**January 8, 2019 PTA Meeting**

**Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm**

**Attendance**: John Wolpert, Alicia Assetto, Vanessa Marasco, Amy Parker, Jennifer Doe, Michelle Wojtyniak, Brandy Hunt, Carrie Trudden, Karen McLaren, Debby Ciccarelli, Melissa Turski, Jenn Labin, Jennifer MacDonald, Jill Moy, Cindy Bell, Sarah Parsons, Kristen Andrews

**Announce Slate of Officers:**

President: Vanessa Marasco

Vice President of Administration: Amy Parker

Vice President of Fundraising: Jennifer Doe

Treasurer: John Wolpert

Secretary: Alicia Assetto

**Old Business**

* **Happy New Year!**
* **Treasurer’s Report – John Wolpert**
  + - Current Balance: $34,099
    - After checks outstanding will have approximately $32,889
    - Net Income $8,492
  + 17% increase in our membership dues
    - net income is $713, 103% increase from last year
    - a lot more people joined
    - a lot less people took cards (each card costs $4.25)
    - Option on membership form for members to decline the card
      * Membership card allows you to register card with national PTA –discounts participating members could be eligible for
      * Not a lot of benefits per John Wolpert
    - Kristen Andrews will be able to explain the card cost savings on future PTA membership forms
    - Cards for this school year are stamped and will be sent out soon
  + Winter dance - $614 income
    - Invoices or expenses may be outstanding
  + Holiday Shoppe – 175% increase in net income over last year
    - $302 made vs $111 last year
  + Coupon Books – down $700 in sales, a 33% drop in net income
  + PTA Budget Report was available at the meeting
* **Principal’s Report – Cindy Bell**
  + School wide Dino Readers program will start soon
    - Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library
    - Collaboration with a scavenger hunt event at the public library
      * All 5 elementary schools will participate
      * Will announce the date
    - Students will read 3 chapters over 3 nights to over a little more flexibility
  + Year book sales will start soon
    - End of January – end of March
  + Board of Ed – assign ambassadors to each school
    - Tara Battaglia will be at EES Friday and will be at Groovy Science night as well
  + There is a mini service project going on for 4th and 5th grade
    - Information will be sent home
    - Some students are working on small care packages to go with meals at Wesley Freedom
  + Parent Survey
    - Is being sent state-wide via email
    - Questions regarding important issues about technology and safety
    - A lot of choices to read through – about 20 minutes
* **Orioles Fundraiser – Mrs. Parsons**
  + Will be setting a date based on promotions that are offered for attendees at Camden Yards – scheduled to come out soon
  + A link for EES families to buy tickets online would make it easier and save time
    - Will allow for a longer length of time to sell tickets
    - E-tickets instead of paper tickets that need to be distributed
  + T-shirt option add-on?
    - Din”O’s” day at the yardwith dinosaur logo
    - Want to do the t-shirt, but if no t-shirt, let’s wait for the promotions to be announced
    - Concerned about the legality of a copied Orioles logo was expressed by members
    - Mrs. Parsons will contact the t-shirt supplier
  + PTA would not want the ticket sales to conflict with Oscar’s Night, Hershey ticket sales, or BINGO
    - February would be a good time to sell the Orioles tickets
    - Hershey orders need to be in by the end of March
* **Hershey Park Tickets – Vanessa Marasco**
  + Last year we sold the tickets for $35, and $5 was PTA income
  + This year, the tickets will cost PTA $33 so should we sell for $38?
    - Can go the night before and have a whole day at the park too… and it’s also a water park
    - Will let families know that the price went up, we didn’t just increase the cost to make more $
    - Cost will be $38 this year
* Oscar’s Night Fundraiser – Jenn Labin & Karen McLaren
  + Will take place January 27th all day!
  + Date has been guaranteed
  + Flyers have gone home
    - Info for the event
    - Another flyer regarding the Silent Auction
      * 2 baskets per grade with different themes
      * Jennifer Doe suggested asking Liquor stores for donations of wine and spirits for baskets
      * Boxes for donations are located in the grade suites
      * Jenn Labin will pick up the donations
  + Friday, January 25th Jenn Labin will have a basket wrapping party for volunteers to help assemble baskets
  + The back room at Oscars will be available if we want to do face painter/games?
    - In the past we had DJ/Corn hole games
    - Last year, we needed the space for dinner tables
  + Will need lots of volunteers to monitor the Silent Auction and 50/50 raffle at the Event
    - Volunteers needed to answer questions
    - Sign-up genius will be sent out for volunteers
  + Parents can send money to donate to the Silent Auction if they would prefer not to buy items for baskets
* **BINGO – March 23rd!**
  + Will need a caller!!
  + A sign-up will be posted on Facebook after Oscar’s
  + Jennifer Doe will need help asking for Donations and picking items and donations up
  + Donations from home businesses are welcome to fill baskets
    - Kristen Andrews will donate a cake!
* **Box Tops – Carrie Trudden**
  + Check was sent to school in amount of $541.60
  + March 1st is the next collection date for this school year
  + Collected $75 two weeks ago
  + Carrie considering sending some reminders/contest to try to meet our goal of $1,000 in collections
    - John Wolpert will look into if PTA can donate a Gift Card as a prize
* **Restaurant Nights – Lauren Rinker**
  + MOD Restaurant night has been scheduled for May
  + Krista Schneider is taking over for next year, will look into planning a Ledo’s night for next year
* **Coupon Books – Candice McCoy**
  + Books have been delivered
  + Out of state orders were delayed
  + Candice will check on any problems with the orders
* **Cultural Arts – Amy Parker**
  + Booking the Young Audiences performances has been trying with our early start time
  + Slim Goodbody is scheduled for this month
  + Amy will continue to work with Young Audiences to try to book Cultural Arts enrichment
* **Holiday Gift Shop – Vanessa Marasco & Jennifer Doe**
  + Was an easy event to plan
  + Penguin Patch company was easy to work with
    - Easy to use app
    - PTA has accrued 10,000 loyalty points that can be applied to purchase popcorn poppers or coolers
  + Lots of kids that were able to earn service hours helping younger students shop
    - Training for volunteers might need to be improved
    - Parents should be consulted if child shopping is not able to follow rules they are given about how their money is to be spent
  + PTA will plan to hold the event again
* **Groovy Science Night – February 22nd**
  + Eli Richards will be taking over for Dan Simon after this year
  + Entertainment has been booked
  + Planning is in progress
  + Sarah Parsons suggested the “Science Tellers” as a great cultural arts program to bring back
    - Presented at the last Groovy Science Night

**New Business**

* **PTA Savings Account – John Wolpert**
  + Money in our checking account is collecting no interest
  + John Wolpert suggests moving some money to a savings account
    - Will remain liquid with no penalties
    - Suggested moving $10,000 to a savings account
  + Sarah Parsons asks what the plan for using the money is?
    - Ms. Bell suggests saving money for future expenses that may arise such as playground replacement or repairs that may be needed at some point
    - No legal amount that PTA needs to keep
      * National PTA does not want us to spend money just for the sake of spending money
    - What can we spend the money on?
      * PTA can place a suggestion box in the office for parents and teachers to offer ideas
    - What are the limits we can spend it on?
      * Ms. Bell states PTA cannot spend it on technology
      * Mrs. Hunt says we do not currently need PE equipment
    - Ms. Wojtyniak suggests spending money on students/the community
      * More cultural arts programs
      * “Rock Symphonies”
    - Jenn Labin suggests improving the courtyards for outdoor learning
      * Ms. Bell – not a lot of space for whole classes, they are serving a calming purpose and are used by smaller groups of students
    - Pavilions with tables and white boards for outdoor classrooms
      * Ms. Bell – Donny and custodial staff currently takes care of courtyards and rain gardens that PTA no longer maintains
      * Anything PTA installs must be approved and maintained
    - Expenses from the Mobile Science Lab were free this year, so PTA did not need to pay that
    - Will have 5th grade end of year expenses and teacher reimbursements to pay out
  + Members voted on opening a savings account
    - Unanimous approval from members in attendance to proceed with opening the savings account
* **Upcoming PTA Board Vacancy – Secretary**
  + There is a three year term limit for board positions. Alicia Assetto will have completed 3 years of service in the Secretary position at the end of this school year.
  + Interested candidates can express intent by the April meeting and will be voted into position in May
* **Hallway Design – Ms. Bell**
  + A parent suggested a hallway sensory walk at school on the PTA facebook page
    - Will need to gather information about installing a sensory walk
  + There are lots of opportunities in place at EES for active brain breaks
  + EES has a sensory room for students who need it
* **Phishing Scam – Carrie Trudden**
  + Phishing scam going around Howard Co Schools
  + Employees and PTA board members are contacted and asked to buy gift cards
    - Activation codes for gift cards are requested
  + No one at school or PTA will ask for activation codes for Gift Cards
  + Requests for donations will come from School Messenger emails
* **Comfort Cases – Mrs. Hunt**
  + Packing the bags was not the best way to collect
  + Will collect certain needed items and take to the collection site
* **Next PTA Meeting will be February 12th at 7pm**
* **Drawing for $10 Starbucks Gift Card – Kristen Andrews**
* **Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm**