

PTA Minutes
September 8, 2014
6:30pm- 8:00 pm

BCPS One- Ms. Pfister

- A powerpoint presentation was shared. The presentation focused on discussing the BCPS One platform.
- Different phases of BCPS One will be implemented over the next 5 years.
- More information can be found on:
<http://www.bcps.org/bcpsone>
There is also a parent support page on the BCPS website
- The first week of school, a parent notification form for BCPS One was sent home. Personalized information for each student is included on this form.
- Please make sure that your account is created before October 31, 2014
- At this point, homework is not being assigned through BCPS One. Teachers will post grades every one to two weeks.

President's Report

- Meetings will be the second Monday of every month at 6:30pm in Room 22.
- Please email Fortgarrisonpta@gmail.com if you ever have any questions.
- PGCC wants to help better Pikesville Middle School. Ayme will be meeting with this group next week and will report on any updates.
- In order to get flyers approved by Mrs. Harris: follow the steps that Ayme distributed to committee chairs. Each committee chair was given this flyer with helpful information for various events. All PTA flyers need to be copied on yellow paper. This is located in back closet of the faculty room. Please see Mrs. Harris or Robyn for a code to use for the copy machine.
- Email Mrs. Harris if you want her to share information about an event on the school announcements.

Treasurer's Report

When doing an event for an on-going sale: receipts must be submitted, expedited or overnight shipping fees will not be reimbursed. The form can be found on the website. Any money collected for a one night event, two signatures must be on the form and given to Ayme or to Jessica (with the money collected). Please let Ayme or Jessica know if you have any questions.

For the month of: August

Total Income: \$7,600

Total expenses: \$2,800

Principal's/Vice-Principal's Report

- Mrs. Harris shared that construction has ended and the air conditioning in the building is working.
- First, Second, and Third graders are using the one to one devices.
- Devices are not being used all of the time, but as appropriate.
- Teachers and students are working together in this learning process.
- We are a pilot school. Ms. Pfister is here to assist teachers in this process.
- Mrs. Harris shared that the county is supportive of any issues that we encounter.
- Student Centered Learning Environments have been created. With the generous donation of the PTA new furniture has been purchased for first, second, and third graders. Mrs. Harris also contributed money from her budget to cover the cost of the furniture.
- Fourth and fifth grade classrooms have also been redesigned to help create the student centered environment. Next year new furniture will be purchased for those classrooms as well.
- Mrs. Harris thanked all parents for their support.
- All students are wearing an id badge throughout the day with the exception of recess and gym. Students use this id badge for attendance and to check out library books within the school.
- Several visitors have stopped by Fort Garrison and we will continue to host visitors in our building this school year.
- Mrs. Harris answered any questions that parents had.

Event Chairs Report

Communication: Tanzi will not copy flyers for chairs. Events and information for chairs will be posted via newsletters, peachjar, PTA website, and Facebook. Preferably two weeks notification would be appreciated. A form was distributed at today's meeting that chairs can use as a template. PDF need to be submitted for e-flyers.

Fort Gives Back: Looking to give back to the community in some form. A successful coat drive was held last school year. Kids Helping Hopkins was another event that was held. Suggestions for this year's community service project are welcome for this school year. One event in the spring will be held.

Box Tops: Flyers will be going home explaining the Box Top program and for Labels for Education. A couple of contests will be going on this school year. The first contest will be an ice cream/sorbet party for the class that wins. This contest will end October 24, 2014. Teachers are encouraged to collect Box Tops too. All labels should be given to your child's homeroom teacher. About \$1,800 was earned last school year.

Directory: Please complete and return the white sheet that was sent home the first week of school. It's due September 12, 2014. The directory usually is delivered late in October.

Fifth Grade Chair: Money is being raised for the fifth grade end of the year party and for the fifth grade teachers. Fundraisers will be held throughout the school year. We will no longer be able to have Freezipop Fridays. This is due to BCPS guidelines and rules. Mrs. Harris read the guidelines. October 16th will be a fifth grade restaurant night at Ledo's Pizza in Pikesville. A night at an Oriole game will be another fundraiser will be held in the spring. Raven's T-shirts are also being sold. They should be delivered by the end of September.

Go Girls Go: About 20 girls are in the group. Character education and running is involved in this afterschool event. Please contact Ayme if anyone is interested in running a boys' running group.

Friends and Families at the Fort: Kindergarten socials were held, grade representatives will organize activities that are grade specific. Parents are needed to help organize activities for third, fourth, and fifth grade families. Siblings are invited to these events. Do not look at the Friends and family dates that have been posted. New dates will be posted in the future.

Halloween Monster Bash with Trunk or Treat: This event will be held on October 24, 2014. A sign-up genius is on Facebook and on peachjar. A DJ will be at the event. Teachers will help to distribute candy. Many volunteers are needed. Siblings are permitted. Pets are not permitted. Weapons are not permitted either. This event is only opened to Fort Garrison Families. Due to allergies, only non-chocolate and nut-free candy will be collected.

Hospitality: A teacher breakfast and a bus driver breakfast was organized and provided.

Kids Stuff Books: Please encourage families to buy this book that is filled with coupons. The deadline will possibly be extended.

Membership: 107 families plus 24 staff members have joined this school year.

Restaurant Night: 4 restaurant nights will be held this school year. The first one will be from 5-9pm on September 18th, 2014. The next one will be in December at Chipotle. One in March will be at Suburban House. One in May will be held at Noodles and Company.

School Supplies: Heather Goldsmith will head this committee this school year.

Spirit: November 7th will be the first spirit day. Some spirit gear will be sold at the Monster Bash so students have gear to wear at our school's first spirit day. An idea of having the Oriole Bird or the Raven Bird come to a "pep rally" was discussed.

Under Armour Backpack Sale: This was the best year for sales of the backpacks.

Yearbook: Sales will be credit card only this school year. Flyers will be sent home. Some of last year's yearbook are available for purchase. The cover contest will be held again. The theme is "what it means to be a Lighthouse School".

Miscellaneous

*Jewish community services is providing a free "talk" this Sunday about bullying. More information was sent via peachjar.

Upcoming events

9/11- Go Girls Go Program Starts

9/18- Restaurant Night: California Pizza Kitchen

9/25- No School: Rosh Hashanah

10/13- PTA meeting: 6:30pm

10/16- Fifth Grade Restaurant Night (TBD)

10/17- No School: Professional Development Day

10/24- Monster Bash with Trunk or Treat

10/31- School closes 3 hours early: first marking period ends