

## **PTA Meeting Minutes October 6, 2009**

PTA President Jacque Carey called the October 6th meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Jacque introduced the 2009/2010 PTA officers to all in attendance.

The minutes from the September 1st meeting were not available to review, and it was decided to review and approve both the September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> minutes at the November meeting.

### **Principal's Report**

Principal Oduyoye introduced herself and welcomed all parents. She is looking forward to a great year.

*Carpool Safety* – A staff member is outside on patrol. Unfortunately, cars are still zooming by. Please share with others the importance of the safety of our children and encourage people to slow down.

*Emergency Card* – Please make sure your cards are updated.

*Health Room* – All are concerned about the seasonal flu and H1N1. Please keep children home if they have fever, and/or flu like symptoms for at least 24 hrs after the fever has gone away without medication. This is a requirement issued by the MD Health Department. The school is required to report the daily number of children sent to the Health Room. Please encourage hand washing. Also, please advise your children not to share or touch the food of others.

*Families with Children with Disabilities* - There is a workshop being offered on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am – 12 noon for parents with children with disabilities. Please visit the Howard County website for additional information.

*Howard County Public School System and Gator News email alerts* – eschool news, the email alert system in place last year has changed. The new system is Howard County Public School System News. You must sign up to receive the newsletters, as information from eschool did not carry forward. Please sign up to receive the latest school updates at <https://www.hcpsnews.com/user/userdefault.aspx>.

*Field Trips* – 1<sup>st</sup> grade is going to Toby's on October 27th and the Fire Department is visiting the school on October 7th

### **President's Report**

*HCPSS alert* – There are no flu vaccines coming to the school. Please visit the HC website for the latest updates.

October is Parent Involvement Month.

There will be Coffee & Conversations held on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

We will be collecting coats at our Sock Hop on October 23rd. We are asking for donations of new or gently used coats.

*After school activities* – The enrollment has been slow thus far in the school year. The PTA is encouraging all to participate.

### **Treasurer's Report**

There were copies of the monthly budget and cash activities from September. You can find copies posted on the PTA website. We have received \$1,700 in membership dues and an additional \$740 in donations. During our Family Bingo night we received \$110 in donations. The expenditures from Family Bingo Night were \$580 and the receipts were \$618 thus resulting in a profit of \$40. Family Bingo Night is not a fundraiser; rather it is a family activity. Another major disbursement made in September was a \$400 deposit for our 1<sup>st</sup> Cultural Arts show, which will be held for all grades on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Currently we have budgeted \$3,000 for Academic Enrichment. Each team is allocated \$200. This amount is given to each team lead after our Sally Foster and Otis Spunkmeyer fundraisers, which collectively are the PTA's biggest fundraisers. The funds will be disbursed as per the guidelines.

In October, we held our first "1<sup>st</sup> Friday at Chick-Fil-A". Once we obtain the results, we will provide an update. A discussion was held about what to do if people forget their GCES coupon and it was noted that (1) Chick-Fil-A discourages the distribution of coupons outside of the facility; and (2) this is offset by the fact that the cashiers will provide you with a coupon if you forget yours.

### **Committee Reports**

*Sally Foster* – We have received \$9,300 of orders as of October 7th. The orders picked up tremendously last Friday and Monday. Amy Swartz, the Committee Chair, will be managing the order entry but is asking for helpers. Ms. Dutterer or Ms. Myers can help with any student/teacher submissions. All orders must be entered by October 14<sup>th</sup>. The scheduled delivery date is November 4th. The committee will need volunteers every hour on pickup day from 4pm – 8pm. There will be a Pig Race Assembly (mechanical pig) for the highest seller in each grade. The date of the assembly has not been chosen yet.

The plan is to schedule the assembly towards the end of a school day. A T-shirt and gift bag will be given to winners.

*After School Activities* – The Spanish class was cancelled. There is an eight-student minimum. Nikki Lee will monitor interest level for spring activities. There was a suggestion raised from the audience for reminders to be sent out for any upcoming activities and what was included in the PTA packet. The “Going Green” transition is expected to take some time. After School activities advertisements will continue in the HCPSS News alerts. In addition, morning announcements have been made to students.

*HCPSS News Alerts* – As noted above, you must re-register as a result of a new vendor managing the alerts. We will put the link on the PTA website. It is <https://www.hcpsnews.com/user/userdefault.aspx>. Please remember to select Gorman Crossing to get school specific alerts (Gator News). Principal Oduyoye will add another note in Gator News and Michael Carey will add instructions to the PTA website.

*PTA Website improvement...*A suggestion was raised to add a mailing list on the website to send announcements.

*5k Run/Walk* – There were 91 participants and 140 registered. Ms Isacco thanked all who helped. There are a few child size t-shirts left. They cost \$10 each. A T-shirt contest was held for the design on the t-shirt. A different design is selected each year. It was proposed to have the t-shirt contest in the spring to have it completed well before the walk/run. It was a good event to have earlier in the school year.

There is a SIT team meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> and a “Going Green” meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

We still need a committee chair for the Spring Carnival in May. Robyn Kim, last year’s Carnival Committee Chair, will assist but cannot lead the committee.

*Old business* – The crossing guard on school property has been rectified as well as at the crosswalk. There is an auxiliary police out directing traffic on Winter Sun & Skylark. The area outside of kindergarten area has been cemented and the tree was removed.

*New business* – Chick-Fil-A 2010 calendars are still available. The order form is posted on the PTA website.

Core Essential program is entering its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. There is a new value each month. Students will receive a Chick Fil A coupon if they display the value for the month.

The PTA meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.