**Garrett Park Elementary PTA General Meeting**

[**https://www.gpespta.org/**](https://www.gpespta.org/)

September 3, 2024 at 6:30pm

24 online; 40 in person

**Agenda & Meeting Notes**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

* Welcome back to school!
* Huge thanks to Hanita Natelson for her tenure as presidency and welcome her in new role!
* PTA meetings will be the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm

1. **PTA Board Member Elections**

PTA President

* Elections for President – Motion by Alexis
* Laura Basford and Jess Lieberson are running for co-presidents.
* No other nominees
* Won unanimously.

VP Communication – Jen Ryan

* Majority in room and online vote for Jen Ryan

1. **Principal’s Report- Daniel Tucci, GPES Principal, followed by Q&A**

* Congratulations Hanita Natelson (former PTA President) and thank you for your tenure! You did a wonderful job!
* Congrats to new board members!
* Opening school with more students – now have more than 700 students so class sizes are a little larger than normal.
* Communicating with MCPS central office to get another kindergarten teacher/classroom and feeling optimistic. Class sizes will be reduced if additional teacher secured. There are 105 kindergarteners enrolled this year.
* Thank you to PTA for supporting staff directly with donations to classrooms ($225 for supplies to each)
* Back to School Picnic on Sept 12 – more later from PTA
* Back to School Night coming soon (Sept 19) from 6 to 7:45pm. Admittance will be scheduled by grade level. GPES will welcome parents from 3 grade levels at a time to come at each session.
* Introducing Nicole Morici – former 3rd grade and now 5th grade teacher at GPES and interning with Mr. Tucci as part of her program and admin/educational leadership studies at Hood College
  + Review of mission and vision: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/garrettparkes/about/>
  + From teacher perspective, this is reflective in our school culture and visible every day. Teachers and kids are excited to be here and know teachers are here for them no matter what = from academics to interpersonal
  + School Improvement (SIMP) Goals <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zQXNHGvCrqWct4FNHw-k7drTrC2Ul3jv/view>
    - Literacy – focusing on gap reduction and growth. DiBELs improvement from K-2 for Hispanic and Latinx students in particular
    - Mathematics -MAP-P – growth of students for K-5 from fall to spring for Hispanic and Latinx students
    - Wellbeing Goal: using Zones of Regulation – gives common language to reflect on emotions.
    - Culture and climate: goal focused on black and African American experiences and talking about racism in the context of the school day.
  + Questions?
    - If new kindergarten teacher is secured, how will students be moved around?
      * Still working on this, but will follow system resources in place for this.
    - Paraeducators are allocated based on highest need now but will spread them out more throughout the year and after kindergarten issue is resolved.

1. **PTA Board Introductions**

* Co-Presidents – Laura Basford and Jess Lieberson
* Room Parent Coordinator – Carolyn Morris
* Treasurer - Elizabeth Ferpozzi
* VP of Events - Megan Minks
* VP of Communications – Jen Ryan
* Teacher Appreciation - Katie Mullen and Jen Wong
* Book Fair Co-Chair - Aaron Gonzales
* Book Fair Co-Chair - Megan Ganesh
* Book Fair Co-Chair – Alison Shwayri
* Yearbook - Heather Down (also GPES 1st grade teacher)
* Restaurant Nights & 5th Grade Events - Julie Brand
* Events Green Committee - Alexis Rourk Reyes and Ellen Vandeloo
* Staff Appreciation Update - Katie Mullen & Jen Martin-Wong
* Extracurriculars - Hanita Natelson (also former President)

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

* last year we gave $175 to each teacher for supplies, would like to raise to $225 for this year.
* Move to increase teacher support budget for 2024-2025 – vote approved.
* Teachers will also get $100 of Scholastic Bucks for their classrooms.

1. **Events Update**

Back to School Picnic – Sept 12 – 5:00 – 7:30pm

* Food and drink and activities with info and tables with extracurricular activity providers. GPES merch will able be available for purchase.
* Volunteers, including kids needing service-learning hours are welcome. Looking for face painters.

Fall Book Fair – October 7 to October 11 - Fair will be cashless this year – parents must use Scholastic eWallet

PJ Read Aloud Night – October 9th – kids come in jammies and hear books from teachers.

STEM Night coming in November!

1. **Green Committee** – includes garden projects and regular environmental action days for students

* First meeting – Sept 23 at 7:30pm via Zoom. Email [garrettparkespta@gmail.com](mailto:garrettparkespta@gmail.com) for info.
* Please join in the garden club ! Contact Gerlinde Gerber ([gerlinde.gerber@hotmail.com](mailto:gerlinde.gerber@hotmail.com))

1. **Staff Appreciation**

* 2 successful events already took place this year - Monday breakfast for teachers & Lunch from Taco Bamba
* Next event will be Thanksgiving Pie Collection

1. **Extracurricular Activities** - All details on PTA website. If price is a challenge, please reach out to PTA. Hiphop Dance, music, chines, Spanish and French, cheering, Girls on the Run (3-5th grade girls), chess, art, coding. **See** [**https://www.gpespta.org/**](https://www.gpespta.org/) **for more info.**
2. **Room Parents** – signup sheets are located in classrooms, please consider signing up and there will also be opportunity to sign up during Back to School Night. Contact Carolyn with questions.
3. **Wait ‘Til Eighth Pledge** – Michelle Corno (At-Large Board Member) & Laura Basford

* Parents sign pledge that kids won’t get smart phone until 8th grade or later to ease social pressure and reduce social impacts of smart phone use by young children.
* Info available on GPES PTA website

12. **Open Forum** - We welcome your comments and questions!

13. **Adjourn**