

Phelps Luck Elementary School PTA

Executive Board Meeting

October 1, 2008

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Attendance – 35 people signed the Attendance Sign-In Form and New Parent Dessert Sign-In Form. Both forms are on file.

Welcome and Introduction – Maryann Cohea (President)

- Maryann welcomed everyone and thanked all the new parents for coming to the New Parents Dessert Social before the meeting.
- Families were encouraged to participate in the PTA and/or to join as paid members to help support school activities.
- PTA officers were recognized. All were in attendance.

Welcome and Introduction – Mrs. Akers (Principal)

- Mrs. Akers thanked everyone for coming, especially new parents.
- Mrs. Akers recognized school staff members in attendance – Mrs. Eckstrom (Math Support), Ms. Faulkner (3rd grade teacher), Mrs. Phillips (Reading Specialist), Mrs. Brogan (1st grade teacher), and Mrs. Ottey (Leadership Intern).
- Mrs. Ottey facilitated a Phelps Luck Trivia challenge to help new parents get to know the school better.

2008 State of the School – Mrs. Akers & Mrs. Ottey

- HCPSS goals were highlighted. Each child will meet performance standards. Each school will provide a safe and nurturing environment for the children.
- The county's goal is that at least 70% of all students in every grade will score at least proficient or above in both reading and math on the standardized tests (Stanford for Grade 2 and MSA for grades 3-5). Next year the target is 75%.
- The School Improvement Leadership structure was presented. A School Improvement Team (SIT) and 3 Leadership Teams meet regularly to plan and implement school goals. Staff members serve on at least one leadership team – Reading, Math, and Safety – to develop and implement programs/curriculums to meet school goals. The SIT monitors the efforts of the Leadership Teams.
- The School Improvement Plan will be posted on the school web site once it has been approved. It will show how the school will work to achieve school goals.
- Stanford Test (Grade 2) – There was overall growth in math (60%) and reading (69%) in 2008 over 2007. Some student groups had less than 70% scoring proficient or above.
- MSA (Grades 3-5) – Met AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in 2008. All student groups met the target of 70% scoring proficient or above in both reading and math.
- Overall in reading, grades 3-5 had 80% or more of students scoring proficient or advanced. The achievement gap in student groups is narrowing.

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- All parents were encouraged to participate on the School Improvement Team. First meeting is October 13. See Mrs. Ottey if interested.
- GT Math – students are eligible starting in 4th grade. GT Math is for students who are 2 grade levels above. Overall, the number of the students participating has increased since 2003.
- PLES is committed to help each child succeed and to help all students move forward – proficient to advanced, below grade level to on, on grade level to above, more students eligible for GT.
- The school's web site will be updated and serve as an important resource and communication tool for families.

President's Report – Maryann Cohea

- Minutes of 9/15 PTA meeting were approved by consent.
- Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend the Board of Director's meetings, which is held the first Wednesday of every month, unless otherwise announced.
- The voting procedures were re-iterated - a general vote by all (with a show of hands) to gauge consensus and to facilitate discussion of issues/concerns; per the bylaws, final vote will be by PTA Board of Directors, Chairs of standing committees, Principal, Howard County PTA Delegates only.
- The PTA Calendar will be distributed soon.
- A motion to postpone the approval of Committee Chairs by the Officers was made by Maryann, seconded by Karen Stark.
- Open Chair Positions will be emailed by Maryann.
- Volunteers needed to help in the morning and evening to help with student drop-off and pick up. Contact Chuck Thompson if interested.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Pechacek

- Paul distributed copies of the Income/Expenses as of 9/30.
- \$1,330.85 was deposited – mostly from memberships and donations. \$3.25 of the \$7 membership fee goes to the MD PTA. PLES keeps \$3.75.
- \$432 was deposited for last year's Flower fundraiser at the Spring Concert and Tie-Dye fundraiser at the Spring Carnival.
- \$1,418.32 from the Carnival was deposited after 6/30 so we are not able to spend the money this year. It will carry over next year into the General Fund.

Membership Report – Maryann for Chris Kindbom

- As of 9/30, 38 staff members have joined and 92 families (136 parents) have joined. Total membership so far is 174.

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Dine-Out Report – Cheryl von Saal

- First dine-out night is Wed Oct 8 at Eggspectation. Since it falls on the evening before Yom Kippur, Cheryl will try to arrange for an additional dine-out night there.
- Gift wrap fundraiser is tentatively scheduled at Barnes and Noble for Sat Dec 13. Need volunteers to do the wrapping. B&N will donate all materials (paper, bows, etc.). People using the service can donate money.
- Barnes and Noble also offer a book fair. A percentage of sales will go to PLES. We can also provide entertainment, storytellers, etc. Cheryl will look more into it.

Spring Family Celebration – Carol Evans-Turner

- Date set for Friday, May 1.

Sally Foster – Beth Tray

- Overall sales are down this year. Cash sales around \$4,700 (down from last year). Online sales around \$1,400 (up from last year).
- People can order online until February and we will still get credit. Maryann will make an announcement in eSchoolNewsletter. Deb Sharkey will make an announcement in November PTA Newsletter.

Book Fair – Maryann Cohea

- First book fair will be on the Mon 11/24 & Tues 11/25 during Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Need volunteers.

Science Fair – Lisa Strutz

- Date is April 1.
- Save aluminum soda cans – emptied, rinsed out, not crushed. Need one for every child. Bring to next meeting or put in box in teacher's lounge.

New Business

- No new business

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04pm