

**Takoma Park Middle School Parent Teacher Association
Minutes of January 12, 2016 - General Membership Meeting
TPMS Cafeteria 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Members in attendance:

Shruti Bhatnagar, President
Lisa Finkelstein, Vice President
Karema Daley, Vice President
David Groberg, Treasurer
Frances Cook, Secretary
Mary Hanisco, Secretary
Alicia Deeny, Principal
Mariama Orange, NAACP Rep
Lisa Wallace
Heeyeon Jeong

Shannon Rolf
Scott DeGasperis
Ray Moreno
Andrew and Katya Partan
Deandre Boggan
Alice Weiss

General membership meeting was called to order by Shruti Bhatnagar, PTA President, at 7 pm. Shruti opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Reading of Agenda Shruti read the agenda and it was approved as presented.

PTA Updates:

- Shruti introduced Karena Daley, as the new officer appointed by the board of directors, to the position of Vice President-2.
- She shared that the student directory data filed had been corrected and uploaded on Edline. Parents should alert her or Debra Roberts if they notice any errors.
- Shruti thanked Mary Hanisco and Heidi Danielski for their efforts on the Blue Devil Annual Fundraising Appeal, which is over 80% toward its goal.

Officer Reports, Committee Chairs and New Business

- David Groberg, PTA Treasurer, reported on the current status of PTA finances. He said fundraising income is up compared to this time last year, including the Blue Devil Appeal, while expenses have been slightly lower than expected. Finances are in good shape.
- Lisa Finkelstein, PTA Vice President, reported on Books and Basketball, which is one of our biggest fundraisers and will take place on Feb. 19th. Since the current event coordinators are 8th grade parents, Lisa encouraged new volunteers particularly 6th and 7th grade parents, to get involved.
- Shruti laid out the schedule for the rest of this year's meetings and PTA Organized events:
 - No PTA Meeting in February. However a Presentation from PEP on "Stress" will be held. Date to be announced soon.
 - Next PTA Meeting in March at which a presentation on Cyber Safety will be given by a company called "Pocket Guardian". School Counselors will also attend and participate in this presentation.
 - No Meeting will be held in April.

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- The last PTA meeting of 2015-16 will be held in May. This will be the annual general membership meeting at which elections will be held. Shruti shared the need for volunteers on the nominating committee. She said she announce this need and share all details (including job descriptions for officers) on the listserv so parents could volunteer to get involved in the nominating committee process and start thinking about officers for next year.
- Shruti also mentioned the need for volunteers for the audit committee, which usually meets in July. She shared that it was important to get the audit completed in July so that the PTA could make expenses scheduled for August since no checks can be disbursed after books close on June 30th until the audit for the financial year has been completed.

Principal's Report

Ms. Deeny reported on upcoming events and course registration for next year. She talked about the Operating budget needs at TPMS, and explained that teacher positions are not keeping up with expanded enrollment. TPMS is the most overenrolled school in the down county consortium. She encouraged parents to advocate for TPMS (more classrooms, portables, and staffing) by emails to the board of Education or actually by attending a Board of Ed meeting (next is Jan 14th).

PTA Presidents' update on Operating Budget advocacy:

Shruti shared that she and the Principal have shared the OB needs with the Cluster Coordinators who will be presenting the testimony to the BOE on Jan 14th. She encouraged parents to email the BOE to strengthen the advocacy efforts. She said she would share more information through the listserv.

NAACP Report Mariama Orange, NAACP rep, reported on the latest meeting and encouraged talked about the video from interim superintendent Mr. Bowers that explains the proposed budget.

Shruti, added that MCPS "Neighbor to Neighbor" toolkit is available on the MCPS web site and parents should consider talking to each other about how to share feedback.

Magnet Program Magnet coordinator Scott DeGasperis reported on magnet application numbers this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Submitted & Signed By:

Mary Hanisco, Secretary _____

Final Minutes Approved by the PTA President:

Shruti Bhatnagar _____