



Sparks Elementary PTA Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 7:05 PM

- 1. Welcome** (Sapna Prasad): **14 persons in attendance, including all board members, Ms. Chyko, Ms. Alvarez, and Melinda Hoffman.**
- 2. School Updates** (Ms. Chyko and Ms. Alvarez):
 - a. Thank you!- Ms. Chyko would like to thank the PTA on behalf of the teachers and staff for the Spread the Love treats and bulletin board notes, the Chalk the Walk for the teachers, the “School Supply Store”, the cleaning supply donations, Jersey Mike’s lunch, and promotion of substitute teacher needs, as several parents have signed up to be substitute teachers.
 - b. The Shiver Winner for January was Green! This month’s virtue is Kindness.
 - c. National Counselors Week is this week, send Ms. Oates a note to show your appreciation!
 - d. Mrs. Yeager has been nominated for Teacher of the Year from Sparks ES!
 - e. President’s Day is currently a day off for students. This day may be used as a make up snow day if we have to close schools between now and Feb. 21. Stay tuned.
 - f. Question regarding recess and outdoor temperature. There is no specific BCPS policy for when students should or shouldn’t go outside. Teachers use their discretion to make this decision. All efforts are made to go outside every day.
 - g. Testing (Mrs. Alvarez): Try not to take students out of school these days for appointments if possible.
 - i. MAP testing is next week. All students.
 - ii. MISA- 5th Grade only. March 9-10.
 - iii. MCAP- 3rd -5th Grade only. April 25 to May 6.
- 3. Board & Committee Updates**
 - a. **1st VP** (Erin MacDougall)
 - i. **Spread the Love Campaign:** Lots of PB & J has been donated. A lot of notes have come in and are posted on the bulletin board outside the cafeteria. More notes and donations coming in daily. Runs through Friday Feb. 18. Please

remember to donate PB & J in plastic containers only. Erin will deliver items to the Baltimore Hunger Project.

- ii. **Pajama Day/Donation:** In conjunction with Casey Cares Foundation, which donates pajamas to kids who are in the hospital. Sparks to have a pajama day that coincides with families donating pjs. Dates in April to be determined.
- iii. **Virtual Programming for Students:** Erin to form a committee to explore fun activities that incorporate the students that can be done safely. More information to come.

b. **2nd VP** (Meredith Heyl): The PTA will purchase the \$25 gift cards for the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week this year in lieu of room parents taking on this responsibility.

c. **Treasurer** (Matt Barr)

- i. **Cash Register:** Ms. Hoffman is requesting a new cash register for use at the school store. Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously to reallocate \$250 from the Assemblies line of the budget to cover the cost of this item. Matt to research pricing and purchase options.

d. **Financial Secretary** (Rebecca Franklin)

- i. **990-EZ Federal Tax Filing:** Documents received with changes needing to be made. Awaiting updated documents for signature so that the taxes can be filed.
- ii. **MD Sales & Use Tax Filing:** Filed in January.

e. **Hospitality**

- i. **Therapy Dog** (Erin MacDougall): Erin has contacted “Pets on Wheels” and for a donation of \$25, they will bring several therapy dogs to the school for teachers to interact with for one to two hours outside. Tentatively scheduled for April 1, which is a half day for students/teachers. Ms. Chyko to confirm with teachers that they would like to have this event.

ii. **School Supply Drive/Store** (Erin MacDougall, Meredith Heyl, Cassie Jackson): Supplies were donated by families and set up in the conference room. Teachers were able to “shop” for needed supplies. Went very well. More supplies are coming in! Ends Monday 2/14/22.

iii. **National School Counselor Day:** Ms. Oates was given a card and treated to lunch from Graul’s.

f. **Reflections** (Meredith Heyl & Cassie Jackson): Each student who participated in the program was given a certificate of participation, a card with positive feedback from the local artist judges, and a sketch pad and colored pencils in a small ceremony in the hallway with Ms. Chyko. Pictures were taken to send to the families via a slideshow. Cassie to finish the slideshow and share with the participants' families.

4. New Business

- a. **Shark Shuffle** (Alex Castillo, Corinne Roth, Sapna Prasad): Shuffle overview given. Event includes a fun run, obstacle courses, DJ, Kona Ice, Dunkin Donuts and coffee, Seasons Pizza, games, hair painting, prizes, raffle and so much more. Students collect money from sponsors before the event and can win prizes. The event itself is free and students do not need to collect money to attend. Advanced Business Systems will make and donate color copies of the fliers for the event again this year.
 - i. **Committees:** Committee chairs have mostly been filled. Looking for a Chair for the Obstacle course/Fun Run activities committee. Will send out communication to Sparks families for volunteers to help plan the event.
- b. **Lucky Ducks** (Erin MacDougall)- Teachers loved this event last year! Erin to talk to Kerri for guidance and will run this activity again this year for teachers.
- c. **Teacher Appreciation Week: (Erin)** May 2- May 6. Will send out communication to school to form a committee to plan for this event.
- d. **February Shiver Party Donation:** Request from Mrs. Eckman for sidewalk chalk for a Shiver Party activity. Approved.
- e. **5th Grade Farewell:** Alex will initiate communication with the 5th grade teachers to start planning. The Farewell is typically held on the last full day of school.

5. Announcements

- a. **Spread the Love now thru Feb 18**
- b. **Supply donations now thru Feb 14**
- c. **MAP testing starts Feb 15**
- d. **PTA Meeting March 9 at 7:00 pm**
- e. **MISA Testing (5th grade only) March 9-10**
- f. **MCAP Testing (3rd- 5th Grades only) April 25-May6**
- g. **April 22 SHARK SHUFFLE Kick-Off**
- h. **Shark Shuffle May 14 9:30 am to 11:30 am (Rain date May 21)**

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.