



## Sparks Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 7:00 PM

1. **Welcome** (Sapna Prasad) : In attendance- Matt Barr, Meredith Heyl, Sapna Prasad, Corinne Roth, Erin MacDougall, Cassie Jackson, Rebecca Franklin, Alex Castillo, Kerri Brozene, Ms. Chyko. Ms. Alvarez, Mrs. Chaney, Shannon M., Jennifer D., Maggie K., Regina, Emily S.
2. **School Updates** (Ms. Chyko):
  - a. Ms. Chyko wanted to teach the new math curriculum and has taught in Kindergarten and will teach in 4th Grade next week. The students were really excited as was Ms. Chyko!
  - b. "One School One Book" starts on Monday March 14. The book is "No Talking". Every staff member and every student received a book. This is a family reading activity, but families also have access to recordings of teachers and Administration reading chapters.
  - c. 03/18/22- Half day for students and teachers/staff.
  - d. 04/01/22- End of third quarter and a half day for students. Not an April Fool's! ;)Sparks has made it through 9 days of "masks optional" with no social issues for kids who are or aren't wearing masks. No reported cases to date. Notification will still go out if cases do occur and are reported.
3. **Board & Committee Updates**
  - a. **President** (Sapna Prasad)
    - i. **Free State PTA Updates:** Sparks ES PTA is now under the tax exemption for the state of DE. MD does have a new state PTA, the Free State PTA, however the IRS has a moratorium on issuing new exemption numbers at this time. Therefore, we will work under the state of DE temporarily.
  - b. **1<sup>st</sup> VP** (Erin MacDougall)
    - i. **Spread the Love Campaign wrap up:** Went really well. Great feedback. Thanks!
    - ii. **Casey Cares/World's Largest Pajama Party:** PJ Day is March 30. Wear your PJs to school and donate a pair of new pjs that will be given to children undergoing long-term care in the hospital by the Casey Cares Foundation. Flier coming home soon!
    - iii. **Earth Day:** April 22, 2022. Erin researching possible ideas for an activity for the students. The University of Maryland Agricultural Extension does in-school programming and is agreeable to visit Sparks ES. Erin to discuss further with Ms. Chyko.

- c. **2<sup>nd</sup> VP** (Meredith Heyl): Reminders to go out to school via the PTA and Ms. Chyko that it takes at least 7 days for your volunteer application and background check to be completed. Please get your paperwork in at least 2 weeks before the event you want to volunteer for!
  - i. Meredith and Jenn D. to work on adding the “Teacher’s Favorite Things” list to the PTA website so that parents have easier access to it.
- d. **Treasurer** (Matt Barr)
  - i. **Budget Report:** Budget attached. Note: Matt has been unable to find a cash register for the school store for under \$400. Will continue to research.
  - ii. **Math Madness donation request:** Kathy Stembler is requesting \$100 to purchase basketballs for the 5th grade First in Math March Madness Competition. Motion introduced. Motion seconded. 16 yes votes, no no votes, motion passes. Will take this money from the assembly budget that has not been used this year.
- e. **Financial Secretary** (Rebecca Franklin): The PTA tax form, the 990EZ, has been submitted. There were noted to be a few outstanding uncashed checks from summer 2021. Treasurer and Financial Secretary to follow up with check recipients.
- f. **Hospitality**
  - i. **School Supply Drive/Store** (Erin MacDougall, Meredith Heyl, Cassie Jackson): Went very well. There are still a few supplies left over in a small bin. Tammy and Chrissy have access should teachers need additional supplies.
  - ii. **Lucky Ducks (Kerri Brozene):** Ducks were dropped off Monday and distributed. Every staff member gets a duck with a number on it. Weekly drawing and the lucky number gets a prize! Teachers really like this activity!
- g. **Reflections** (Meredith Heyl & Cassie Jackson): there will be a ceremony in March for the winners. Updates pending!
- h. **Scholarships** (Kerri Brozene): 5 volunteers reviewed applications for one Male and one Female \$1000 scholarship from the PTA. Applicants must have gone to Sparks ES for elementary school. Each volunteer ranks their top 3 winners. No names are on the applications, only numbers. The volunteers overall top 2 choices for male and female are given to HHS and they will notify us of the winners in May.
- i. **Shark Shuffle** (Alex Castillo, Corinne Roth, Sapna Prasad): May 14, 2022, with a rain date of May 21, 2022. Activities include a huge inflatable gaga pit and basketball, dunk bucket, hair painting, face painting, craft table, cornhole, obstacle course, lollipop tree. Dunkin donuts and coffee and pizza, as well as Kona Ice (May 14) or another frosty treat (May 21). DJ confirmed! Envelopes to go home to students on April 22. Students get sponsors for the run and can earn prizes! This is Sparks ES largest fundraiser and we are hoping for good participation.
- j. **Fifth Grade Farewell** (Alex Castillo): Committee meeting is tomorrow night. Tentatively June 14 is the date and the event will be outside.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. Book Fair:** Next Week! Will send out volunteer training email and volunteer requests as more volunteers are needed.
- b. Sky Zone:** Schedule for Thursday April 21 from 4 pm to 8 pm! Fliers to come home in blue folders.
- c. Hereford Zone Snoballs:** May 4th. Special Sparks Shark Snoball to be created! (Star Wars costumes optional ;)
- d. Kindergarten Round Up:** April 7. Kids will be brought in by appointment. there will be an information table set up. Kerri to look into a Spirit Wear flier for incoming parent to order Spirit Wear.

#### **5. Announcements:**

- a.** Both Sparks ES Robotics teams will be competing at the State Vex IQ Competition on Sat., March 13! Congrats!

#### **6. Adjournment**