

**Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School PTA**  
**General Membership Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**  
[www.trespta.com](http://www.trespta.com)

1. Welcome / President's Report - Victoria Budich, President
  - a. Halloween Parade - Thank you to everyone that helped with the PTA sponsored Halloween Car Parade. The PTA members gave out over 230 treat bags. We are looking forward to a 2021 Trunk or Treat event since this was so successful.
  - b. Winter and Spring Activities - We are working on some spring activities. We are hoping to have an online bingo event. 2021 PTA meeting dates will be added to our PTA calendar.
  - c. Retriever Run 5K - We are also looking forward to a Virtual Retriever Run 5K, but need a chair for this event. Please contact Victoria if you are interested.
2. Treasurer's Report –Kerry Grove, Treasurer
3. Principal's Report – Dr. Tiffany Tresler, TRES Principal
  - a. American Education Week
    - i. Parents joining SEL lessons; Mon. Kinder, Tues. 1st, Thu. 2nd/3rd, Fri. 4th/5th
    - ii. Today is Educational Support Personnel (ESP) Day! Thank you to all of the support staff at TRES- secretaries, custodians, paraeducators, food service, health office, and student assistants! Please consider visiting the staff section of the TRES website and emailing a thank you to an ESP staff member who has helped you or your child! Teachers have enjoyed the uplifting messages.
  - b. Memory Book Updates
    - i. We still have books available from last year! Link to purchase:  
<https://osp.osmsinc.com/HowardMD/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detailed%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=DA067>
    - ii. Thank you to new staff member Gina Sirene for chairing the memory books this year. She is working with the room coordinators to make the books special for this year.
    - iii. Due to timelines, we had to skip the student art cover contest this year. TREaSure wearing a paw print face mask with a TRES Strong No Matter the Distance Shirt.
    - iv. New this year- purchase directly from the vendor and shipped to parents.
  - c. Scholastic Book Fair
    - i. Thank you to our media specialist, Laura Spangler, for organizing!
    - ii. Helps raise funds for our media center and media programming, such as books and author visits.
    - iii. Shipping directly to parents.
    - iv. See TRES website for details (on front page) and Friday's Retriever Report
  - d. Parent Conferences

- i. Parent conferences are Mon-Wed next week, with most teachers conferencing on Mon & Tues afternoon through the evening.
- ii. Conferences scheduling in Synergy closes tomorrow (11/19) to give teachers time to prepare. Call the TRES front office if you experience difficulties scheduling a conference in Synergy.
- e. Copy Principal's Secretary on time sensitive emails to Dr. Tresler, please.
- f. Attitude of Gratitude- I continue to be thankful for the TRES staff family for all they do everyday! They are truly an amazing and caring staff!

4. PTACHC Report – Nicole Koonce and Jianning Zeng, Delegates

PTACHC held online training for PTA Officers. Main vote from the November 9th meeting was regarding school resource officers. We voted to keep SRO's in buildings.

5. Committee Reports – 10 min

- a. Gift of Thanks: Catherine Steiner- Emails have been sent by the Room Coordinators regarding the Gifts of Gratitude Program that is now under way. This is wonderful way for our TRES Faculty and Staff to be shown appreciation, especially at this time. All gifts will be added up and applied to a gift card of the staff member's choice. A thank you card listing the family's name will be given to those that receive gifts. The amounts will be kept confidential. This program will take the place of Room Coordinators collecting class gifts. The deadline to give is set for Wednesday, November 25th.
- b. Room Coordinators: Catherine Steiner - I'm so pleased to let everyone know that we have Room Coordinator volunteers. We are looking for one more volunteer. We need a Room Coordinator for our fifth grade teacher, Ms. Bell. Each of the Room Coordinators has been sent an email with the communication about Committee Heads who will be contacting them with regards to First Grade Young Authors, Fifth grade activities, Gifts of Gratitude and the Memory Book.
- c. Outreach: Francoise and Sarah are logging in tonight and will give their update on the Outreach committee.

- d. Retriever Run: Leslie Toussaint - The 5K is stalled at the moment because we don't have a committee chair.
- e. Cultural Arts: Leslie Toussaint - The BOE announcement makes things dicey for our cultural arts residency. I checked in with Mrs. Schalik and will hopefully have an update this evening on how she wants to proceed.
- f. New Business: Leslie Toussaint - The new BOE will swear in on Dec 7. I invited Dr. Yun Lu, our incoming BOE representative, to attend our next PTA meeting in January. Both her kids are TRES alums, and she was very happy to be invited to engage with us.

6. Special Guest – Senator Hester Questions from the Community:

1. How will the potential additional funds for education coming from sports betting measure that passed in this past election is planned/taken into account for school budgets in the future? From: Jen Sonnenleiter

*Answer- In 2018, you may have voted for the “lockbox amendment” to the Maryland Constitution for Maryland Casino funds. The way that works, is that there is specific language in that bill requiring that says the money that goes into and comes from that fund be used to supplement, and not supplant existing education funding, which was the operative problem prior to the passage of that amendment. The vast majority of the funds that come to the State from sports betting will go into that lockbox, which now ensures it will be stacked on top of the existing education budget.*

2. We've seen some private sector partnerships to support distance learning, like the one with Comcast here in HoCo. Is the state doing anything to incentivize these types of partnerships with education and technology vendors, like Khan Academy, Microsoft, Google, etc?

From: Matt Watchinski

*Answer - At this point no, which is really unfortunate because I think you're right on the money here. In speaking with teachers around the District, the pressure they are under because of the shift to online or hybrid in the case of Carroll County, is almost unimaginable. They're telling me they're working 12+ hours a day to get all of these things set up. At the same time, because they're under the pressure they are, they don't have the bandwidth to develop robust online education opportunities for students in the way that. It's no one's fault in particular here, the system is just under a lot of pressure. If you read my letter to the Board of Education from earlier this year, I have been advocating forcefully for this because I think it would result in better online education programs for our students, and would relieve pressure on our parents and teachers. So I think the suggestion is totally right, and I'm exploring options at the State level to see how we can make this a reality for more families in our community*

3. How is the state government supporting local districts to ready them for re-opening school buildings? Is the state able to assist with procuring PPE, plexiglass dividers, additional desks, cleaning supplies and increased staffing?

From: Leslie Toussaint

*Answer - In my letter to the BOE and the Superintendent earlier this year, I also raised this point. In their response they said that none of the school systems had cited this as a point of difficulty, which is just diametrically opposed to what I've been hearing, so I made the strong suggestion that they go ask our jurisdictions about this. Obviously, you can probably tell by now I have not been particularly impressed by MSDE's performance here, I really feel like they have not done enough to support our localities with PPE, provide clear guidance, get HVAC systems up, etc. I think they view it as "if it's handled*

*it's handled," but I view this more as "what is the best way to do this, with limited resources." This is a problem the State should be more proactive in addressing.*

Below you'll find reference to a letter to the Board of Ed, which you can find at this link

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2020/10/19/sen-hester-msde-do-more-to-support-local-school-districts-during-pandemic/>). The Board of Education also sent a response back, which your members can see here

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2020/10/23/education-dept-responds-to-senator-state-is-working-closely-and-collaboratively-with-local-schools/>).