

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm
82 parents in attendance

- Welcome by PTA President Heather McAndrews
Introduction of the board
Introduction of committee chairs
 - Vernoica Urquilla
 - Nadia Tyme
 - Melanie Cox
 - Nicole Smith

There are still Committee Chairs needed for the following committees:
Site improvement & advocacy
Membership & fundraising

There was a call for the Principals update by Mr. B, but it was skipped since he still hadn't joined the call
Update: He was unable to join the call due to the meeting being held on GoogleMeet

Review of 2022-2023 PTA Goals, PTA Vice President Riziki House Okon
The PTA Board has met with and been communicating with school administration and working behind the scenes to coordinate activities

The PTA has three high level goals for the 2022/2023 school year:

1. Build & Engage our school community
Current efforts:
 - Grade level & bus route chat groups
 - Class parent liaisons
 - Community events

2. Site beautification & improvement
Current plans:
 - Playground & courtyard upgrades
 - Water fountains

3. Membership & Fundraising
Volunteers are still needed for the following roles:
 - PTA members
 - Committee chairs
 - Committee members
 - Event volunteer

Link was shared in the chat for volunteering during school hours, that process has to go through PGCPs and volunteers must be fingerprinted

The floor was opened for attendees to share ideas for ways we can build community

- Grade meet ups
- School dances (boo bash or a valentine's day dance)
- Family gym nights
- Family movie night
- Returning clubs (i.e. chess and checkers)
 - Per Mrs. Soto there has been lots of parent interest
 - Administration is working on logistics, permission slips, etc
 - Information should be coming home soon
- Dad-led event (donuts with Dads)
- Grownups day to cover all families
- Career days
- Family sports days

Discussion on Improving communication, Committee Chair Nadia Tyme

Created grade-level and bus route chats

2nd grade group chat: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/C0oemAUbWrvFU27PqpfCTo>

3rd grade group chat: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CHVk7QdBEWk80VGNpm8hkE>

4th grade group chat: https://web.groupme.com/join_group/88336274/E1ILRL9Y

5th grade group chat: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HQVfZy7yYGb3dLmnrie2Em>

Added class liaisons to bridge the gap between parents and the classroom/teachers

The groups have been working to ncrease parent/kid meet ups outside of school

Events, PTA President Heather McAndrews :

[Hyattsville Zombie Run](#)

Run is hosted by Hyattsville Elementary School

Kids can run as individuals and can be sponsored by friends and family to raise money for GWES

If your child isn't running parents can still support a GWES student who is

<https://runsignup.com/Race/34953/Donate?charityId=6919>

Riziki shared the draft school calendar with the current list of ideas

Fall Festival

Date: Saturday 11/5/22 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Many volunteers needed for areas including:

- Face painting
- Trunk or treat
- Photo booth
- Games
- Outdoor movie night
- Set up and clean up
- Committe planning

- Sponsorship/silent auction donations

Committees still needing help

Community engagement, school beautification, and events still need help

Riziki went through the areas on each committee that need help

[Link for volunteering](#)

Site beautification and improvement projects

1. Playground
 - Add color and games to the playground
 - Downplay the asphalt
 - Creating colorful playful learning games
 - Clean up the baseball diamond for kickball
2. Courtyard
 - Some teachers are looking to add gardening
 - Goal is to create an alternative outdoor space for students and teachers
3. Indoors
 - Get the water fountains working again

Membership & Fundraising Report, Treasurer/Membership Chair Brittney Moore

62 pta members (signed up)

48 PTA members (paid)

Dues are \$20 per family and can be paid by Zelle (pta.gwes@gmail.com) or cash to Mrs. Soto

Membership hub is coming soon for online payment

[New website is available](#), The site includes information such as:

- Dues
- GWES gear
 - Hoodies and shirts are available
- Membership information
- Announcements
- Event Information

Fundraising opportunities

[Amazon smile account](#) can be chosen as a charity in Amazon and the school will get a portion (Search for: Glenarden Woods ElementarynSchool PTA)

Recent fundraisers:

Book fair raised \$3,450

Chucki E Cheese and Chipotle (summer) \$1,157.66

Brittany requested parents share any fundraising ideas:

Read-a-thon

Raise Right gift cards

Book fair report, Chairperson Veronica Urquilla

We sold \$14,946 worth of merchandise, this volume was even recognized by Scholastic

From those sales we raised \$3,450

There is still \$2,730 in the schools scholastic account to purchase things from their catalog

There will be another book fair in the spring, date is TBD

Brittany Moore, Treasurer went through the needs for the fundraising committee

Veronica Urquilla will be leading grant writing and sponsorships

She is open to other parents who have more experience in grants to join her or take over

All fundraising ideas are welcome

Riziki shared the contact information for the PTA

pta.gwes@gmail.com

www.gwespta.org

November newsletter is out and can be found on the GWES PTA site

Q&A

Where can parents go to get finger printed to volunteer in school?

Several locations around the county

<https://offices.pgcps.org/volunteer/>

<https://www.pgcps.org/offices/humanresources/fingerprinting>

What is the cost for finger printing?

\$65 per person

Families getting free and reduced lunch can get it done for free

How can we get adult clothing for the school store?

PTA is working on adding them to the store. Notifications will go out via Class Dojo or email.

If we've already volunteered for the PTA is there something that can be done outside of events?

Members should work within their committees to share ideas and spearhead them. The PTA is open to any and all ideas and participation.

What are the regulations about events at school?

Given the changing metrics each event will be considered on an event by event basis in communication with the school administration

When will career day be?

Mrs. Soto shared that Mrs. Romero (school counselor) is working on the logistics as it will be facilitated by the school. Dates and information will be forthcoming. Parent Martin Copeland volunteered to assist since he works for the Prince George's County Office of Workforce Development.

Can kids wear Halloween costumes to school?

Mrs. Soto confirmed Halloween costumes are not allowed but the school looks for other ways for the kids to dress up such as the Vocabulary parade.

Mrs. Soto mentioned children are welcome to wear their costumes to the Nov 5 Fall festival

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM (called ended since the GoogleMeet account shut the meeting down)