

**Minutes for October 14, 2014 Takoma Park Middle School PTA Meeting
TPMS Cafeteria 7:00-8:30 P.M.**

Members in attendance:

Shruti Bhatnagar, President
Lisa Finkelstein, Vice President
David Groberg, Treasurer
Carlyn Patterson-Breese, Assistant Principal
Prabhash Shrestha, TPMS Delegate to MCCPTA
Lisa Silverberg
Anjali Kochar
4 other parents – Names not available

The meeting began at 7:00pm with a welcome from the PTA President followed by a panel discussion led TPMS Counselor with four TPMS alumni who now attend Blair High School. The panel was focused on transitioning to high school, classes/programs/academy options at Blair and some insider tips on classes.

President's Report

Shruti Bhatnagar began her report with a call for volunteers for International Night on November 20 - an email with more information will be sent out by the Committee Chair for the event.

She then gave a recap of Walk to School Day on October 8. Shruti thanked the school staff for all their help with the event. Students received snacks provided by the PTA (thank you to David Groberg, PTA Treasurer, for buying and delivering the snacks to school!) and lanyards given by Safe Routes to School. Shruti mentioned the collaborative nature of the relationship the PTA enjoys with the TPMS staff and how appreciative the PTA is for this.

Shruti made an appeal for families to come out to events and volunteer. If every family could volunteer for one event, the volunteer needs of the PTA would be covered. Not only this, but it creates and strengthens the school community and families have the opportunity to meet other students.

The PTA is looking for volunteers for the following:

- Cluster Rep. – this person will be asked to work with the PTA President and Principal to draft letters regarding the school's needs in terms of the CIP (Capital Improvement Program: buildings and facilities) and the Operating Budget (school staff and resources). The Cluster Rep. will also attend 4 meetings a year where the requests these CIP and Operating Budget requests will be reviewed.
- Spirit Gear – this volunteer will coordinate the sale of TPMS spirit gear and fulfill orders.
- Student Directory – this volunteer will work with TPMS staff to update the online student directory and go through the opt-out forms.

Vice President's Report

Lisa Finkelstein, PTA Vice President, reviewed the three passive fundraising options families can engage in to help raise funds for the PTA. These are easy ways for families to contribute to the PTA.

- Giant: Please register your card with Giant. You can put up to two schools on your profile that can earn money when you shop at Giant. Lisa will send out an email with instructions.
- Safeway: Please register your card with Safeway's escript program.
- Amazon: Your shopping dollars at Amazon can earn the PTA funds! Just use the link on the PTA's website to visit Amazon. Families purchase items the way they have always shopped on Amazon, but by using the link on the PTA's website, the PTA can be allocated funds from Amazon. Share this link with friends and family!

In addition, please support the Blue Devil Appeal. You can give online through the PTA website or send in your donation to the PTA. The goal for the 2014-2015 school year is \$10,000. There will be two appeals – one in the fall (Sept – Nov) and one in the spring. To date, \$580 has been raised.

Treasurer's Report

David Groberg, PTA Treasurer, went through the PTA's bank account balance through the end of September (reconciliation sheet) and the profit/loss sheet through October 5.

Assistant Principal Report

Ms. Breese spoke about new entrance protocols for visitors to TPMS. Once students have entered the building in the morning, the inside set of doors at the main entrance will be locked. Visitors to the school will need to press the red button on the outside of the building to gain entrance. They will be buzzed in by the main office staff and asked to enter the main office through the door on left wall, just before the inner set of doors. This change has been made as part of the county's new safety regulations.

Ms. Breese also gave an update from the Open House. She said that there were 371 parents who signed in, but the school thinks there were about 400 parents in attendance.

TPMS Delegate to MCCPTA Report

Prabhash Shrestha, TPMS Delegate to the MCCPTA, attended the first Delegate's Assembly on Sept. 23. TPMS was recognized as the first PTA with 100 members!

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was discussed and will be a major focus of the MCCPTA's Legislative Committee's work this year. Shruti emailed out the Committee's Legislative Platform on Oct. 14. Please review it and send feedback to Shruti or Prabhash by Friday, Oct. 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Submitted & Signed By:

Anjali Kochar _____

Final Minutes Approved by the PTA President:

Shruti Bhatnagar _____