



Garrett Park Elementary School PTA, Inc.

PTA General Meeting
April 4, 2017
GPES All Purpose Room

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER. GPES PTA President Marc Silverman called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Minutes for the general meeting on March 7 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Diane Cassidy reported that the budget situation has not changed much since last month's report; International Night ran under budget, and money has been earned from Spirit Wear.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS. For next year, there are three open positions on the PTA board: VPs of communication, membership, and fundraising. Elections will be held at the next general meeting, in May.

Adult volunteers are needed to help coordinate the Spring Fair, which will be on Sunday, June 4.

PRINCIPAL SELECTION PROCESS. Sarah Sirgo, who supervises elementary schools in three clusters including the Walter Johnson cluster, gave a presentation on the process for selecting elementary school principals. She later had her PowerPoint presentation e-mailed via Marc to the GPESPTA listserv and via Connect Ed to the school community.

Dr. Sirgo asked parents to answer an online survey about the principal leadership characteristics that they consider high priority.

Mr. Tucci was appointed as acting principal over the summer. In the next few weeks, a permanent principal will be selected for the school. Mr. Tucci is expected to be a candidate.

The applicant pool for permanent principals includes current principals in the school system, principal interns, experienced principals outside MCPS, eligible assistant principals (who have completed principal internships), and acting principals.

GPES parents can be involved in the selection process by responding to the online survey about preferred characteristics and by joining the interview panel, which is expected to include 5-6 parents. Dr. Sirgo wants the parents on the panel to represent the diverse demographics of the school. Usually one of the parent panelists is the President or President Elect of the PTA. She also invited the NAACP parent rep to participate.

Dr. Sirgo expects that the panel will interview 3-4 candidates on the morning of Wednesday April 19. All candidates will be asked the same six questions, with no follow-up questions. Dr. Sirgo will develop all the questions. Panelists will be able to offer their impressions to her. She plans to recommend two finalists, including her preferred candidate, to the Superintendent, who will make a recommendation to the Board of Education. A final decision is likely at the May 9 BOE meeting.

When a parent expressed surprise that this process was necessary given Mr. Tucci's strengths, Dr. Sirgo said the formal process guarantees community input before a final decision is made.

Dr. Sirgo said she welcomed questions or narrative comments by e-mail.

PEP SEMINAR ON MANAGING STRESS AND PRESSURE.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a presentation from the Parent Encouragement Program by Suzanne Ritter.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting ended at 8:08 p.m. A head count noted about 22 people present.

Respectfully submitted, Karine Jegalian, Recording Secretary