

PTA Meeting Notes from May 16, 2023

Meeting Called to Order 6:35 PM (Riziki House-Okon)

Welcome:

Vice-President Riziki House-Okon opened meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

- Exit Survey/Sign-in link was dropped into the zoom chat room for parents to complete
- Need verification of PTA membership for those participating in the elections
- Welcomed new incoming parents who were attending the PTA meeting
- This meeting is the last official PTA meeting for the school year (2022-2023)

Exec Board Updates:

A.) Recent Event Recaps (Riziki House-Okon):

- Thanked the Events Committee and all the parents who donated time and money to support Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- Thanked everyone for sending in shoes for the shoe drive and showing up to support the Spring Dance.

B.) Treasurer's Report (Brittney Moore):

- Reported on the balance at the beginning of May and the expenses for the May events
- Talked about expenses for planned June events (5th Grade Promotion Ceremony and Field Day)

C.) Final SY Fundraisers (Brittney Moore):

- Pizzeria Paradiso (Hyattsville) – May 18th from 4pm-9pm
- Chuck-E-Cheese (Largo) – June 13th from 2pm-9pm
- GWES School Spirit Gear – Purchase through school store website
- Kona Ice – (June 6th) asking for Tiger Pride donations to help celebrate the students at GWES

D.) School Beautification (Heather McAndrews)

- Discussed modifications that have been made to the school blacktop so far with the painting of the pond. Next "Blacktop Cleanup Day" is May 21st from 9am-4pm. Initiatives to clean and paint imagination/learning stencils on black top and touch up any existing markings. Purchasing two picnic tables for the courtyard before the end of the year. Will fundraise to purchase two additional tables for next school year.

E.) Field Day (Heather McAndrews)

- May 31st (4th & 5th grades) 10am-12:30pm
- June 1st (2nd & 3rd grades) 10am-12:30pm
- Still need more parents to volunteer to support each day
- Purchase GWES spirit gear t-shirts to help support this event
- Donate snacks, water, etc

F.) 5th Grade Promotion ((Brittney Moore):

- June 9th
- Need support from 2nd and 3rd grade parents (cleanup and breakdown)

Principal Updates (Mr. B):

- May 25th (3rd grade is having an in-school field trip with a Math Magician)
- May 29th (School is closed)
- June 2nd (2nd grade is having an in-school bread making field trip)
- June 9th (5th grade promotion)
- June 11th and 12th (2-hour early dismissal)
- June 13th (last day of school; 2-hour early dismissal)
- Thanked the current PTA Executive Board for a job well done for the past two years
- Two GWES teachers will be retiring after this school year (Mr Kapili and Mr Spicer). Search is on for a new 4th grade Greenland Arts teacher and ICAL teacher for next school year. PGCPS has restored GWES' 5th teacher for 2nd grade as before the pandemic.
- The hiring process in the PGCPS has changed since the pandemic. PGCPS HR hires the teachers and not the principals in the county. There is a teacher shortage, not only in PGC but in the entire country.

2023-2024 PTA Board Executive Board Election Nominations (Brittney Moore and Riziki House-Okon):

- Every current position is up for election. These positions are held for 2 years.
- Introduction of Executive Board candidates for 2023-2024 SY. There were no additional nominations for any of the positions. Each nomination was voted on by the parents attending the meeting. No one opposed any of the nomination. Congratulations to the new PTA Executive Board!
- President: Monica Lee
- Vice President: Nicole Smith
- Treasurer: Lenye Franklin
- Secretary: Jasmine McDonald (soliciting for a co-secretary)
- Membership & Fundraising Committee Chair: Kirkland Wallace
- Parent Liaison Committee Chair: Amanda Wright
- Board Advisor & School Store Committee Chair: Brittney Moore
- Board Advisor & Events Member Committee Chair: Riziki House-Okon
- Events Committee Chair : vacant
- Communications Committee Chair: vacant
- Book Fair Committee Chair: Jasmine McDonald (need 1 person)
- Site Beautification Committee Chair: vacant

Close-Out/Wrap-Up of Items (Hearthe McAndrews):

- Recap of final SY Fundraisers (Riziki House-Okon)
- Current PTA Board sends a "Heartfelt Thank You to all of our Amazing Volunteers!"

- Mr B thanked the current Executive board for their work the last two years. He also talked about the importance of volunteering.

Q&A:

- 1.) Q: How does out of state candidates applying for positions at GWES work when trying to transfer to the school?

A: A principal does not have the authority to hire anybody coming from out of state or out of the county. They would have to go through Prince Georgia Country Human Relations Division. They will have to go through a vetting process with HR. HR will vet the candidates and then they will either say “Yay” or “Nay” that the candidates qualified to teach or are not qualified to teach. They will say if they are qualified to be hired as a teacher or not. Once these people are hired, their names are sent to the schools but principals can’t hire them because they don’t have authority to do so. PGCPHS HR does the hiring. Currently, HR is saying there are very few people who have applied to teach and next SY may be worse. (Mr B answered)

- 2.) Q: Can assistant teachers be hired in place of the shortage?

A: Some schools are granted assistant teachers called “pair of professionals” to teach in their classrooms based on their student population in need. GWES does not get those kinds of positions because we are not in that terrible position based on our gifted population. We can’t recruit so PGCPHS HR sends me a list of people/teachers who want to come to GWES. (Mr B answered)

- 3.) Q: How long does it take to get GWES spirit gear after you purchase it?

A: It typically takes a week. The items are reviewed in the GWES store, packaged and then we usually deliver them with the help of Ms Bell. All orders are given to Ms Bell on Fridays. If you have agreed to let your child take the order home, Ms Bell will call them to the office to get their item and take it home. (Brittney Moore answered)

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.