

TRIADELPHIA RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (TRES) PTA, INC. MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

DATE: May 6, 2014

LOCATION: TRES Media Center

President Rebecca Gruber called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The attached attendance sheet serves as roll call of members present at the meeting.

I. President's Report (Rebecca Gruber)

A. Approval of April general membership meeting minutes

- President Rebecca Gruber requested a motion to approve the March planning meeting minutes previously distributed electronically to the board of directors. Natasha Moulton-Levey made the motion and Vice Present of Finance Dawn Urian seconded the motion. The group approved the motion by a voice vote and the April minutes are now permanent record.
- Rebecca shared that the submission of our organization's bylaws are approved by the Maryland PTA and are now on file.
- The PTA has been notified of a situation with a TRES family and have reached out to see how our organization may help in their time of need.
(Update since meeting: TRES PTA will donate a \$100 Safeway gift card to the family and/or their caregivers.)

II. Treasurer's Report (Amy Brewster)

A. Monthly budget review

- Amy encouraged staff representatives to remind teachers to spend their allotted funds by the end of the school year and submit their receipts.

III. Principal's Report (Peggy Dumler)

A. Thank you!

- On behalf of the TRES staff, Mrs. Dumler presented Rebecca with a thank you gift for her two years of service as PTA president.

B. Field Day Volunteers

- Mrs. Short is still seeking volunteers for field day. Please watch for the electronic sign up link in e-mails and the *Retriever Report* and consider giving some time to help with the event.

C. Teacher Appreciation Week-thanks!

- The TRES staff enjoyed the recognition initiatives and sends their thanks to our volunteers.

D. Junior Achievement Partnership

- TRES plans to participate in the Junior Achievement Partnership during the 2014-2015 academic year. Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization that helps students value free enterprise through various educational programs and partnerships with the business community.

- Mrs. Dumler requests parents to please considering volunteering time to support this initiative that promotes career and college readiness.
- To learn more about Junior Achievement, visit the Central Maryland chapter's website at <http://jamaryland.org/home>
- The front office seeks a new volunteer to change the sign kiosk at the outside entrance of school. This is the perfect volunteer opportunity for working parents who may not be able to volunteer during regular school hours. Supplies are kept at the volunteer's home and they may complete the task at any time of day or over the weekend. It is also ideal for National Honor Society high school students or older students who require community service volunteer hours. Please contact Mrs. Dumler for more information.

IV. Delegate's Report (Lynn O'Brien)

A. Presentation and Q & A: Why Now is the Perfect Time to Increase PTA Membership

- Janette Gilman, immediate past president of the Montgomery County PTA Council shared how their group increased membership and offered a membership tool kit for representatives.

B. HoCo STEM Festival on June 8-theme is "Stimulating Minds"

- The PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) will host.

C. PTACHC Officers Nominating Slate

- PTACHC shared the nominations for the 2014-2015 officers. Please contact Donna Sudbrook at nominating@ptachc.org for a list of candidates. (President should remain the same.)

D. Scholarships presentation

- Please visit <http://www.ptachc.org> for a list of recipients.

E. Prepare for success

- PTACHC will again conduct this annual school supply drive. TRES will collect supplies at the May 30 Bingo Night event and via bins in school.

V. Committee Reports

After School Programs (Nicole Murphy): Kim Eck will coordinate after school programs for the next academic year and she already has the fall programs secured.

Community Outreach (Cathleen Maloney):

The committee will collect school supplies at the upcoming Family Bingo Night on May 30 as the "cost for admission" to the event. Bins will also be placed in school after the event for families who are unable to attend to have the opportunity to contribute. All donations will go to PTACHC's Prepare for Success program that supports Howard County students in need. The group provided breakfast for the Homewood School to recognize their staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Cultural Arts (Chrissie Lazaris): Two program remain for this academic year and Chrissie may secure a third program on June 12. Harlem Hoopsters will perform in collaboration with Field Day on May 23. The Jabali African Acrobats will visit on June 4. The group requested that the PTA provide towels and six water bottles for their presentation.

Family Socials (Janice Rice): Planning is underway for Family Bingo Night on Friday, May 30 from 7-9 p.m. The committee will ask families to register and volunteer via Google sign up links.

Fifth Grade Activities (Vice President Marissa Knisley reporting for Kathy Wildly): Picnic planning committee has met. The fifth grade closing ceremony will be on June 19 at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Garden (Kim Sands): Kim is almost done the front area. The group commended her diligence and work to improve the grounds. She is working with Master Gardeners to investigate the possibility of using a rain barrel for watering purposes.

Health and Wellness (VP Marissa Knisley reporting for Elyse DeVries): Weather continues to dampen the efforts of the Walking Wednesday program, so there is not much activity to report from the spring session.

Hospitality (Marissa Knisley): No report. Field Day will be next activity.

International Night (Natasha Moulton-Levy): Natasha requests a "point person" to man the acts in case she is unable to arrive to the event on time. Kindergarten has requested that they perform first. The English as a second language teacher will participate for the first time this year. There are 12 acts scheduled.

Membership (Chris Shollenberger): No report

Memory Book (Lisa Reeves): The final proof has been reviewed. Lisa hopes to have the book by June 5 for the Fifth grade picnic.

Original Works Fundraiser (Carolyn Brown): No report

Puppy Playgroup (Erica Haycock): No report.

Reflections (Susan Hull): No report

Retriever Rally (Carrie Schwab): No report.

Shopper Incentive Programs (Erin Fitch):

Spirit Wear (President Rebecca Gruber reporting for Joanna Werner): The committee will work with a new vendor, K2 Teamworks, for designs this fall. There are requests to offer full zip up hoodies as one of the products.

Silent Auction (Robyn Guerrasio): No report

Staff Appreciation (Evie Callahan): The committee has been very busy this week for Teacher Appreciation Week. The Hats Off Dr. Seuss theme has been well received by the staff. The group will recognize the nursing staff on Nurses' Day with a bouquet of flowers. On June 19, the committee will host the end of year luncheon at Bistro Blanc.

STEM---FIRST[®] LEGO[®] Leagues (VP Marissa Knisley reporting for Erin Edwards): Erin is currently working with representatives from Folly Quarter Middle School to establish an FLL league at the school so that our rising sixth graders and future middle schools students may continue their Lego league participation in middle school.

Staff Representative (Jessica Metz): Jessica thanked the group and especially the staff appreciation committee for their efforts this week during Teacher Appreciation Week. She said the staff really was impressed with the venue for the June 13 end of year luncheon and is greatly looking forward to it.

Student Directory (Marita Lesho): No report

Young Authors Program (Dori Capodanno): Students will share their books at the annual tea on June 6 in the first grade pod. The format of the books has been changed this year with the hope they will be more durable. Dori suggests that teachers, administration and PTA review the program before planning for next year.

VI. Nominating Committee Final Report (Carolyn Brown)

- All board of directors positions are filled for the 2014-2015 academic year with the exception of a new webmaster. Rebecca thanked the board for their assistance with this task.

I. VII. Update on Music/Art Program Changes (Patricia DeOrio)

A. Ms. DeOrio shared the impact of the proposed Elementary School Model on music instruction.

- The model will be launched as a pilot program in five title I Howard County elementary schools for the 2014-2015 academic year. The model is a component of Dr. Foose's Vision 2018 initiative for a new era of teaching and learning in Howard County schools.

- The new model introduces world language instruction, departmentalization of instruction and other components. To fit these new areas into the school day, the model will reduce general music and art instruction for students by 30 minutes.
- Students in grades 3-5 who wish to participate in band and strings would receive large group instruction only during general music time. Students who do not participate in band or strings, may chose to participate in chorus or a drum circle, etc.
- The new pilot model eliminates sectional instruction time for band and strings currently offered as pullout time on a rotational basis from academic subjects. Ms. DeOrio believes this impacts the quality of music instruction and over time will impact the quality of our school bands and orchestras. Ultimately, it may eliminate music staff positions.
- She encourages PTA parents to share and inform other parents of these changes and encourages parent participation in forums, meetings, etc. regarding these changes. She predicts the pilot program will be unveiled county-wide to all elementary schools in the 2015-2016 academic year.

VII. Special Orders/Unfinished Business

- The April meeting did not include any new business items that remain unfinished.

VIII. New Business

- No members approached the floor with new business items.

IX. Announcements

- No members approached the floor with announcements.

President Rebecca Gruber adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nicole Leimbach, secretary