

**Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting**

Zoom

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

www.trespta.com

1. Welcome / Treasurer's Report –5 min- Kerry Grove, Treasurer

- Academic Enrichment funds are being used- 2 field trips
- New Spending- a little bit was spent from Staff Appreciation Budget
- Fundraising totals-
 - Income \$5683.37
 - (direct donations and membership drive -\$3082)
 - \$693 – Restaurant Nights
 - \$117- Amazon Smile
 - \$930- Taharka Brothers
 - \$550 - Kidz Art Event
 - \$310.30 School Tool Box

2. Principal's Report – 5 min- Heather Moraaff, TRES Assistant Principal

- Thank you's and shout outs- Giving Tree were so very excited! December to Remember was a great event! Thank you for the funds!
- Parent Teacher Conferences- scheduled for Feb 10th and 11th – spots will be limited, parents are asked to only sign up if they have concerns
- Testing- COGAT is being postponed- Feb 13th- March 4th- all 3rd graders will take the COGAT, and 5th grade students who do not have a previous COGAT score and 5th grade GT Math classes

3. PTACHC Report – 5 min- Indira Sharma and Chenise Henderson, Delegates

There was a presentation on **Blueprint for MD's Future** (Kirwan Commission legislation) by Dr. Caroline Walker, Interim Blueprint/Kirwan Coordinator for HCPSS and also Executive Director, Program for Wellbeing

- We are entering the budget season and a lot of decisions revolve around. We may be \$100 million behind in terms of what is needed to comply. At a very high level, the Blueprint focuses on early childhood education and expanding full day preschool to be free for all low income three and four year old so that all children being Kindergarten ready to learn. It also aims to attract high quality and diverse teachers by providing a career ladder and salary increases. It also focuses on improving college and career readiness through AP courses, early college and rigorous technical education. It also provided resources for improving mental health with a focus on community schools and trauma.
- It sounds great but it will cost a lot of money. The State will provide some funding but there will be gaps. Maybe the County will provide it. Dr. Walker is meeting with the County Council. She doesn't have any idea what the gap will be but it is not "insubstantial."

II. CARY Presentation

- Ying Matties is the President of CARY – Community Allies of Rainbow Youth which serves as an advocate for LGBTQ kids in the schools. Started three years ago at Centennial High School Gay Straight Alliance (now Gender Sexuality Alliance). Every high schools has a GSA. About ½ the middle schools have GSA. It's crucial to start supporting these kids in middle school. Kids realize their gender identity as young as 3 years old. We can't wait until high school to support them.
- Rainbow Ribbon School – a certification for any school (including elementary school) that meets certain criteria for creating a safe and affirming environment for LGBTQ kids.
- Query for TRES – Have you applied to be a Rainbow Ribbon School? Can you easily meet the criterial? I think it's worth exploring.

III. Legislative Update

Lots of new legislation. I'll focus on the ones about schools or that have an impact on schools only.

- CB7/CB8 – Adds moderate income housing to Turf Valley. Turf Valley was historically exempt from a lot of overcrowding regulations. Overcrowding negatively impacts our schools.

- CR 17 – Relates to completing streets which impacts kids getting safely to school.

- CB 9 –2022 APFO CHANGES FOR MODERATE INCOMING HOUSING

Affordable housing projects in Downtown Columbia. Sought exemptions which results in overcrowded the schools.

Deb Jung initiated the bill to address some over the overcrowding concerns. The bill said that the school system needs to provide a list of approved subdivision plans. And a representative from the developer for the project has to meet with a designee for the Superintendent to determine the assignment of schools. The problem with the bill as drafted is that it has a loophole. It basically allows the Superintendent and developer representative to make school assignments to schools that are needed to get kids out of trailers or other overcrowded situations.

PTACHC is proposing an amendment to this bill that says you can't assign space in schools to these developers for new project that is needed to alleviate existing overcrowding or that is needed to relieve kids from learning in trailers.

- PTACHC was successful in amending Policy 6010 on School Attendance Areas (Redistricting Policy) to change the target capacity at each school from 110% to 100%. PTACHC has always argued for years that we should not be striving to reach 11% at any school because that would be overcrowded. This is a significant change.

- Renaming Commission – We don't know if the schools will be renamed yet. The Commission just completed their report to rename some county buildings after former county executives. More to come later about possible school renamings.

IV. Other Business

There was some discussion at the end about sending a letter to the national PTA bodies asking them to condemn the Tik Tok challenges as part of our safe schools initiative. There have been dangerous challenges on Tik Tok including the suicide challenge. Motion passes for PTACHC to send a letter to Freestate PTA and National PTA.

4. Committee Reports – 10 min

- Yearbook Updates
 - 58 yearbooks ordered as of 1/3/2021. We need a big push to get to a minimum of 250.
 - Student photos have been loaded, verification of name spelling & grade placement is underway
 - Please share with your FB groups, friend groups and we will have a message sent out from the school, possibly from the room coordinators
- Silent Auction Update
 - Silent Auction is going to be canceled for this year due to COVID concerns
 - Working on getting refunds back from vendors
 - Won't be able to do the traditional pottery activity, but we will be able to do baskets
 - The baskets will be up for auction on International Night – will be hosted on 32 Auctions so it can be bid on virtually
- International Night
 - April 22nd – it will be an outdoor event
 - There will be performances, interactive pieces, food etc
 - Would like to put out a call for participation towards the end of this month asking for volunteers to plan as well as to participate
 - Would like to tie in the fact April 22nd is also Earth Day

- Winter Dance
 - Canceled :(
- Restaurant Fundraising Night
 - Taharka Bros Ice Cream Fundraiser – \$930 raised!
 - Chickfila Spirit Night - \$543.40 raised!
 - Upcoming - Nora Kabob 1/19 12pm-8pm - the owners children attend TRES
- Staff Appreciation
 - Walkers and the Logan Family (along with the PTA) provided lunch for staff in November
 - Secret Elves- wrapped gifts for staff-
 - February?? What can we provide for teachers on conference days?
 - Suggestion was made to have a dessert bar or some kind of “sweet” treat to go along with the idea of Valentines Day in Feb
- Giving Tree
 - 3rd grade Girl Scouts made bags to give the gift cards out
- 5th Grade Simulated Congressional Hearings Volunteers
 - Going to be virtual, Thursday June 2nd, need volunteers to participate (15 judges)
 - Was there any money allocated for judge gifts?? Kerry- no, but it’s open for discussion
- Any other Committee reports?
- 5th grade events
 - June 3rd- 5th grade end of year picnic
 - 5th grades have voted on their t-shirt, they have been ordered
 - Doing well budget wise! Will connect with the teachers to determine the needs of teachers as we close out the year

- Alison wants to post about the different events that have been planned or are already happening for the 5th grade families

5. New Business – 10 min

- Morgan Covert- got an email from the spiritwear company - we are a few \$100 away from actually making some profit – will be sending something out via room coordinators, posting on FB, Mrs. Moraff suggested having more spirit days.
- Please continue to SHARE posts from the PTA facebook page and encourage fellow TRES families to join. We would like to increase the number of people on the page, as well as our engagement.