

TRIADELPHIA RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (TRES) PTA, INC. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE: April 1, 2014

LOCATION: TRES Media Center

President Rebecca Gruber called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The attached attendance sheet serves as roll call of members present at the meeting.

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

A. PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)'s next meeting is Monday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

- The inclement weather impacted PTACHC meetings in February and March so there is no report at this time.

II. President's Report (Rebecca Gruber)

A. Approval of March planning meeting minutes

- President Rebecca Gruber motioned to approve the March planning meeting minutes previously distributed electronically to the board of directors. Vice President of Programs Marissa Knisley seconded the motion. The group approved the motion by a voice vote and the March minutes are now permanent record.

B. Summary (Nicole Leimbach) and vote on the adoption of the revised set of bylaws as a substitute for the existing bylaws.

- Secretary Nicole Leimbach reviewed the Bylaw Committee's recommendations to submit the Maryland PTA 2013 Bylaws template as a total revision and substitute for the existing 2011 TRES PTA, Inc. Bylaws. Previous amendments to the 2011 bylaws have either been addressed in the new 2013 template, or transposed onto the required 2013 template document.
- Nicole opened the floor for discussion and questions regarding the bylaws. The general membership in attendance did not approach the floor with any questions or discussion items.
- President Rebecca Gruber motioned to approve the document as a revision and substitute to the existing 2011 TRES PTA, Inc. Bylaws. Carolyn Brown seconded the motion. The nineteen PTA members in attendance approved the revision and substitute of the 2011 Bylaws unanimously by a show of hands.

III. Treasurer's Report (Amy Brewster)

A. Vote to increase budget expense lines.

- After the monthly budget review, Amy and Rebecca shared with attendees that committee chairs were asked at the March meeting to submit final

budget estimates. Per our bylaws, the executive committee may vote to approve an increase or decrease of any budget line item up to 10 percent. Requests in excess of a 10 percent increase must be put to a general membership vote.

- Most committees have responded with their budget estimates and two committees have requested budget increases that exceed 10 percent.
- Amy motioned to table the vote to increase budget expenses until after the committee reports discussion. This delay would allow the group to identify any additional budget needs from specific committees.

IV. Synopsis of PTA Leadership Meeting (Nicole Murphy)

A. Superintendent Renee Foose, Ph.D. met with school principals and PTA leaders to discuss her vision to make Howard County Public Schools a world class school system.

- Major topics discussed included how to improve communications, the shift in demographics that Howard County has experienced to become a majority/minority school system and how schools may increase engagement of minorities to truly reflect its schools' populations.
- Rebecca shared that TRES PTA is already addressing these concerns. While our school has a good percentage of parents that are members of PTA, we want to increase participation in the organization and initiatives. The current executive committee has met with the nominated executive team to discuss how to plan and modify PTA initiatives to appeal to minority populations. She welcomed members to share any ideas or suggestions they may have.

V. Principal's Report (Vice Principal Lauren Beaman)

A. Spring Break

- The staff and students are excited for the upcoming spring break. HCPSS schools and offices will be closed from April 13-April 21.

B. Student Testing

- Fifth graders are finishing the Science Maryland State Assessments this week. (MSAs)
- The recent TRES field test for Partnership for the Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) Maryland went well. Students responded well to the computerized exam.

C. End of Year Activities

- Now that the fourth quarter is underway, the remainder of the school year will be busy. TRES is currently scheduling many activities. Please watch for upcoming announcements with dates.

VI. Nominating Committee Report (Carolyn Brown)

- The committee has met and has candidates for all elected positions and has most committee chair positions filled for the 2014-2015 academic year. Elections for the executive committee and delegate

positions will be at the next general membership meeting on Friday, May 30.

VII. Committee Reports

After School Programs (Nicole Murphy): Spring program registration continues and all programs start soon. Downloadable registration forms are available at <http://www.triadelphiaridgepta.org/forms.html>

Community Outreach (Cathleen Maloney):

Cathleen suggests an alternative to a tangible item donation drive at International Night. She would like to set up a donation station to collect monetary donations and also provide a direct website link to solicit charitable contributions for FIRN of Howard County. FIRN is a nonprofit organization that empowers immigrants, refugees, asylees and other foreign-born individuals by helping them to access community resources and opportunities. They offer immigration counseling, citizenship classes, interpreting and translation services, English tutoring, referrals and workshops.

Cultural Arts (Chrissie Lazaris): In response to Ms. Short's request to the committee for a Field Day performance, Chrissie has researched the Harlem Hoopsters basketball show to present to Ms. Short and Ms. Dumler for approval. She has tentatively booked an acrobatic art/dance act for June 4. Additional details on both programs will be provided once they are approved. There are remaining funds for a third program should the calendar allow before the end of the school year.

Family Socials (Janice Rice): Planning is underway for Family Bingo Night on Friday, May 30 from 7-9 p.m.

Fifth Grade Activities (Vice President Marissa Knisley reporting for Kathy Wildly): Specific picnic planning will commence after spring break.

Garden (Kim Sands): This committee did request an additional \$200 be added to their budget line for spring planting and maintenance of the school gardens.

Health and Wellness (VP Marissa Knisley reporting for Elyse DeVries): Walking Wednesday's spring session will be postponed until Wednesday, April 9 because of poor field conditions.

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

International Night (Natasha Moulton-Levy): An introductory flyer for the event will be distributed in Friday folders this week. Rebecca suggested including a Google doc link for volunteers in addition to the paper request.

Membership (Chris Shollenberger): No report

Memory Book (Lisa Reeves): No report

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): No report

Spirit Wear (President Rebecca Gruber reporting for Joanna Werner): Spring sales items are scheduled for student delivery on Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Silent Auction (Robyn Guerrasio): Robyn extends another thank you and congratulations to the many volunteers who helped make the fundraiser a huge success. This year's Silent Auction profit was \$17,070.00. She plans to make a summary sheet with highlights of recommendations for the 2016 Silent Auction and welcomes feedback on the event.

Staff Appreciation (Evie Callahan): This committee will be very busy in the next month. The group will recognize the three front office administrative assistants with cookie bouquets on Administrative Professionals Day on April 23. The nursing staff will also receive cookie bouquets the following week on Nurses Appreciation Day. Staff appreciation week is May 5-9 this year. Ms. Beaman confirmed that TRES has about 80 staff members. The committee plans a Dr. Seuss theme this year. They will provide boxed lunches for the staff from the Cosi during the week. Staff will fill out order forms in advance.

The annual end of the year off-site staff luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 at Bistro Blanc. (This is susceptible to change when the final school calendar is determined.) Bistro Blanc has agreed to open for a private luncheon on that day to meet our goal of a destination within minutes from the school. Evie is currently in price negotiations for the event.

Since prices have not been finalized for the Staff Appreciation Week events and the off-site end of year luncheon, Amy suggested that Evie request additional funds in tonight's budget vote. The group will request an additional \$1,000.00.

STEM---FIRST[®] LEGO[®] Leagues (VP Marissa Knisley reporting for Erin Edwards): The Jr.FLL group will attend an exhibition this Saturday, April 5 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the University of Maryland College Park campus. This event will conclude their season. 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): The staff sends thanks for the February conference dinner. This year's volunteer recognition event on May 12 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Media Center will have a French theme—"Oui Thank You." PTA board of directors volunteers are invited and should mark their calendars.

The annual Battle of the Books will take place on Friday, April 4. TRES will have nine fifth grade teams participating in the event.

An author will visit kindergarten-second grade on Friday, April 25.

The staff sent flyers via home folders requesting projects for the school's upcoming STEM Night. Please encourage your children to participate. The STEM Fair will take place in collaboration with the Enrichment Fair on Thursday, May 1.

Student Directory (Marita Lesho): No report

Young Authors Program (Dori Capodanno): No report. This committee did request an additional \$200.00 for the program this year because they will change the production process of the books.

VIII. School Safety Procedures, Trends and Concerns (Christian Buzzerd)

- Third Grade Teacher Christian Buzzerd presented an overview of school and student safety issues and shared how TRES addresses these concerns. He shared via a handout the TRES Emergency Plan Summary and reviewed specific types of emergency situations and how staff is trained to respond.
- Mr. Buzzerd also addressed the subject of bullying and advised parents, students and community members to access the following resources to report bullying situations. The county offers an Official School Report for parents or staff to submit to school administrators. This document is available at http://www.hcpss.org/parents/form_harassment.pdf Howard County government offers a method of general reporting via Sprigeo that may be accessed at http://hoco.sprigeo.com/default_hoco.asp
- Mr. Buzzerd's presentation concluded with highlights of an interview with Officer Steve Willingham, school resource officer for Glenelg High School. Officer Willingham noted that students should take personal responsibility for their actions. (Trust instincts, empowerment, mobile devices and emergency situations.)

IX. Special Orders/Unfinished Business

A. Vote to increase budget expense lines

- After hearing committee reports, Rebecca readdressed the tabled motion to vote to increase budget expense lines. To summarize, three committees request additional funds to complete their initiatives during the current academic year. The garden committee requested \$200.00

additional, Staff Appreciation requests \$1,000.00 additional and Young Authors' requests \$200.00 additional.

- President Rebecca Gruber motioned to approve the requested increase in funds and Treasurer Amy Brewster seconded the motion. The 20 PTA members in attendance for the vote unanimously approved the motion with a show of hands.

X. New Business

- No members approached the floor with new business items.

XI. Announcements

- No members approached the floor with announcements.

President Rebecca Gruber adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nicole Leimbach, secretary