

**November 2017**  
**WES PTA Meeting**  
November 1st, 2017 - WES Media Center

**In Attendance**

Tracy McEvoy  
Lorenza Biagioni  
Ellie Paczkowski  
Shari Haddaway  
Rachel Edoho-Eket  
Kelly Van Horn  
Stephanie Green

Nancy Pitrone  
Kelly Balchunas  
Alison Cuomo  
Kathy Jacobs  
Fiona Mosley  
Scarlett Goon  
Libbey Cannon

**Executive Board Reports**

**Kelly Balchunas**

**President**

Thank you to all the committees hard at work!

There is a PTA bin in the office mail room. The bin contains folders for each Executive Board member and all committees. If you have PTA checks or other mail they should be placed in the folders in this bin.

Conferences are coming soon 11/20-22. The Hospitality Committee will be providing dinner and that will be the last planned Hospitality sponsored event this school year.

The yearbook company, Tree Ring, has become an approved vendor. Kathy Jacobs worked very hard to get Tree Ring approved by HCPS. The PTA has a few volunteers who like to take pictures and some who like to do layout work. Kelly Van Horn volunteered to coordinate yearbook sales.

Kelly Van Horn will also oversee restaurant nights. The PTA is looking to host 3. Chipotle is one restaurant and we are looking for two others. Nancy Pitrone will make the flyers.

Basket Bingo (BB) is underway. The PTA currently has 4 people dedicated to soliciting. Information is organized on a Google Doc spreadsheet. We need more than 4 people to make BB successful. People would not necessarily be dedicated to soliciting. Kelly Balchunas is considering reaching out to Dani Boarman to get information about organization tips to make this BB successful. Everybody is going to have to pitch in on this - including the Ex Board. There will be teacher experiences and theme baskets per grade. We are not doing the grade/class crafts up for auction. Help is needed to solidify details. Currently Kelly Balchunas is the BB point of contact.

MHHS is hosting a BB on the 17th of November. Attendance is encouraged so that we can see how a successful BB operates. Mrs Atkins from Oakland Mills HS would be a good resource for Kelly Balchunas to get additional guidance on Basket Bingo. Things to think about - having a location to store all the donated items. Also people volunteering hours to put the baskets together.

The PTA needs to get BB information in front of people - put on FB, put on WES PTA page, etc. BB is scheduled for Feb 22nd

**Lorenza Biagioni**

**Treasurer**

1. Total income for October was \$7,131.16, from membership dues, the hassle-free campaign and school supply kits.
2. Total expense for October was \$6,589.02, from membership dues, cultural arts, school wide incentives, staff appreciation, hall rental deposit and general expenses.
3. Our 2016/2017 tax return was filed with the IRS and they acknowledged receipt of it.
4. Our first payment to Maryland PTA for membership cards is due, we currently have 358 financial members – 275 parents and 83 staff. We owe \$1,521.50 (358 x \$4.25).
5. The Hassle-free campaign is going well, so far, we have collected \$8633.00 in donations – which is only \$1367.00 away from our budget. Thank you everyone!
6. Instructional Assistance letters have been sent out, staff now have until March 1, 2018 to present their receipts for reimbursement.
7. It's time to start organizing restaurant nights for this school year.
8. I will also be updating our State of Maryland charitable registration, which is due Dec 31.
9. Reimbursement checks will in folders in the PTA bin in the WES office mail room.

**Ellie Paczkowski**

**Membership Secretary**

Ellie is keeping up with the membership cards but hasn't delivered them to parents yet because want to only do it once. Will probably deliver in the next couple of weeks when we think all the parents who will sign up have signed up.

**Tracy McEvoy**

**Recording Secretary**

Thank you to each PTA Committee head and/or anyone listed on the PTA meeting agenda who completes the Google Form sent out before each meeting. Your response helps the meeting to be more efficient and inclusive. No update responses are just as appreciated!

## **PTAHC Report**

**Ruchira Mahajan**

As per the meeting agenda for November 06, 2017...

### 1. President Report:

President had a short introductory talk and mentioned that members in Howard County legislation would be coming for December meeting.

### 2. Reading of the Mission:

Develop activities to meet every child potential. Support and encourage parents' involvement.

Advocate for all children. Take decisions so as to include all children.

### 3. Superintendent Report:

There will be 3 Townhall meetings—

1. November 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm Atholton High School
2. January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm Riverhill High School
3. May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm Mount Hebron high School

Community cabinet Meeting:

February 27<sup>th</sup> Oakland Mills High/Middle School

Superintendent led an event about anti-bullying in Atholton High School on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Give lot more attention to prevent bullying.

Video is available to watch at link below--

<http://www.hcpss.org/news-posts/2017/10/hcpss-interim-superintendent-joins-students-and-community-to-eliminate-bullying/>

### 4. BOE Report:

Schedule for BOE meetings---

1. November 7<sup>th</sup>
2. November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm
3. November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm
4. November 14<sup>th</sup> in Boardroom
5. November 16<sup>th</sup> Final decision will be made.

All the meetings will be live and web streamed.

No final decision about school start time for the academic year 2018-19 is made yet.

Having any question contact board office for the same. Superintendent and chairs will be meeting to talk about this on Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.

## 5. SECAC Report:

### 1. Resources to know more about SECAC events and activities—

<http://howardcountysecac.com/>

[secacchair@gmail.com](mailto:secacchair@gmail.com)

Twitter page @HoCosecac

All the meeting dates are on the website.

Overcrowded schools impact special education instructional time.

Focus on five key areas for special education-

Staffing, training, instructional compliance, IEP and social skills

Need public comments. Ask parents to give feedback.

Job description for the special education position requirements should include specialized area professionals and position should not be generalized.

### 2. Inclusive School week –

[www.Inclusiveschools.org](http://www.Inclusiveschools.org)

Inclusive schools week is December 4-8 2017

“Theme is –Stand Up sit Tall for Inclusion of all”

To be included is the individual civil right. Develop shared vision for success for all.

Ask teachers to incorporate inclusive practices in morning announcements.

Weblink: <http://inclusiveschools.org/2017-inclusive-schools-week-theme/>

## 6. HCDrug Free Presentation:

- Be a parent and companion for your child
- For ant medical procedure, learn true need of opioids
- Talk to Doctor
- Keep all medicines at any safe location at home, out of reach from children, bathrooms/kitchen cabinets are not safe place for medicine storage.
- Timely dispose old/expired medicines
- On October 28<sup>th</sup> event, collected about 1200 lbs of medicine
- School system follow Progressive policy if a child is found with any drugs in school and accordingly suspensions are ordered as applicable.
- Make kids aware for raspberry candies.. which are not really candies.
- High school students can join HCDrugFree student advisory council
- Try to postpone for kids need to have any medication/opioids for better brain development and personality growth.
- Numbers for death in howard county from January 2017-till now---
  - Any type of overdose death - 45

- Opioid overdose - 40
- Heroin - 36
- Autopsy - 5
- Non-fatal opioid overdose - 141
- Stand up together to spread awareness and children's safety
- Know about National Drug Take Back day

7. Committee Updates about policy:

- No data about homework policy
- Immigrant student policy
- Grading at HS level policy
- Procurement policies for getting new things/ any construction in school
- Need donations for students scholarships

**Principal's Report**

**Kathy Jacobs**

Halloween celebrations went well. Thank you! Thanks also for the Instructional Assistance funds provided by the PTA that have been distributed. The school staff is excited about Character Ed assembly this Friday sponsored by the Cultural Arts PTA Committee.

Information will be coming about conferences, including when conference time sign up opens (Nov 7th). Sign up will be open for a week's time.

We are looking forward to American Education week 11/13-17. Monday is the official day - no tests given or other activities planned that would be difficult for parents to participate in. Parents are discouraged from joining their children for lunch since the cafeteria is already so crowded and space is limited. Construction is moving along and we anticipate that this phase will be ready as projected on December 22nd.

## **Assistant Principal Report**

**Rachel Edoho-Eket**

Thank you for the Halloween parties.

MAPP reports coming home with report cards. CoGAT coming up for grades 3 & 5 in December. More info to follow.

## **Teacher Report**

**Shari Haddaway**

Thank you for providing the Halloween snacks - good choices.

Kindergarten had the Master Gardner event. Thank you to Cultural Arts for sponsoring.

The Green School goal is to start recycling next week in the cafeteria. Students and staff need to know how to recycle properly. Glue sticks bin is pretty full. Green School encourages student engagement so students need to take on responsibility and implementation of Green School initiatives. The school would also like to recycle markers. Any type/brand of glue stick and any type of markers and glue containers are accepted.

Kindergarten throughout the county has access to readyrosie.com. If kindergarten parents chose to provide their email address, families can access from home and has extra ideas of readiness activities to do with children. Alan Kittleman has also made it available to all HoCo parents. Go to Alan Kittleman's site and you can gain access to readyrosie. Mrs Jacobs will also put this information in the Waverly Wire.

## **Committee Reports**

**Cristen Boarman**

**Book Fair**

Book Fair planning is underway. Book Fair will be delivered on Nov 29th in the am. Book Fair will be Dec 4th - 8th. With evening hours till 6pm on Tuesday and Thursday and Teacher Reader and Ice Social on Friday. It will be set up during school hours. Classes will preview with their Media class.

Cris will be sending a sign up genius to Kelly to put in the PTA email for volunteers during the Book Fair week.

Regarding scheduling, the Book fair needs to be delivered before kids arrive or after school. Scarlett Goon said the Book Fair committee has been working with Ms.

Josephson and Scholastic to arrange an acceptable delivery time.

**Laura VanTine**

**Cultural Arts**

Ten assemblies have been set-up and confirmed. Two of the 10 happened this past week successfully. The first school wide assembly is on November 3 - 'I am Corey' - a conversation about kindness, trust, and being your best. We have approximately \$4000 left to cover the remaining assemblies to be booked.

**Fiona Mosley****Family Enrichment**

The Winter Dance will be January 19 and the theme will be Snowy Candy Wonderland. Quarter 2 Kid Council will brainstorm ideas for the dance - such as entertainment, decorations, food. Pizza will be sold. The Winter Dance will be modeled on the Pokemon Dance.

Shari Haddaway has a snow cone maker and syrup contact. Fiona will keep this in mind for the End of Year party.

**Megan Veluona****Spirit wear**

Spirit wear orders have been placed. They should be delivered shortly after Thanksgiving break. The deposit will be forthcoming.

**Jennifer Donahoe****Reflections**

The Reflections committee is working hard to get everything ready for the Awards Ceremony held in November. We thank Mrs. Jacobs and all the teachers for supporting the Reflections Program! We received lots of amazing entries and can't wait to share them with our community at the ceremony. We are looking for two volunteers to assist next year on the committee.....please talk it up as it is a great program!! Thank you.

**Olga Zavialova****Directory**

We have over 500 families who chose to be included in the directory. Currently working on the completion. We need to recruit someone for the next year. I provided step by step direction how to do directory to Kelly and Nancy.

Perhaps the PTA should give the directory to families who join the PTA. If families do not join, they can pay to have a copy. Shari Haddaway noted that kindergarten parents rely on the directory to form connections at school. Seems best to consider giving all kindergarten families a directory and then 1-5th grade can have the option to join the PTA or choose to purchase a directory, if they wish to receive one.

**Leisl Edwards****Holiday Shoppe**

Unfortunately because of construction the Holiday Shoppe is canceled for this year. When the Penguin Patch contract is sent to us, we will need Mrs. Jacobs to sign it.

## **New Business**

**Kathy Jacobs**

**Principal**

There have recently been conversations about cyber bullying. It has been discovered that a number of students are involved in text chats and there are issues with being excluded from the chats or included and not wanting to participate. As a result, the administration and guidance counselor wonder if the PTA might consider doing a parent information night in relation to cyber bullying. Kathy Jacobs and PTA President, Kelly Balchunas, have spoken and are considering options for a Parent Information Night in collaboration with St John's Lane Elementary and Hollifield Elementary School. Waverly would host the event. Another part of this could be an additional evening to include students with parents. Perhaps the PTA could try to find presenters for the information nights, and survey parents to determine what topics the parents want to hear about cyberbullying.

## **Adjourn**