Manna Food Drive Rachel Anderson & Lora Elinoff
  - Rachel announced that the food drive to benefit Manna Food Center will take place from October 16-31.
  - Parent volunteers are needed to bring the boxes of food from classrooms to the school lobby after the Halloween parties on October 31.
  
5. Art to Remember Jenny Stavros
  - Jenny described the upcoming Art to Remember fundraiser, which is among the most profitable school fundraisers.
  - This year, the students are creating peacock-themed artwork, which will be sent to Art to Remember and made available for purchase on a variety of items. Samples are on display in the school lobby.
  - The items are available before the holiday season, making them popular gifts. Order forms will be sent home on November 9<sup>th</sup>, and will be due back to school on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Art will be delivered to classrooms on December 11<sup>th</sup> for students to take home.
  
6. Staff Appreciation Dinner Lora Elinoff
  - On behalf of Lora, Larrissa Strout explained that the PTA would again be providing a catered dinner to teachers when they stay late for parent-teacher conferences on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - The PTA will send home an envelope in Thursday folders and ask parents to donate any amount to help defray the cost.

- Funds raised in excess of meal costs will be used for future staff appreciation events and teacher requests.

7. Membership

Stacey Ricci

- Stacey reported that the PTA has more than 150 members, with more memberships possibly pending from online registration.

8. CIP / Board of Education

Ashley Franzel

- Ashley reported that on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, the MCPS Board of Education will hold hearings to inform which schools are selected for capital improvements (CIP) investments.
- Ashley will be testifying on behalf of the cluster, and another Highland View parent is needed to testify on behalf of Highland View. Parents should try to attend the November hearings, if possible.
- On October 23, the Superintendent will release his recommended facilities improvements to the Board of Education. His recommendations will be posted on the MCPS website.
- Highland View, Silver Spring International Middle School, and Northwood High School are all on the superintendent's list of the schools most in need of facilities improvements. HVES students are the only children in the county who are designated to attend sub-standard facilities for their entire MCPS career.
- Ashley provided a handout with information about Highland View's facilities needs.

9. Approval of 2017-2018 Budget

Faith Lewis, Treasurer

- Faith introduced the budget. She highlighted the changes to the budget's format, which are due to the PTA switch from Excel to Quicken for budgeting.
- Siobhan highlighted key fundraising programs: Amazon Smile and Mabel's Labels, which provide funds to the PTA, and Giant rewards and Box Tops for Education, which provide funds directly to HVES.
- Siobhan and Faith worked with Abby Colucci and Kathryn Moore, previously on the executive board, to develop conservative estimates for both planned expenses and projected income. For example, the online auction, which took in approximately \$8,700 in 2017, is projected to bring in \$6,000 in 2018.
- Some modest new additional costs have been added; for example, web costs are budgeted at \$144 per year, and GeoBowl costs have been increased as the event will have increased participation this year.
- Conservative budget projections show a balance of nearly \$3,300 at year's end.
- Siobhan commented that as a non-profit, the budgeting goal should be to budget for as close to a zero-dollar year-end balance as responsibly possible, without leaving the PTA with insufficient cash flow. The PTA should invest as much as possible into the needs of the school and the school community.
- Faith stated that during the year, the PTA will closely monitor revenues, and will discuss whether and how to allocate excess revenue during planning meetings.

10. New Report Cards

Galit Zolkower & Jackie Martins

- Mrs. Zolkower introduced Ana Navo, who is the school's community liaison. HVES is hosting a multi-lingual curriculum night on October 26<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome, but the evening's presentations will be geared toward Spanish-

speaking and Amharic-speaking families who may not be familiar with the American school system and who may not currently feel comfortable coming into the school for evening events.

- Mrs. Zolkower stated that the new elementary school report card was developed based largely on parent feedback. The report card remains based on standards, but the changes aim to ensure greater consistency in marking.
- Mrs. Zolkower noted that MCPS standards are derived from Maryland standards, which are derived from the Common Core State Standards.
  - Grade-level standards sheets for marking period 1 were included in Thursday folders and are available on the MCPS website.
- She emphasized that teachers will still be teaching the same curriculum and HVES is very focused on the classroom experience; the changes will be to communication with parents and students.
- Mrs. Zolkower and Mrs. Martins shared a video presentation provided by MCPS regarding the new report card format, which included the following:
  - Several years ago, MCPS switched to a standards-based report card. Grading will still be standards-based, and teachers will gather evidence of student's ability to demonstrate proficiency in grade-level standards.
  - Changes will be made to the marks given.
    - In Kindergarten and First Grade, the Exceeds Successful mark has been removed. Proficient, In Progress, and Not Yet Making Progress/Making Minimal Progress remain, as do Missing Data and Not English Proficient.
    - In Grades 2-5, students will receive:
      - A- Consistently demonstrates mastery of grade-level standards taught this marking period
      - B- Frequently demonstrates mastery of grade-level standards taught this marking period
      - C- Periodically demonstrates mastery of grade-level standards taught this marking period
      - D- Rarely demonstrates mastery of grade-level standards taught this marking period
  - Students will receive an overall grade for each subject during each marking period, as well as at year end.
  - Students' Instructional Reading Level will be included each marking period.
  - Additional details can be found at:  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/>
- Mrs. Zolkower explained that MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jack Smith is focused on ensuring schools provide evidence of learning. He articulates evidence of learning as kids being ready for the next step.
  - Mrs. Zolkower stated that the new report cards should provide consistency with evidence collection and how evidence is used.
- Mrs. Martins stated that aligning grades to grade-level standards provides an accurate reflection of students know and are able to do. It allows parents and students to understand what students need to know.
- Mrs. Martins showed images of the new report card on the screen and explained various components.
  - The kindergarten report card has been upgraded to show specific reading data and will be issued four times per year.

- Mrs. Martins explained that marking period grades are calculated electronically based on grades entered throughout the marking period. Each graded assignment is given equal weight in the calculation, per MCPS policy. Students have multiple and varied opportunities throughout the marking period to demonstrate mastery of grade-level standards.
- End-of-year grades are an average of marking period grades.
- Kindergarten has its own set of learning skills, whereas grades 1-5 include the same learning skills on their report cards.
- Instructional Reading Level data is included in the report card and explained in a detailed box on the back of the report card.
- Special comments will be included on the report card if a student is reading a full year above grade level or a half year below grade level.
- For students who receive 70 percent of available enrichment opportunities during the marking period, a special comment will appear on the report card, noting that the student consistently receives math enrichment.
- A special comment will appear on the report card for students who are in 4/5 or 5/6 accelerated math programs, which allow students to complete 1.5 years of math in 1 year.
- Mrs. Zolkower clarified that communication will continue throughout the marking period. Teachers may send home some graded assignments, which may include the scoring rubric for the assignment.
- Mrs. Zolkower reported that teachers are having lively conversations about grading, and in some cases are incorporating student self-assessments into their discussions and planning.
- In response to questions from parents at the meeting, Mrs. Zolkower stated the following:
  - Progress reports will continue to go out, with the exception of kindergarten during marking period 1.
  - The superintendent is closely monitoring marking and schools must be able to demonstrate evidence of learning.
  - Teachers are very engaged in conversations on proficiency and how to measure it. The new report card format is making sense to teachers. Parents should provide feedback on the new format, as it was largely parent input that drove changes.
  - Part of the reason the change was made was to help middle schools understand where students are when they enter. However, the standards-based marking system used in MCPS elementary schools does not directly correlate to the MCPS middle school marking system.
- Additional MCPS resources are available at:  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/report-cards.aspx>

## 11. AOB

Siobhan Carroll

- Siobhan announced that the change from the old PTA listserv hosted on Yahoo! to the new community Google-based listserv and group would occur during the week of October 9<sup>th</sup>. Siobhan will circulate additional information to both lists.
- Lyle stated that anyone who was part of the Yahoo! group as of August 18<sup>th</sup> has already been added to [community@hves-pta.org](mailto:community@hves-pta.org).
- The new group allows users to elect to receive emails in digest format.

- Lyle clarified that you need a Google account to log into the Google Group page, but you need not have a Gmail address. Email Lyle at [admin@hves-pta.org](mailto:admin@hves-pta.org) should you need assistance.
- Siobhan concluded the meeting at 8:47 pm.