

Sparks Elementary PTA Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Meeting called to order at
7:05 PM

1. Welcome: 17 attendees including all board members and Ms. Chyko and Mrs. Alvarez

2. School Updates (Ms. Chyko and Ms. Alvarez)

- a. Ms. Chyko thanks the PTA and parents for running the cleaning supply drive. Items have been coming in.
- b. Thank you to the PTA and parents for the Jersey Mike's subs that were delivered for staff today.
- c. Ms. Chyko will answer questions at the end of PTA business.

3. Board & Committee Updates

a. 1st VP (Erin MacDougall)

1. Spirit Night tonight at Jersey Mike's. Erin will follow up tomorrow for totals.
2. SkyZone Event- given the current climate, the PTA will cancel this event for January. May reschedule for later this year or next school year.
3. In lieu of a Winter Ball, we will have a "Spread the Love" PB & J drive, along with cards and notes, for The Baltimore Hunger Project. More info to follow.
4. SignUp Genius sent out for cleaning supplies for the school/classrooms. Excellent response. Will ask for further items if the school has a need.

b. Treasurer (Matt Barr): Generous donation plus employer matching received from a Sparks family. We are close to reaching our budgeted goals for Direct Donation.

c. Hospitality (Erin MacDougall)

1. Jersey Mike's sent subs for the staff today. Well received.
2. School Counselor Appreciation Day is upcoming. PTA will buy Mrs. Oates a lunch of her choice from Graul's.
3. February Hospitality Event for Staff- Thinking cupcakes and sweet treats. Will try to get items donated from local Grocery Stores with Hospitality Committee purchasing as back up.

d. Holiday Shop (Jenn Dickerson): \$514.00 in sales!
Awaiting check.

e. Reflections (Meredith Heyl & Cassie Jackson)

1. Ms. Chyko and Meredith Hyel to further discuss plans for sharing a video collage of all student submissions, as well as ways to recognize participating students with certificates.
 - a. Motion passed for adding \$150 to the annual budget to cover cost of certificates and any other sanctioned celebration for participants.
 - b. Of note, 16 Sparks students submitted projects to the Reflections program for judging. 4 Primary grade projects and 4 secondary grade projects were chosen by 3 judges to move on to the County level of competition. We are waiting to hear if any Sparks students will move on to the State level.

4. New Business: No items

5. Announcements: Next PTA Meeting is Wednesday February 9 at 7:00 pm.

6. Parent Questions for Ms. Chyko

- a. Sparks ES is still waiting for the kids KN95 masks to be delivered. They will be distributed once they are received.
- b. A question regarding where and when BCPS is holding vaccination events for kids/students 5 and older. Vaccine clinics are available at some BCPS schools. These are being run through the Baltimore County Health Department. Visit their website for times and locations.
- c. "What is the criteria for schools to go virtual?" Basically, there are two factors that would determine if a school, or grade within a school were to move to virtual learning temporarily.
 - i. 1. If there are not enough staff to cover all classrooms, and there are not enough subs, including from BCPS central offices, to cover.
 - ii. 2. If more than half of a class/grade are out of school either with covid or quarantining. In this case, catching up more than half of the class would be too difficult and all students being virtual for a short time would be more beneficial.
- d. BCPS is still following the 10 day quarantine regulations previously set by the CDC. Discussions are being had by BCPS about updating this policy to reflect current CDC guidelines.
- e. A question regarding teacher morale. Per Ms. Chyko, the teachers all want to be in the school but it is difficult. She praises Sparks teachers and all of their efforts. She

reports, as expected, that there are good days and more challenging days. Ms. Wertz recommends sending your students' teachers a thank you email or card to boost morale. A parent suggests a parent drive by with signs supporting our teachers. The PTA will discuss ideas and feasibility with Ms. Chyko.

- f. There has been no talk about regular testing for students or staff from BCPS to date.

Thank you! Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm