

# PGES PTA Meeting Notes

December 15, 2022 in the school library and available virtually for staff and parents

## Attendees:

**Jennifer Keiber, Cari Santiago, Hillary Martell,** Cassie Fick, Jessica Appel, Erin McKenna, Jessica Dolon, Erica Reinhardt, Katie Kowal, Amanda McNeeley, Kim Warner, Andrea Wiseman, Laura Frederick, Kim McCray

**Virtual Attendees (their log in name):** Theresa A, Kelly Clute, Chris and Liz Jacobs, Riley Dougherty, Morgan Kelley, Liz Hall

**Staff Present:** Principal Lewis, Assistant Principal Markle, Lauren DeMonbrun

Meeting called to order at 6:36 by President Jennifer Keiber

**Welcome:** Meeting started with Jen giving a huge thank you to everyone so far this year. We've had so many people step up in committees and other volunteer opportunities and it has been incredibly helpful to the board. You are truly appreciated!

Cari – Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting with Kim McCray as a second. – approved

**Treasurer Report:** The dance was an unaccounted-for success! The committee did a wonderful job and the first dance raised roughly \$1,200. Hopefully the second dance does as well!

American Education Week – we raised about \$200 through the student and staff offerings, and have some materials left over that we'll be able to incorporate into other events over the rest of the year.

As of this night, we have roughly \$24,000 in our bank account. This does not account for outstanding checks (roughly \$3,700) and known upcoming expenses (yearbooks, teacher appreciation week, field trips, assemblies, etc.).

**Principal's Report:** Hearing and Vision testing will occur in January. They try to stagger grade levels for this, we believe it's grades: Pre-K, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> and additional students and testing can be recommended by Mrs. Franker (our School's Nurse). If you have concerns and would like to make sure that your child is tested, please reach out to her via email ([KFranker@bcps.org](mailto:KFranker@bcps.org))

Assistant Principal Markle sent out a "bus tracking" link that she received from Transportation. This will let parents see the information that the school is getting in real time. The PGES staff will continue to try and call/text updates to parents in the moment, but their priority is the safety of the kids still in their care and sending out updates is often impacted by the number of staff in the building. This system will not be perfect, but the hope is that over time, we will be able to get complete and real time updates.

**Teachers Update:** Per Mrs. DeMonbrun – the laser show was so much fun! It is wonderful, for both students and staff, to have assemblies back in the building.

Thank you to the PTA for helping "blast" the information for Spirit Week.

All grade levels are actively (if they have not already) planning a field trip for the spring.

**Student Support Network:** The Thanksgiving distribution went really well and all 50 food bundles went home with families! Thank you to the Jacobs family for receiving the food while Cari was at work, and for everyone else who volunteered to be there. The support that the PTA community has given the SSN is absolutely wonderful and appreciated!!!

We are doing a winter distribution on December 21, 2022 from 4-5:30pm. Families will get 2 frozen lasagnas (family sized), a chicken, a 10 pound box of produce, a \$25 grocery gift card, household and hygiene items, as well as bags of non perishable food. A local church (I believe it is Linden Heights United Methodist Church) has also come forward and is working with Mrs. Kubala to provide their own gift card donation which we will pass out for them. This event will be much smaller in scale (only 23 families), so additional help is not needed at this time, but thank you to those who have offered!

**Reading Incentive/Bookmark:** going well! Last month about 270 kids turned theirs in. So far we have roughly 240 students who have done it every month.

**Family Events:** the next dance is January 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8. Doors will open at 6:15 and the committee has already met to trouble shoot the bottle neck in the beginning. The playlist will also be adjusted to reflect the younger age group and to try and give them more “activities.”

The first dance was a huge success and ran so smoothly! So many volunteers stepped up the day of and it really helped!

Mr.Pugh is once again donating his equipment, it is not yet known if he will want to step up and DJ again, but that is something the committee is open to.

The raffle baskets did really well and the committee is looking to repeat this. If you have any items or pre made baskets that you would like to donate to the cause, please reach out to either Erica or Brian.

**Student Appreciation:** December assembly went well! Thank you to the volunteers who came into school that day to help!

We're looking at April to have the Catonsville High School Steel Drum band come and perform.

Should we do a Valentine's Day gift? (if you have any ideas, please let us know!)

Do we do testing snacks? State testing is in the Spring for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Do we do a small gift of encouragement before testing starts? A Kona Ice party when it's over? It was agreed that the committee should take this on, if they're willing, but it is a separate line item in the budget. They will more than likely need volunteers for this, so be on the lookout.

**Yearbook:** Cover is selected (done by a 5<sup>th</sup> grader)

Waiting to hear back from the company about the protocol when a child has had a picture retake

**Fundraising:** ***WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THIS COMMITTEE!*** Please reach out if you are interested in helping! It does not have to be a large commitment, you can start small with a restaurant night, but we really need to start building this committee to help lighten Katie Norton's load and set up a strong foundation moving forward!

AEW and the Dance were last month

Class Party letters are going out to teachers before break – this is for classes that earned a party and the letter gives options (the teacher is more than welcome to make a suggestion/ask if they have a new idea) for the parties that the PTA will pay for and acquire materials for.

Could Pie Night be a fundraising opportunity? Either via a pizza food truck or volunteers selling pre bought pizza by the slice? Dominic's does a pizza deal for schools, so we should look into that.

**Teacher Appreciation:** The Thanksgiving Pies from Fenwick went well! We also did a small surprise at the end of AEW with Granola bars and drinks, basically as “yay! You made it!” lol

The before break breakfast will be on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A sign up genius is posted and people can drop stuff off at school at 8am on the 20<sup>th</sup> or at Cari's house the evening before.

The first “Kindness Cart” will happen tomorrow, a huge thanks for Liz Hall for heading this one up!

**Spirit Wear:** Erin is sorting it right now. It made about \$280 in profit, which will be rolled over into future items that will be bought up from (Car magnets, stickers, and the like). It was suggested that the car magnets not have any geographically identifiable information on them.

The idea of a “Swag Swap” was brought up – maybe at the next meeting? Also decorating a bin for spirit wear donations that does not look like a trash can?

Many families missed the deadline, so is there a potential to open this again in January?

We did not meet the minimum for the hats. If we do this again, it was agreed that the PTA would buy the additional items needed to meet the minimum (within reason) and can sell them on memberhub at a later date.

**New Business:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee – looking for volunteers (be on the lookout on FB and email about this opportunity) to help Mrs. Daniels and Mr. Manzo with end of the year activities. Including, but not limited to: yearbook signing event, end of the year party, spring field trip, any other 5<sup>th</sup> grade specific event. A group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders have already started talks about what they would like to see happen.

Bus Issues: See the Principal's report above in regard to communication. If your bus is not coming to your stop, or you're having issues involving timing of pick up/drop off, you need to contact Transportation. The school has nothing to do with deciding stops or the schedule.

After no additional discussion topics were voiced, the Meeting adjourned.

Please join us for our next meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023 in the school Library (and hopefully through google meets again!)