



**Takoma Park Middle School PTA
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

Attendees:

Approximately 25 parents, community and staff were present.

TPMS PTA Officers Present:

- Ray Moreno, President
- Susan Montgomery, Vice President
- Nicole Pauls, Treasurer
- Ayo Atterberry, Secretary
- Mariama Orange, NAACP Parent Representative
- Adam Lee, MCCPTA Delegate

Meeting agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Activism discussion with Speaker, Ananya Tadikonda-Student Activist
3. Principal Deeny's presentation
4. Nominating Committee
5. Treasurer Report
6. Bylaws Approval
7. Closeout

The meeting began approximately at 7:20 pm

1. Ray Moreno welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks
 - Ray introduced Ananya Tadikonda
2. Ms. Tadikonda provided remarks to attendees, which included Q& A. She highlighted the following:
 - Thanked TPMS for providing a space for students to have a voice and advocate because walkouts are not safe for students 10-14 years old. She noted that showing students how to communicate with their congressmen and family is important.



- Students should get involved in the Student Government Association (SGA) because the DCC is currently underrepresented, which means that an important segment of individuals is not represented.
 - Youth activism is important because they are the future.
 - The SGA advocates on behalf of students and schools by
 - Conducting general assemblies for SGA and interested students to talk about prevalent issues and concerns with the Montgomery County School Board. Students are provided excused absences and travel.
 - Reviewing bills in the House and Senate to participate in setting legislative priorities. Students travel to Annapolis and have meetings with Senators. Sometimes they get to hear the general assembly and observe how bills go through the Senate and House.
 - The type of activism chosen, whether walk out or moment of silence, depends on the level of comfort.
 - MCPS provided instruction on pedestrian safety to high school students in preparation for the walkouts.
 - The degree to which parents should be involved in their child's activism, she stated:
 - Ensure children know about the opportunities available to them, which includes being part of SGA and taking a monthly field trip to meet with Board of Education and Council Members.
 - Support, but not push a certain agenda or view point.
 - SGA needs to expand to all schools to get a wide range of perspectives, particularly to schools that are 70% FARM
3. Principal Deeny's presentation included the following remarks:
- Identified the genesis of the Student Activism club led by Ms. Medland
 - Wants to ensure that activism activities are learning opportunities for students
 - Noted that in the past, she has worked closely with SGA students to gain influence and protect student activism
 - Contacted the Youth Activism Project at Youthactivism.org. Ms. Deeny plans to have the website leader, Wendy Schaetzel, speak with students and parents at a principal coffee or other meeting.
 - Was excited about the March 14 activism because TPMS staff provided options for students that include:
 - Indoor activity, writing letters of condolence to the family or writing legislators
 - Marching outside around the school
 - Reuters and CBS are covering TPMS' March 14 activism. Takoma Park Mayor and Chief of Police will be present as well.



- Encouraged parents to take their kids to DC to march based on what they felt was appropriate. She noted that the school cannot support going to the march because it is their responsibility to keep kids safe.
 - During the March 14th demonstrations, although instruction continued, TPMS teachers changed their schedule for the school activism planned. Students will not be penalized if they have an excused absence. In addition, teachers provided students opportunities to make up for the missed work.
4. Nominating Committee, Mariama Orange discussed the need for additional members of the nominating committee and other officer vacancies.
- The body voted Ayo Atterberry, Adam Lee and Mariama Orange as members of the nominating committee.
5. Treasurer Report was presented by Nicky Pauls
- Discussed the success of the books and basketballs- raised 30% more than budgeted.
 - Still need to raise \$7,000 more to meet budget projections.
 - Ms. Orange won a \$2k grant from Takoma Foundation for low income TPMS students to enroll in classes over the summer courses through MCPS.
 - Submit receipts for reimbursement before June 30, 2018 when the finances are reconciled for the year.
6. TPMS PTA Bylaws will be available online for review. The body is required to review and vote on them every 3 years. We will vote on bylaws at the April 10 meeting and there are no proposed changes.
7. Closeout
- The next PTA meeting is April 10 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. At this meeting, the body will vote on the bylaws and Principal Deeny will present the school safety report.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 pm.