



**Takoma Park Middle School PTA  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2017**

**Attendees:**

Approximately 80 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

The meeting began approximately at 7:14 pm

Meeting agenda:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks, Ray Moreno
2. Principal's Update, Alicia Deeny
3. Difference Makers' Remarks
4. Presentation-John King, Former United States Secretary of Education
5. Treasurer's Report, Nicole Pauls
6. Closing Remarks, Ray Moreno

1. Ray Moreno welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks

- Ray introduced the PTA board and special guests from the community that included Jill Ortman-Fouse (MCPS BOE member) and Tebabu Assefa (owner of Blessed Coffee).

2. Principal Deeny provided the following remarks in her update:

- Thanked Ray, the PTA President, and Difference Makers highlighting their hard work. Mentioned Marla Nix and Captain Tyrone Collington for their work on Walk to School Day.
- Presented this school year's theme-Reaching New Heights
- Highlighted that TPMS was recognized by Niche Magazine as one of the best performing schools, 2018 New Schools.

- Noted that TPMS is a Common Sense Media Certified School due to courses they have provided over the last year into this school year. She noted that the school will provide lessons on digital citizenship. More information will be provided later this month
  - TPMS has the highest after school program participation rates among middle schools part of it was through a partnership with RecXtra from the Montgomery County Rec Dept.
  - TPMS is on track for the school addition. An informational meeting will be held Thursday, October 19 at 7 pm.
  - Discussed teacher professional development that includes student discourse around academics and cultural proficiency (in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year). This works reflects on how race and culture influence our lives. She also noted that Instructional strategies cannot combat racism and that a focus on our micro-interactions is the way to go. Mrs. Deeny offered to hold a meeting on these issues.
  - In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Principal Deeny and TPMS President, Moreno led the group in singing Guantanamera.
3. Mr. Goehring provided an update on Difference Makers (DM) activities
- DM has food distributions weekly and is partnering with Kokua Foods with Wegman's as a sponsor. The first distribution is November 5, 2017.
  - DM is also having a fruit sale to support the pantry. View [www.Difference-makers.org](http://www.Difference-makers.org) for more information.
4. TPMS VP Montgomery introduced John King, former United States Secretary of Education, Current Executive Director of the Education Trust
- Through his remarks and question and answer, Mr. King shared the following from his experience being a middle school principal and successfully supporting kids through adolescence:
    - Education/school is a source of hope for many children. In their role, teachers provide support and stability.
    - Students are entering this school year with fear due to the political context of this country.
    - The PTA and the school needs to reinforce the message ensuring that every child feels safe and has equitable opportunity.
    - Encouraged talking about race and the hard conversations and how we can make a difference on a small scale.
    - Kids need parents more, not less to do the following:
      - Learn that being in relationships with other people is important and hard.
      - Learn organizational systems.

- Manage intensity of emotions by helping them develop strategy coping strategies.
  - Help them find and support their academic and extracurricular passions.
  - Develop technology rules and have ongoing conversations with your children because children need vigilant adult supervision of technology.
  - When having the daily challenge of asking your children about their day, think about questions that reinforce self-regulation skills; and help kids give language to their experience and feelings. He suggested that parents persist past ‘the fine’ response because kids want more interaction. He suggested asking probing questions like:
    - What happened funny today?
    - Who did you sit with at lunch?
  - Cuts to social services negatively impacts schools. Parents have the ability to make choices about policies.
  - Pay attention to opportunity hoarding, where more affluent parents are ensuring their children get opportunities instead of students who are most in need.
  - In response to a question posed around how parents and concerned citizens can make education more important to our State and County officials and politician, Mr. King noted that we should take an active role in reaching out to our representatives. He suggested that as parents, we should advocate for services that are universally good for all kids; and that we should work towards racial justice.
5. Nicole Pauls provided the Treasurer’s Report
- Treasurer Pauls reviewed the budget. VP Montgomery put forth a motion to accept and Gil Winters seconded. The budget was approved.
6. Ray Moreno provided closing remarks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.