

Hillsmere Elementary PTA Meeting

May 10, 2011

7:02- **Call to Order**

7:02- **Roll Call** (Sonja) – so far no new members since last meeting.

7:03 – **Minutes Approval** (March and April)- motion to approve March and April minutes- all approved

7:04- **President's report**- Reminder last meeting moved to June 7 (instead of June 14th the last day of school)

7:07- **Treasurer's report**- we are in good shape- Blackeyed Susan and Chessie book party coming in media center soon- Also outstanding : receipts from Teacher Appreciation, Field Day, and promotion ceremony

We will transfer funds from 'excess' monies (above amount needed to keep for next year) to tech fund after we see the balance June 7th. We have not spent whole budget so next year hopefully we will have more money for good programs and to support students and teachers

7:10- **Mrs. Usewick**- The teachers love the Kurig coffee and tea maker we got them for Teacher Appreciation week and the Die Cut shapes for the Die Cut machine- big cheer from the teachers. Request for \$1700 for tech fund from mulch sale- will give to treasurer. Remember Mr. Truffer (Regional Superintendent) got us 3 SMART boards and we need 6 more. Still need 3 document cameras.

The ED Transitional program is leaving at the end of the school year.

High Road Academy is coming- this is it's own program for students with severe learning disabilities. The Transitional Rooms will be reconfigured to fit this. They have a teacher and an assistant and up to 10 students- grades 2-5. Two of our Hillsmere students will be able to attend. The students will join everyone in science and social studies with an assistant in the classrooms.

Harvest for Hungry- we brought in enough food to rank us 5th in the state- we will be recognized by MSDE on May 20 in Baltimore. Five people from Hillsmere will join the ceremony.

Promotion is June 14th at 9:30. 5th grade teachers are not involved in the after ceremony party. Heather Giovingo (from PTA) is in charge of the party after the ceremony. A letter is coming home.

Early Dismissals June 9-14.

So far, we are not losing or gaining any teachers other than the reading teacher that we knew about last year. We don't know which teachers are leaving or staying. We are a closed school meaning that no new out-of-area students will be accepted... not even siblings.

7:18- **Volunteer Committee**- We'd like to have a full committee where each grade group has a representative to help with the volunteer committee. We need someone for first grade to manage this grade group. After the beginning of the year coordination the maintenance is not as much work- this person can double as the room parent- the jobs are different enough. We would also like to put together a packet for next fall for the parents to describe what every committee does- Committee heads please write this for us so that

we can recruit parents. Tell us how many parents volunteers you'd like and what they would do. We will email something around with a form to fill out. The other thing is if you have been volunteering and you'd like to provide feedback, please do so.

Question: Will these coordinators also make sure the video is seen? **Answer:** we will continue to work on that.

Be vigilant on field trip chaperones- as there is a need for a background check every three years- it takes 3 weeks to get them back... If you leave school with the kids you have to have a background check... see Mrs. Fairfax.

7:27 **Political Advocacy-** The budget was written and approved by Bd of Ed... there is a budget hearing tomorrow night- Is the benefit of going purely educational... at 7:00 at the Arundel Center. Wear Red... or brightly colored shirts. The mayor heard that Hillsmere was the only elementary school at the Hill Night. Keep emailing Leopold and the other county council members. I'd like to continue over the summer when the capital improvement budgets are approved and discussed...

7:32 **Tech Fund-** we will know the exact number June 7 that can be donated to the tech fund for ordering stuff. Recycling- some stuff is what they can't take- so be careful. This is not a junk yard- she is taking stuff to the county dump... So be careful that what you donate is on the approved list of what is eligible. Suggest that we make a donation day one time per week- or at the Fun Fair or Concerts... or something like that. Others are volunteering to help drive things to the dump if that helps. We are not sure how many points we have to get equipment... we should know at the end of June. Next year we will have new fundraisers. We will let you know soon.

7:37 **Landscaping-** Mrs. Ferrer ran the program along with Mr. Ferrer, Mr and Mrs Hanna and Mrs. Meiser and some PTA members as well. Erin O'Neill is running the Ches Bay backyard club here at Hillsmere and then at CBF alternating Wednesdays. We are looking for a new bench to put next to the other bench and maybe we will be able to offer an outdoor classroom. If there is someone doing gardening outdoors of the school maybe ask them if they are supposed to be there.

Question- how will the area around the sign... **Answer-** we pay a company to weed and get rid of them- the flowers are native so are self sustaining.

7:42 **Robotics-** Plea- if you want it to be around for the Fall and Winter next year for your student, consider volunteering to run it so that it can be sustained. For 4th and 5th graders... as the concepts for the programming is best for this grade. Can be morning or afternoon- depends on the instructor...

Discussion:

Remember we can't vote on anything for next year's budget until after July 1.

St Anne's offered to share before and after care... We need to get together with them...

Friday Night Science – once per month... Handsonlearning.com – Consider speaking to Shaun Stemmler about how this might work.... There is a form that needs to be filled out- Remember a teacher has to ‘give up’ his/her classroom to host it. And you have to be able to pay for the space.

Friday Night Science Club meets once per week at Benfield Elemn.

All we need is if the PTA needs to fund it- turn in money request beginning July 1. Is there a reason why our PTA is not in charge of vendors? Because we typically sponsor clubs that the PTA can completely fund- so it is free or reduced cost for the students. If the parents pay for all the services then that is run by the school.

Should we have a person to help coordinate the calendar with vendors- like after school activities or before school activities? Not necessary at this point.

Also consider that you have to have a staff member present at any before or after school activity.

If we have friends in other areas whose kids are doing something we’d like to have- go ahead and ask about it and let’s see if we can get the program to Hillsmere....

Idea- put it in the Buzz- for outside vendors...

Mrs. Usewick: Remember we want to consider all of the kids who don’t have transportation or money to pay for the programs... let’s make sure we have a good balance of PTA sponsored activities and outside vendor activities. We have scholarships- the student assistance club- and maybe we should look for an easier way for parents to ask.

Put ‘confidential scholarships’ are available for things that cost money.

8:04- The nominations for the PTA board- SY 2011-2012

Yari Edstrom- 1st VP

Kathi Lynch- 2nd VP- membership

Stacey Cooper- treasurer

Kaile Bower- secretary

Motion- unanimous vote

John Wilfong- The Greater Annapolis Patch- I live in Hillsmere and am leader of this since January. I am a freelance writer and now take over this site... I noticed that there are 6-7 story ideas that could be on our site- You don’t need a big story or activity or photo. The landscaping project- I could have put that in this patch... I want to reach out to you all as parents of public school kids- The patch is just me and I have a few bloggers and videographers and calendar- you can post anything on the calendar.

I want to put the sports in PAL, Annapolis Soccer... I just need a name and an email and I might be there- and you can send me photos and info. This is for Hillmere, Bay Ridge,

and Parole. When on this site Great Annapolis Patch is under Maryland- look for “G” Greater Annapolis- you can also put in your zip code...

www.Patch.com

Comment- Thanks for the coverage of the electronic drive- we had a lot of community participation due to this.

Answer: My only other elementary school is Rolling Knolls... so I will do everything that I can.

Question: if you are doing an article how are you allowed to take photos with or without permission?

Answer- No legal issue like it is at the school. No names are usually offered unless the parent gives express permission. If you call me and ask me to cover an event- like a finalist in a contest- use the list from the beginning of school to make sure any kid should not be photographed. – Mrs. Wagner is very good at checking this.

PTA_ make sure you have permission to photograph before having the Patch invited in to take photos- or know who does not have permission so the photographer knows whom he/she can take photos of...

Can we have The Patch cover The Harvest for the Hungry citation from MSDE May 20. All you have to do is contact Yadi (outreach coordinator for upcoming school year HESPTAVP@gmail.com) by email - she will take care of permissions and let the editor know to try and cover this. The WizKid- is a feature that we can use to show off the students of the month... etc...

8:33- Motion to adjourn-