

**Minutes of the Georgian Forest Elementary PTA General Membership Meeting
October 4, 2016**

Call to Order

PTA General membership met on October 4, 2016
In the GFES Media Room at 6PM

Roll Call

GFES PTA Board: Kathleen Lorenzo (Vice-President), Kate Monzo (Secretary), Jodi Goldreich (Treasurer), Johanne Saintime (President)

GFES Staff: Brooke Patton, Teddy Wheeler, Daniel Grenier, Mary Hartman, Annie Tsai, Joshua Fine, Claudia Goldman

GFES Parents and Guardians: Elizabeth Pilley, Jonathan Pilley, Marie-Josophe Mosio, Jesus Czarlite S. Ricasa, George Corbin, Ilona Wormack, Tania Ponce Gonzalez

Welcome

Kathleen Lorenzo, GFES PTA Vice-President, welcomed parents, teachers, and staff and thanked everyone for attending. The goal of the PTA is to support the families and children of Georgian Forest.

Report of the GFES Assistant Principal

Joshua Fine, Assistant Principal

1. School Improvement Plan (SIP) submitted to MCPS
 - a. A SIP is a plan that defines a school's targeted work to raise achievement for all of its students
 - b. GFES 2016-17 SIP has an instructional focus on English Language Learners
 - i. Classrooms will be language-rich
 - ii. Children will be challenged to use oral and written academic language
2. Father-Father Figure Day was a great success
 - a. Media room packed!
 - b. When parents/guardians physically enter school, children's outcomes increase
3. Walk to School Day
 - a. Busses will drop children off on Rippling Brook so children can walk up path
 - b. Pre-K children will be dropped off at front of school
 - c. Monthly cleaning/Beautification PTA event for parents and children is appreciated by school administration

Guest Speaker on Community Eligibility Program (CEP)

Marla Caplon, R.D., L.D. MCPS Director of Food and Nutrition Services

1. CEP provides breakfast and lunch for all children at no cost to families regardless of income
2. In previous years, GFES has been part of the Meals for Achievement which provided breakfast for all children at no cost to families
3. Two schools were chosen for this year's pilot in Montgomery County

- a. GFES was chosen due to location and economic needs for the community
 - b. Free and Reduced-priced Meals (FARM) applications were not required for the program
- 4. Title I funding directly linked to household information (*e.g.*, FARMS eligibility)
 - a. School will require all families to submit a Household Information Survey to continue to receive critical funding from state
 - b. This funding pays for additional staff to maintain high teacher to student ratios and busses for after-school programs
- 5. Household Information Survey
 - a. Available in English and Spanish
 - b. Must be submitted by October 21, 2016
- 6. Questions about program are welcomed

Introduction from Parent Resource Team

Claudia Goldman and Annie Tsai

- 1. New Parent Resource Room across from Main office
- 2. Parents are welcome to use computers and other resources in the room
- 3. Child Abuse Training required by MCPS for all volunteers
 - a. Can complete in Parent Resource Room or at home
 - b. Email or print certificate and submit to Claudia Goldman if completed at home
 - c. Available in English and Spanish
 - d. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>
- 4. Fingerprinting and Background check required for all volunteers that will ever be alone with children or on field trips further than 50 miles
- 5. Wednesday Morning Volunteer groups meets to assist with projects needed by school and teachers
 - a. Parent Resource Room
 - b. 9:30 – 11:30, welcome to stay as short or as long as needed
- 6. Volunteers should record time spent volunteering for school (in and out) in binder in main office

PTA Fundraising Report

Kathleen Lorenzo, GFES PTA Vice-President

- 1. 1st Annual Giving Campaign
 - a. \$2000 goal from contributions from GFES families and community
- 2. Fundraising goal this year is to try to not include catalog fundraising, replaced by Giving Campaign
- 3. PTA looking for a member with marketing skills to offer for future fundraising plans
- 4. What PTA does with raised money
 - a. Minigrants to teachers, Art Library, Headphones, School Assemblies
- 5. Other fundraising
 - a. BoxTops – Send BoxTops to school
 - b. Giant Rewards – register GFES with your Giant card, and ask friends and family to do the same

- c. Amazon Link – Go to PTA website and click on Amazon link for the PTA to earn 5-10% of sales. This is distinct from Smiles Program which only donates 0.5% of sales. <http://gfespta.my-pta.org>
 - d. Restaurant Nights
 - i. Recent McDonald's Night was a success
 - ii. Chipotle Night November 14 – They donate 50%!
6. Scholastic Book Fair
- a. All funds earned through the book fair go directly to the school
 - b. Teachers are given certificates to buy books for classroom

Volunteer Opportunities

Kate Monzo, GFES PTA Secretary

- 1. BoxTops - PTA thanks new PTA parent Elizabeth Pilley for volunteering to collect and submit BoxTops!
- 2. Wednesday Morning Volunteer Group is a great place to start volunteering for the school – mentioned above
- 3. First Saturday Morning Beautification
 - a. We invite families to join us to clean up the playground and path on the first Saturday of every month
 - b. Children are welcome to come clean and play
- 4. Book Fair Volunteers Needed
 - a. Volunteers can sign up online for the Nov 9-10 book fair
 - b. <https://volunteer.scholastic.com/#/experience/login/TbgsaxMt6>

Budget Report

Jodi Goldreich, GFES PTA Treasurer

- 1. Budget line items were reviewed
- 2. Budget is balanced for the year

Kate Monzo motioned to the 2016-17 GFES PTA Budget; Kathleen Lorenzo seconded; all in favor. The budget was unanimously approved.

General Discussion

- 1. Childcare during PTA meeting
 - a. Mary Hartman (GFES Teacher) recommends finding childcare options for PTA meetings
 - b. Teachers may be able to provide childcare as a chaperone duty requirement
 - c. Mr. Fine will look into rules on providing childcare on campus

Meeting Adjourned 6:52PM