

**Sequoyah Elementary School  
PTA General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, September 2, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance (based on sign-in sheet)**

44 people attended:

Kim Anderson	John Moriarty	Sandy Walsh
Anotnio C. Scott	Tracy Moriarty	Jose Miguel Lizano
Bobbi Jasper	Kathleen McInnis	Sonia Garcia
Lynne Slager	Zee Maxten	Linda Kwiatrowski
Fariha Ilhar	Francesca Cannetti	Jeremy Sausser
Liz McCabe	Nicole Orellana	Tina Webb
Tammy Jarnigin	Rogelio Gamino	Jean-Yves Van Halle
Taline Diarbi	Tamara Gamino	Kelli Markham
Emile Szoremyi	Esmeralda Mendoza	Stephanie Strahan
Jennifer Frozni	Andrea Dumas	Michelle Bien-Aime
Ther Kedeyes	Elizabeth Conde	Doris Ryba
Gladis Alvarez	Irene Johnson	Pamela Rowe
Sarah Pitcher	Kevin Voritskul	Heather Whirley
Margaret Paolcawich	Bridget Voritskul	Diana England
Kristi Jacobs	Grace Ng	

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Heather Whirley (HW). All attendees introduced themselves. HW thanked Danielle Rice for providing childcare for meeting attendees.

**Principal's Report – presented by Dr. Bobbi Jasper**

- **Welcome Back message**
- **Presentation:** MCPS Code of Conduct. The new code is moving the MCPS toward more restorative justice, treating students fairly (not equally). Detention will be reinstated. The new code of conduct can be found by searching for code of conduct at <http://www.montgomeryschoolmd.org>.
  - An attendee brought up concern regarding the patrols' roles with the students in regards to the new code of conduct. Diana England (school counselor) will look into these roles.

**President's Report - presented by Heather Whirley**

- **Meeting Minutes from 5/6/14:** John Moriarty moved to approve the minutes. Tina Webb seconded. All were in favor – the motion was approved.
- **Recent PTA-sponsored events:** Heather Whirley announced the recent PTA-sponsored events include:

- Teacher luncheon
- Ice cream social following the open house
- New parent breakfast
- **Upcoming PTA-sponsored events:** Heather Whirley announced upcoming PTA-sponsored event include:
  - Movie night – showing the Lego movie, will be held in the gym if raining
- **Back to School Night:**
  - Held 9/9/14
  - No childcare will be provided
  - Session 1 will be from 7:00 – 7:45 pm
  - Information Session will be at 7:45 pm in the all purpose room with a PTA presentation
  - Session 2 will be from 8:15 – 9:00 pm (identical to Session 1)
  - Heather Whirley asked for volunteers to be at the PTA table during the information fair

**President Elect Report – presented by Tina Webb**

- Main duty is to assist the PTA president
- Informed the PTA assembly that there are many ways to help with the PTA or in the classroom; encouraged people to go by the tables in the gym during back to school night to get more information about ways to help
- Pointed out the table of committees that was handed out as a reference to find volunteer opportunities

**VP of Programs Report – presented by Kelli Markham Miller**

- Gave overview of programs supported by the PTA
- Room parents will be organized by the PTA – sign up sheets in the classrooms during the open house will help organize, these sheets will also be out at back to school night

**VP of Fundraising Report – presented by Francesca Cannetti**

- Gave overview of fundraising programs by the PTA
- Reviewed the table of committees that was handed out – pointed out that chairs of committees are still needed for a few items
- Will try to have one major fundraiser each month – September's is the Modell's team week coupon

**Secretary Report – presented by Stephanie Strahan**

- In order to limit the number of paper copies of the Wednesday folder, people need to ensure we have their accurate email addresses. Will try to send paper copies to all students only one more week, then will drop to youngest in family.
- Flyers that need to go into the Wednesday folder need to be to Stephanie by the Friday before to allow time to translate. Committee chairs can send their flyers for translation, but should not use translate computer programs such as Google translate due to accuracy discrepancies.

- Stephanie also is the chair for the book fair. The sign-up genius will be up soon for volunteers to sign-up. The book fair takes a lot of volunteers and all are appreciated.

### **Treasurer Report – presented by Jean Yves Van Halle**

- **The budget was presented.**
  - Sandy Walsh asked for the gift wrap line item to be explained – it should be the garden fundraiser call Brick Pavers for Garden
  - John Moriarty said he has concerns about the Movie Night line item
  - Kathleen McInnis pointed out that PBIS in the past has had a \$500 budget that was not listed. This was an oversight and can be added back in.
  - Tina Webb talked about the Teacher’s wishlists and how it was increased. It will also be handled differently to allow teachers access to the money more easily. Teachers will make their lists and give them to Tina. She will order and disburse the items – this means there are no out-of-pocket expenses for these items.
    - Kristi Jacobs shared an idea. Teachers write items on post-it notes that will be available on back to school night. Parents who would like to contribute can take the post-its and give those items to the teachers.
    - Items left after back to school night will be purchased by Tina.
  - Jeremy Sausser would like to see any extra money used for after school clubs, particularly would like to see foreign language come back to the school
    - Francesca Cannetti suggested contacting the embassy of a country with the appropriate language to see what they can provide.
    - Dr. Jasper gave the history of the busses – the school was given money from the county for after school club busses; when budgets were cut, elementary school after school club bus money was also cut
  - John Moriarty pointed out that the vendor payments line item has \$8000 listed as income instead of expenses.
  - The principal’s fund was listed twice – strike redundant entry.
  - Sandy Walsh moved to approve the budget with the following corrections:
    - Gift wrap becomes garden fundraiser
    - PBIS added back with \$500
    - \$8000 in vendor payments moved from income to expenses
      - John Moriarty objects due to operating on a negative budget
      - The money in the CDs was discussed
      - Sandy Walsh amended her motion to approve with a negative balance budget, with the understanding that the PTA will revisit in the future to determine if the CD should be cashed.
      - Dr. Jasper proposed to get the board together to go over budget and call quorum to vote to approve
      - Sandy Walsh amended her motion to delay vote until Friday before movie night – meeting at 6 pm. Motion was seconded by Tina Webb.

### **Committee Reports**

- **PTA membership – Doris Ryba and Sandy Walsh**
  - Have 12 teachers
  - Doesn't have exact number of members, but gets a stack in mailbox each time she comes to school – about twice a week
- **There are still open committee chair positions.**

### **Adjournment**

Sandy Walsh moved to adjourn and Kristi Jacobs seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Strahan  
SES PTA Secretary, 2014-2015