

Pine Grove Elementary School PTA  
**PTA Meeting**  
**Tuesday March 21, 2023**  
Meeting Notes

Meeting held in person (school library) and virtually via google meet.

**Attendees:**

**Jennifer Keiber, Hillary Martell, Cari Santiago, Katie Norton,** Kelly Clute, Jessica Appel, Cassie Fick, Robert Bennett, Kim McCray, Katie Kowal, Erica Reinhardt, Morgan Kelley, Erin Coolahan, Kelly Brittingham, Katie Quinn, Kim Warner, Amanda McNeeley, Rob Bennett, Dave Wiseman, Shobha Thapa, Jessica Dolan (Bold names include PTA Board Members)

Virtual Attendee: Katie Adams, Candice Matthews, Hope Hawks, Francesca Graziani, Melissa Macefe, Laura Frederick, Meagan Denham, Andrea Wiseman, Jessica Buddemyer, Erin McKenna

**Staff Attendees:** Principal Lewis, Lauren Demonbrun, Paula Cockey

Call to Order – 6:35 pm; Welcome extended by Jen K, president of the PTA.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the PTA General Meeting held on February 21, 2023 was in agreement for approval by Katie Kowal and second by Robert Bennett.

The **Treasurer Report** was submitted by Hillary M. Outgoing funds will be going towards 3 field trips, potential final assembly of the year, teacher appreciation week, and staff reimbursements. We will have around \$5,000 remaining. We would like to carry over \$3,000 for summer happenings (pre-k/kindergarten play days) as well as to fund the beginnings of the fall fundraiser. At the next PTA meeting, there should be an updated projected budget for the 2023-2024 school year. Please keep in mind that this year's budget was acting off a large surplus from the previous school year (funds not used due to COVID protocol limitations and other miscellaneous

funds). The 2022 Fall Fundraiser brought in just under what we made in 2021.

**Principal Lewis** shared a thank you for those that attended the STEAM night. It was a great event enjoyed by all. Four students received honors in writing excellence for submitting entries in the Black History Month writing contest. Ms. Kubala is being recognized as a nominee as school counselor of the year. Summer school invitations will be sent out soon for students needing extra support. Pre-k and Kindergarten round up will be happening on 4/13 and 4/14. Please contact the front office to schedule your 15 minute appointment. The playground is almost complete. The school is waiting on a final woodchip delivery and benches. MSDE report card showed Pine Grove Elementary with 4 out of 5 stars. Testing will begin in grades 3-5 after Mrs. Markle's return on 3/30.

**Teacher Update:** Mrs. DeMonbrun shared that the students have enjoyed the bracelets that have been given for St. Patrick's day. STEAM night was a great time. The monthly reading incentives are wonderful. A teacher suggested a possible restaurant night fundraiser at Mama Lucia's. The SEL feedback from the teachers was positive, but not indicative of warranting purchase at this time.

The **Student Support Network** will hold their spring distribution on March 30th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the car Loop area. Please contact Mrs. Kubala if you would like to be included in this distribution. 37 families have already reached out. We have enough to serve 45 families. Volunteers are needed to help after 1:00pm. Email or contact Cari Santiago if you are able to help out. [cari\\_suarez@yahoo.com](mailto:cari_suarez@yahoo.com)

Committee Reports:

**Reading incentive / Bookmark:** Amanda McNeely shared that currently 219 students have completed bookmarks for all of the months or

missed just one. The committee is starting to plan for the Kona Ice end of year celebration. Possibly ordering shirts for the students who have made it to the celebration. More students in grades K through 3 have completed reading bookmarks versus grades four and five. The committee is looking at the first Thursday in June (12:30-3:30) as the day to celebrate the reading accomplishments. Students really enjoyed the zipper bracelets. There will be a need to look at the budget for next school year as all supplies have been used up this year.

**Family Events:** Erica from the family events committee shared they are planning a spring event for the school community. This will be held on May 12th at 6:00pm-8:00pm. The event includes a family fun picnic with possible food trucks, food and non-food sales. The committee will be offering raffles. Also, looking to have music or DJ at the event.

**Student appreciation:** Jessica A. shared that there was a teacher request to look into having a play/theater assembly as many children are unable to experience this type of creative art. Arts for Learning Maryland is a possible option for a pre-k-5 geared Shakespeare assembly. If unable to schedule this for the end of the year, this will be a great option for next year. There was also a suggestion for players of the Baltimore Blast to come to school. For next year, they will continue to look into the steel drum band or a local high school play.

**Spirit-Wear:** Katie K. shared they have created three new designs and will have students vote on the next shirt design. They are looking at prices at Fully Promoted and Charm City. They are planning to order 50-60 shirts to sell at the Earth Day event and the Spring Family event. Still have around 19 hats to sell at future events.

**Teacher Appreciation:** Cari S. shared that the committee will send around the kindness cart on March 22nd. Please look for volunteer opportunities during Teacher Appreciation Week May 8-12.

**Advocacy:** Morgan K. addressed a bullying concern that was brought to her attention. Principal Lewis shared that if there is a concern to please contact administration first. There is a structured process that is in place to field these concerns. She asked that you come with evidence of the incident, dates, what happened, witnesses, etc. The administration will get statements from all involved. Morgan would like to make sure families are aware of this process as well as many other school based processes that are likely unfamiliar to most such as the SST/IEP process, bullying, guidance needs. Principal Lewis wants to have open communication with the families of PGE. Please talk with her about any concerns. Ms. D. shared that she will reach out to teachers to find out what anti-bullying programs have been used in the past. The PTA will look to provide links for a variety of resources that the school has to offer. If there is a bus issue, please speak with the bus driver so that they can file a bus report.

**Yearbook:** Katie A. shared that roughly 50 yearbooks have been sold to date. The link for fifth grade parents to submit shout outs for their fifth grade students will close on 3/22. Shout outs messages only have sold well over 30 messages and shout out plus a baby photo sold over 25. The committee is on schedule to send out the yearbook on 4/11 for a distribution date of 6/7. Two student cover winners will be announced next week.

**Fundraising:** Katie N. shared she will work on a quarterly calendar for next year that will have all the upcoming events in one place. Katie learned from the Student Support Network that universal free meals for all students for the 2023-2024 school year were approved by BCPS.

We hope to do more restaurant fundraisers next year as well as smaller fundraisers to possibly include Taharka Bros. ice cream, J.Crew Factory, etc. It was brought up to have a fundraiser where the school sells an item (chocolate, popcorn, candy etc.) and if this was something that might bring in extra funds.

**5th Grade Parent Committee:** Jen K. shared that the committee has set up fun events for the 5th grade. This included a field trip they went on last week. They are planning an outdoor movie night on 5/5. Fundraisers planned to support these events include a Chick-Fil-A night on 3/30, Panda Cakes (pick up on 3/30), Baskin Robbins night on 4/20. A non-PTA, non-school sponsored event is being hosted by the Pine Ridge Pool for 5th grade families on 6/6. A family night at the Iron Birds Stadium will be held on 6/10. Seats will be available for purchase by families. Yard signs saying “We are proud of our PGE 5th grader” will be for sale for \$20 a sign. The farewell party and yearbook signing party are already covered by the PTA budget.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Earth Day will be celebrated on 4/22 with a table at the Cromwell Valley Nature Center. Kids can complete a scavenger hunt, create a bird feeder, and explore the nature center on this day. The Rangers there are available for future events at school for free. We will look to utilize this opportunity in the Fall.

Katie K. researched a SEL Curriculum proposal called “Move This World”. At this time the PTA is not going to move forward with this proposal.

A proposal was made for the PTA to use funds to pay for a digital marquee in front of school. Principal Lewis shared that she is waiting on people to come out to let her know what kind of sign would be best. If you have connections to this type of work, please reach out to the PTA. A suggestion was to look into a possible grant relating to technology to support this project. If you have any experience writing grants, please reach out to the PTA to help with this project.

PTA executive board holds office for 2-year terms. The current executive board terms are up at the end of June. Please reach out to a current board member if you are interested in running for a board position.

A nominating committee is needed to review nominees and present them 15 days prior to the last general meeting. 2 members have committed to being on this committee. We are looking for a third member to round out the nominating committee.

A budget committee is being proposed to help with focusing the needs of our school community with the funds the PTA is bringing in. If you are interested in being a part of this committee please reach out to the PTA. The PTA is looking to create a survey with what you feel is most important and what we should dream big for in the future. Budget voters have to be members of the PTA.

### **New Business:**

A scholarship for a high school senior is being offered (1-\$500 OR 2-\$250 value) to a PGE alum graduating from a local high school.

The Parkville Rec. Baseball program reached out to see if the PTA would like to run the concession stand during a Saturday game day. The PTA would keep all of the earnings from these sales. The PTA would be looking for volunteers to support this event.

PTA will be looking for volunteers for th Pre-k/Kindergarten round up event in April.

### **Open Discussion:**

Kelly is lobbying to create open gardening spaces at Cromwell Valley Nature Center. Please reach out if interested in supporting this project.

Principal Lewis shared that students are interested in clearing up the garden behind the school. Please look out for more information on how to support this project.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17th at 6:30 in the school library. Virtual link to be sent at a later time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm