

PTA Meeting notes – March 3, 2009 at 7 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Sanfuentes. The February 3, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

President's Report (Lisa S.) – every 3 years we have to update our Bylaws. MD PTA gives us a model to use and we have adopted the new model for our Bylaws. The Executive Board becomes the Board of Directors (elected officers + at large + ex officio, teacher representatives and principal/assistant principal) and we also have the Executive Committee (which is the elected officers). Revised bylaws approved. Nominating committee (from every grade) for next year's Board of Directors: Olivia Lai, Lisa Norwalk, Joe Busch, Joan Ishimoto, Nikki DeCastro, Jennifer Katz, and Cristina Arumi. We will post job descriptions on the BT website. As we fill positions, other positions will become available. Please let us know if you're interested or know of someone who would be great. Indoor Recess games – all the teachers gave the PTA a list and we've purchased the games; some of the games have arrived. Skate Night – a success. It will be an annual event. We also raised \$521, even though it wasn't a fundraiser. Drive for Supplies (Beth Martino) – the County is doing a recycling program where kids can empty their desks. The County comes end of June and picks up lunch boxes, scissors, rulers, markers, etc. and they're distributed to other needier parts of the County. MCCPTA meetings – on 3/16 Mrs. Erdrich will participate in a forum sponsored by the Gifted Child Committee. BTES and Georgian Forest School to talk about the no-label and how program is doing and our perspective. On 3/25 – our cluster is asking people to go to Annapolis to visit and meet with our state representatives to urge the state to recognize that Montgomery County needs monies for schools. We need the monies we are due. On 5/6 – meeting on the math acceleration program. On 3/24 is the regular MCCPTA meeting to vote on the accelerated and enrichment program. **Cindy C.** – Back to School picnic is usually on a Friday night. However, some families can't participate due to religious reasons. Same thing for Skate Night. Should we switch Skate Night to Saturday? And, should we move Picnic to Thursday night? Wish List – we need to start thinking about what to put on the Wish List; the monies need to be allocated since we're a non-profit. Let Lisa Norwalk or someone on the Board of Directors know if you have an item you would like to have on the List. **Principal's Report (Mrs. Nancy E.)** - We will receive our staff and teaching allocations next week. I sent home a letter about attendance intent – very important because when we get our allocations, we can compare them versus intent. With allocations comes teaching space. If all goes as promised, we'll get 2 additional portables. I don't have commitment in writing, but it should go as planned. We are also going to have summer school; same as last year for reading/writing (Wood Acres will do math). We will have 4 teachers from July 6th to July 24th. We just completed our artist-in-residence (Maria Barbosa) program. Every child in school participated. She met with the teachers and she worked on incorporating the art with what they're studying. It was a lot of work on her part. She was in every class for 3 sessions. She was here for about 9 to 10 weeks. MSA testing is coming up. Anybody with kids in 3-5th grade, please send them to school. Kids with accommodations will get the accommodations. This is a real team and school effort to make sure it goes smoothly. People are working very hard to schedule the test. These are very public results and can impact where people buy a house. We do use

MSA as one data point on placement; but it's not part of their grade. We must have 94% attendance for whole school to even get a grade for MSA. And we're pretty close to that number; we're not in a comfortable zone. **Teacher's Report (Helene G.)** – MSA - parents need to stay calm; the kids will do just fine. It's part of "No Child Left Behind" initiative. **Treasurer's Report (Lisa N.)** – **Fill Our Pond** - we're very close to raising \$25,000. The **Obligated Funds** is for books for the media center. A lot of this is for sales tax. We're spending money right now for **Spring Fair**. **Cultural Education** is for artist in residence (\$5,000). BTES paid for half and PTA paid for the other half. **Student activities** we spent \$2,500 for indoor recess games. **Wish List** - Gym improvements – we've spent another \$1,100 but this still doesn't total all that we have budgeted so we'll need to reallocate. **Mrs. Erdrich** - Paper cutter came in and die cut letters will come in soon. The foundation has the money for an interactive wall but it hasn't been spent because Ms. Loftus couldn't get the approval from MCPS for this wall. **MCCPTA (Darrin H.)** – we approved capital programs. No ads on buses. Decision on labeling kids as gifted/talented will happen in October. Even if labels are taken away, the County must meet the needs of every child. **Fundraising (Ellie A.)** – Fill Our Pond party is next Saturday night at Julie and Jon Garcia's house. All teachers & staff generously donate an outing so we'll have a sealed bid auction. For most of the outings we'll have a random and a highest bid winner. **Volunteers (Lisa S. for Elissa G.)** - we need volunteers to help the school nurse for the hearing and vision tests. **Community based (Vicki H.)** – we will throw a mac & cheese party in Mr. Wells' class next week because his class won. The next collection for the DC Food Bank is going to be healthy snacks. Martha's Table is on Thursday. **Helene G.** - Thank you for the Indoor Recess Fund. 7 of us teachers will go to Baltimore Art Museum on Saturday to learn about combining art and math. The Green Team put in for a grant and we're waiting to hear. We get a ticket if the lights are left on or if we put things in wrong trash cans. We are in a partnership with the Audubon Society to provide curriculum materials across all the grades. We will learn about how our actions impact the Chesapeake Bay. It is a 2-yr program and gives us money for creating an outdoor educational area (beefing up our Butterfly Garden, for example). Greenkids.com is the website to get more info.

Respectfully submitted
Surya M. Shah, Recording Secretary