

**Haycock PTA Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 7:30pm

**1. Call to Order**

- a) PTA President, Sally Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:37pm in the Haycock cafeteria. Per the sign-in sheet, there were 21 people in attendance.
- b) Sally welcomed our Interim Principal Dr. Anita Blain and thanked her for all she has done since arriving at Haycock, including helping with crossing our children through the snow piles on Haycock Road during arrival!. She also welcomed parents and had them stand by grade.
- c) Sally mentioned that Amy Kales was absent and Christie Johnson would be taking minutes. She asked for a Motion to Approve the minutes from the November 20<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting. Sara Hobbs so moved. Nancy Trainer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Treasurer's Report**

- a) Treasurer Irene Levy noted that we have exceeded the budget amount for the armchair fundraiser; Bingo Night was a big success raising over \$1000; ASA winter registration is going well. Our tax return for fiscal year 2012 has been filed. There were no additional questions.

**3. President's Report**

- a) We are still in need of a President Elect for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. If you are interested, or know someone who would be good for the job, please let Sally know.
- b) We are also seeking interested parents to be part of our 5 person Nominating Committee. We will be electing the nominating committee at our next meeting in March and they will help to recruit parents to serve on our Executive Board and as Committee Chairs for next year.
- c) It's not too late to become a PTA member. If you are a Committee Chair, you are required to be a member. If you need to check if you are a member or not, contact Christie Johnson.
- d) We continue to have very busy times during arrival and dismissal at Kiss n Ride and at the Haycock/Westmoreland intersection. Please remember to be a good neighbor: watch your speed, watch the crossing guard, and wait patiently in Kiss n Ride while children are getting into/out of cars.
- e) Our domain name has been renewed and we have renewed our contract with A to Z Directory for next year.
- f) Thank you to Erin Freeman, Sara Hobbs and Laura Sachwitz for all their work on Bingo Night, it was a very fun and successful event. Thanks to Mr. Milton for being our stellar caller. Also, thanks to our Custodial Team for all their work to keep the school grounds snow free this winter.

- g) We have many dates to remember at the bottom of the agenda. Laura Sachwitz will give updates on those Social Events. You can check the PTA website as well for event details. Thanks to Sara Hobbs for all her work to keep the website up to date.

Important upcoming dates:

- i. Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30am Principal's Coffee
- ii. Friday, March 7 – Skate Night at Kettler
- iii. Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> Silent Auction (Knights of Columbus).
- iv. Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> Shredding Event
- v. Week of May 5<sup>th</sup> Teacher Appreciation Week
- vi. Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> Heritage Night (LMS)
- vii. Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Fun Run (LMS)

**4. VP Social**

- a) Laura Sachwitz: Thank you to everyone for coming to Bingo Night. We had over 300 people there and a lot of fun. Skate Night at Kettler is coming up and we will have 2 sessions 6:10-7:10pm and 7:20-8:20pm. The flyer has gone home and the link is also on the website. If anyone has ideas for events for next year, especially for 4th -6th graders, please contact Laura.
- b) Kristen Chandler—Auction planning is going well, and there is still time to join team! We are doing well with auction items. The big push now is for buying tickets. You can buy them at the auction site online (there are links from the haycockpta.org home page), and the online catalog is up there too and we are adding more and more items everyday. We are on the news show at school every Wednesday morning. We have gotten many teacher donations. If you haven't heard about a room project for your class, help us to put one together. We have parents who can help you with ideas. We want it to be an inclusive event, we want everyone to come. Teachers will get a free ticket, but they still need to "buy" their ticket online so we know they are coming. You can send an auction email to your class parents – encourage not to wait till the last minute. We might need to have a higher price later. There is another week and half before the catalog deadline.

**8. VP Curriculum Enhancement – Chrissy Brownson**

- a) Last week we hosted an author assembly for the school by Sisbro. All kids read a book and watched a video before they came and the kids really seemed to like it. For Spring Read in Day (the day before Spring Break begins) we will have Cynthia Lord. She will be presenting to every grade level. We have two theater

groups who are scheduled to come in this spring and the Brain Show is returning in June!!

- b) We worked with Community Use and were able to secure the use of the building through Spring Break, so we were able to put together a second ASA session this year. Registration started on Monday night and has gone very well.
- c) Art Appreciation will have two more lessons during the year.
- d) Junior Achievement – planning is beginning with volunteers and teachers to schedule the JA sessions for later this year. For the upper grades, the lessons will not begin until the SOLs are over. Terry McField is coordinating Junior Achievement this year.

#### **9. VP Fundraising-Tara Tanner**

- a) Thanks to your generosity and support we have been meeting and exceeding our goals on our fundraisers this year. The events we have coming up include the auction in March and the Fun Run in May.
- b) Amazon money has been great this year. And remember, this does not cost anything!
- c) Box Tops has also been great – Marilyn Allen is here and can give us an update: Our goal was \$2,000 for the year, and we have already exceeded it for the year. The funds go directly to the school (they are not a part of the PTA budget). So far we have sent in \$2,831 this year. The next deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- d) Merchandise is on sale right now – a great time to pick up some Haycock gear (and get it out of Tara's garage!).

#### **10. VP Community Affairs—Victoria Lippincott**

- a) The FY 2015 FCPS Budget is the big issue right now.
  - i. The good news is that the FCPS School Board passed a budget but the bad news is that they are \$100Million short of what they need. They are hopeful that the Board of Supervisors and the state will make up the shortfall.
  - ii. In last week's hotsheet we had a link to a petition started by Woodson teachers, to ask the Board of Supervisors to fully fund the budget to support our teachers.
  - iii. Nancy Trainor has been involved in the upcoming Rally and provided some additional details: There will be an event on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the County Board meeting where Ed Long, the County Executive will present his proposal of the Maximum

Advertised tax rate. If that tax rate is not high enough, there will not be room for additional funds for the schools. The rally will start outside Government Center (wear Blue, bring a sign) at 9am.

- iv. At their March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Supervisors will approve the max budget rate. There will not be an opportunity for speakers, but still an opportunity to come, wear blue and hold a sign.
- v. The public does have time to speak to address the Board of Supervisors: April 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6pm, April 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 3pm; April 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 3pm. You can sign up for speaker slots online at: [https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker\\_bos.htm](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm). If you can't make a meeting, please send a message – to our Supervisor John Foust – Dranesville district - [dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov) and Board Chairman Sharon Bulova – [chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov)
- vi. Although there is a \$100M shortfall, the FCPS budget does include a 6% cut in admin costs; increases in class size; cuts to summer school; increases in fees, etc. It is a lean budget already. One bright spot, it looks like there will be an increase in money from the state of \$30M – but that is not a done deal yet.
- vii. Later this spring, once Fairfax County has voted on what the transfer to the school system will be, the School Board will also have hearings for public comment before they vote on their final budget.

- b) SLEEP study will probably be out in April. They are planning to present several options but we don't know yet what the proposals will be. Bus route efficiency money that was realized in the mid-year budget review was voted by the Board to be used to help implement SLEEP proposals.
- c) We have had a verbal guarantee from Dr. Garza that although she will not have caps in place regarding class size, she is working on language for a trigger system. She promises that we will be happy with language of the trigger system and it will provide relief for issues with excessively large class sizes that Haycock and other schools have faced.

#### 11. Principal's Report—Dr. Anita Blain, Interim Principal

- a) Dr. Blain is very excited to be at Haycock. Her husband was a military officer and they came to Fairfax in 1991. Her PhD is in elementary education. She has taught PreK to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and loves kids (including all her grandchildren!). She was a teacher at Timberlane, Assistant Principal at Mosby Woods, Principal at Timberlane, and most recently Principal at Wolf Trap. Her role within FCPS, now that she is retired, is to help out as an Interim Principal where she is needed. She is here to keep things moving while Dr. Sheers is out. At this point, she anticipates Dr. Sheers returning at the end of April.
- b) Having been in our cluster when she was at Timberlane, she knows of Haycock's reputation as a premier school around the county. Although it was much smaller in the late 90s when she would come over for meetings! She likes to be able to

be in classrooms 2 days a week and have 3 days to handle the paperwork part of the job. She has already been into every classroom at least once and is amazed at the learning that is going on and the excellent teachers that we have. She is very impressed with the plays that we put on, and interactive learning experiences like Colonial Day. She is amazed that we have an all school field trip. It's an exciting place to be.

- c) **Renovation Update:** Right now, we are in a holding pattern now on Renovation timing. She is impressed that the PTA is on top of getting things done and raising money now to plan for the future. She was at Wolf Trap during their renovation. For two years, they couldn't have a fun fair or have afterschool activities or events. When school is over each day everyone needs to leave building so that the construction work can begin. In her experience at Wolf Trap the county will give you a certain amount of equipment, but if you want something else – you have to pay for it. You have courtyard, and they give you certain bushes and trees - then, if you want to add more, you have to pay for it. And by you, it's usually the funds the PTA has raised. At Wolf Trap, they lost all trees FCPS planted because they planted them in the middle of the summer and did not come back to water. That task fell on the school – so a heads up that what you get you'll want to protect.
- d) **Haycock/Westmoreland Intersection:** The safety of the intersection continues to be an issue that she and Barbara DeHart are concerned about. She called Ken Campo, who is with FCPS Safety and Risk Management, to come out and observe at arrival and dismissal. She has also been outside during arrival and dismissal many days. Fairfax county police have also been on hand to observe (and have even been giving out some tickets for speeding.). There are issues with the traffic flow in and out of kiss n ride that can get backed up; traffic that backs up on Haycock road which affects busses, and others coming into Haycock and the safety of the students crossing has become more challenging with the addition of the right turn lane. Hopefully, Ken will be able to work with Fairfax County to help offer some suggestions on things we can do to improve the situation.
- e) **Snow Make-up Day: Monday, April 7th** will now be a full school day – a makeup for the snow days we have had. At this point, it is the only scheduled make up day. There is a principal's meeting in two weeks, and she will let us know if any other days are planned.
- f) **Kindergarten Orientation** will be March 24th. Dr. Sheers had already made plans for it before she left. They will run it the same way it has been run in the past – family tours to start then a chance for rising Kindergarten students to spend time in a classroom while she and Barbara talk with the parents.
- g) **New ID System** has just been installed in the front office. You will notice a change in how you sign in to volunteer. You will need to bring in your drivers license and have your picture taken the first time then going forward you just

need to swipe your license. The sticker that prints out will now have your picture on it.

- h) **No afterhours access to classrooms:** Once teachers have left for day, custodians can not open classrooms to retrieve forgotten items. It opens both the parent and custodian up to liability issues if something turns up missing the next day. Exceptions will of course be made on concert nights if you need your instrument.
- i) **Principal's Coffee** is next Wednesday morning at 9:30am. If you have items you would like her to discuss, please contact her at aoblain@fcps.edu.

## 12. Questions/comments from the floor

- a) Bob Coates wanted to make members aware of a Bill currently being discussed and voted on in Richmond to reduce the number of SOL exams students have to take.
- b) If anyone is interested in taking over BoxTops next year, Marilyn Allen wanted to let people know that she will not have a Haycock student next year. There is a lot of counting and bagging involved, but it can be a great opportunity for an older child to earn service hours.
- c) Question was asked about whether the renovation would be starting this year – Anita explained that she is talking with Design and Construction to try and get a clear answer to that question.
- d) A question was raised about the layout of the kiss n ride and a recollection that it would not look the way it currently does. It was explained that plans to have a single entry and exit with a turn-around circle are a component of the renovation design and would only be implemented as part of that process.

Whereupon at 8:28pm, Bob Coates motioned to adjourn. Marilyn Allen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Christie Johnson

**Haycock PTA Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, November 20, 2013 7:30pm

**1. Call to Order**

- a) PTA President, Sally Johnson asked for Motion to call to order the General Membership Meeting of the Haycock Elementary School PTA at 7:40 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Christie Johnson so moved, Bob Coates seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Whereupon, the meeting began. Per the sign-in sheet, there were 21 people in attendance.
- b) Sally welcomed parents and guests and had parents stand by grade.
- c) Sally asked for a Motion to Approve the minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting. Marilyn Allan so moved. Katie Pisocky seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Secretary's Report**

Amy Kales noted the Hotsheet is changing format somewhat and that there will be fewer graphics and more links to the PTA website and requested speakers at the PTA meeting identify themselves by name for purpose of minute taking.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

- a) Christie Johnson presented the treasurer's report on Irene Levy's behalf. Noted that the main updates from the budget will be from Tara Tanner (Fundraising) and Laura Sachwitz (re fall festival).
- b) Marilyn Allan presented information about box tops. For the first quarter, we collected 19,474 box tops which equals \$1,947.40 made from box tops! This was last year's total amount so we're doing really well! We can collect box tops until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Box tops collected from March onward count towards next year's total. Make sure your box tops haven't expired, and remember photocopies don't count.

**4. Principal's Report**

- a) Nancy Sobel, clinic aid, wasn't able to work. Marilyn Allan covered for her for the week and was an amazing helper! Big thanks to Marilyn.
- b) Retired Principal, Anita Blain (who was principal at Timber Lane and Wolftrap), will be filling in for Dr. Sheers during maternity leave and will be at the January PTA/renovation informational meeting.

- c) Also at the January PTA meeting, we'll find out what to expect during construction at the school. In the notes from the last principal coffee, there was a timeline on the construction.
- d) Student Arrival—If you have children that are walkers, busers, or kiss and riders, and they arrive prior to 9:05, they have to come in the cafeteria. Older kids have been hanging around the parameter which presents a safety concern.
- e) Please share the road at Kiss & Ride. One parent provided the license plate # of a Sienna van that failed to do so. It's more of a problem in the afternoon, but please be courteous.
- f) Betty Brown remarked that at the entrance of the kiss and ride which is closer to the temple, there is a stop sign facing in towards the parking lot, thus implying that you can exit through the entrance. Dr. Sheers said that the entrance nearest the temple should not be used as an exit and she would look into the stop sign.
- g) Betty Brown also remarked it would be great to use two lanes when exiting--the right lane to turn right and go in turn lane and left lane to go right and be in the lane which goes straight on Westmoreland.

## **5. President's Report**

- a) Be careful at the light at Westmoreland and Haycock in the right turn lane. Sally has received two phone calls reporting unsafe behavior, i.e. people not heeding the crossing guard's request to stop. Please exercise extreme caution during arrival and dismissal.
- b) Christie Johnson on membership: 55% households are members of PTA. Membership cards have gone out. Might have missed a few, but most people should have them by now. Once you receive the card you need to go online and register. There are deals to be had at Staples, Great Wolf Lodge, etc. One card per family
- c) Hard copy of directory should be coming soon. Online version will be turned off for non-PTA members at that point. Membership is \$10 for an individual \$15 per couple.
- d) Important dates:
  - i. PTA meetings—usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. The January meeting, however is on January 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. Principal copies are at different days and times.

- iii. 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month is Haycock spirit day.
- iv. Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> Restaurant Night at Pie-Tanza.
- v. Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting (new date & time)
- vi. January 13<sup>th</sup> Principals coffee
- vii. Bingo Night January 24<sup>th</sup>
- viii. Math night – February 10<sup>th</sup>
- ix. Skate night March 7<sup>th</sup>
- x. Silent Auction- March 22
- xi. Deadline to include paper in Tuesday folder info is the Wednesday before
- e) Thank you to Laura Sachwitz and Sara Hobbs—great co-chairs of fall festival.
- f) Thanks to teachers and staff, Meera Abrishami, Teresa Mattick and Anne Rosenbaum for science night.
- g) Thank you to London Liebengood, who is our hospitality chair and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the teacher breakfast. .
- h) Thank you to Jen Zarnowiecki and Kate Forrer—Square 1 Art.
- i) Thanks to Elizabeth Morse for bus driver appreciation week.

#### **6. Vice President's Report:**

- a) Sara Hobbs (VP): There is a new tab on the web page—community events will be included there, e.g., plays for other schools.

#### **7. VP Social**

- a) Laura Sachwitz: Thank you to the parents who volunteered at the Fall Festival. It was a great success. 700 people (children) attend. Upcoming events include Restaurant Night, Bingo Night, Skate Night and the big event, the Auction
- b) Kristen Chandler—Auction—So far 35-40 people who are on the team. White water rafting, Hair Salon certificate donated, tae kwon do certificate. Only two weeks into asking. Family donation challenge. We're asking every family to help

make a donation happen. Are you a regular at a particular restaurant? Ask them for a gift card. If you work somewhere interesting (e.g. a veterinarian), could a child shadow you for a day? We have a Monopoly theme. Anything you can do to help out would be appreciated. Contact Kristen.

#### **8. VP Curriculum Enhancement**

Sally presented for Chrissy Brownson who was away.

- a) Junior achievement and art appreciation are underway.
- b) We will not be doing ASA activities past fall term. Plug pulled by the county. This includes chess which will end January 24<sup>th</sup>. Not sure when that will start up again.
- c) Christie Johnson spoke about Reflections which is a national PTA competition focusing on arts. 17 kids from 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade submitted items which were then team reviewed. 9 different entries advanced to county level. Then, the hope is that they will move to the state and national level. There are a lot of creative and fun kids at Haycock. Mrs. Thompson is going to try to combine all of the entries in a video presentation.

#### **9. VP Fundraising-Tara Tanner**

- a) For the arm chair fundraiser we've made \$50,212. Met our latest challenge!
- b) Square 1 Art, can order online. Can still get orders by Christmas time.
- c) Innisbrook you can still order.
- d) Amazon—we'll really be pushing this. Go to PTA website—it knows who you are, but it also knows you're with Haycock. Use Amazon and share the link with family and friends. Gift cards count. So you can buy a gift card then make your purchases. You can get two for one. Cougar Corner—Susan Thomas put together Cougar Corner and strategy lab games and books. Promotion goes all year long. Bookmark it.
- e) Grants being pursued for field trips and other school needs.
- f) Restaurant night, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Pie-Tanza, includes takeout too.
- g) If you want to be a Friend of Haycock, contact Tara.

## 10. VP Community Affairs—Victoria Lippincott

- a) Cougar Cares (Roopal Saran is the chairwoman) and FCPS issues
- b) Cougar Cares joined with Stop Hunger Now to package meals to ship overseas. There was between 75 and 100 Haycock people there. It was a fabulous event. There was a huge sign welcoming Haycock. We will do it again next year. Two and a half hours of working, plus kids dancing and music. Thanks for participating!
- c) Roopal—working on an event for Christmas with Meg Cole (formerly Meg Monfett) SCA working with SHARE.
- d) Dr. Garza is having listening tours and going to all the different clusters. You can go and give your opinion on issues that matter to you. The Dranesville District, of which we're a part, has a listening tour stop at Cooper Middle School on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Lots of issues (budget shortfall, start times, class size)
- e) Class Size Counts will be asking Dr. Garza to address class sizes. Dr. Garza publicly committed to establishing a cap. We have no cap in Fairfax County—instead we follow Virginia cap which is quite large. Dr. Garza wants a cap. Her old district had a cap of 22. She is appalled by the large class sizes now.
  - i. Fairfax County has 196 schools. Historically there are b/n 18 and 25 schools that have large class sizes and Haycock is one of them. Given budget debacle, if she can't get class size cap across the board, it will apply to those schools.
  - ii. Dr. Garza is getting lots of opposition from school board members.
  - iii. Please sign the petition. Information is in the Hotsheet or on the website.
- f) With budget shortfall, FLEX—Foreign Language Enhancement is on the chopping block. Shortfall affects class sizes, special ed. Arts and Bands are not on the chopping block at this point.
- g) Parent asked how to start a petition because he was unhappy that FCPS may cut buses that take children to other school's SAAC program and daycare places. Reminded by Sally and Dr. Sheers that FCPS and the County are not the same. SAAC is run through the county.

- h) With the renovation, we'll be losing a lot of green space, but we have a big piece of land next to us. Can we turn that into a soccer field? Bob Coates spoke on the issue. His brother in law has a connection to Park Authority which is interested in picking up some of that land. Land is not for sale, and is owned by the FAA (but they haven't used the land for years and years). Sally: From PTA standpoint—focus and energy will be how to acquire FAA land and more green space. It's been a source of grass cutting and nothing else. It would not impact anybody to have a soccer field and that is the pursuit as far as the parks are concerned.
- i) Sleep study with a potential to impact school start times. Emphasis on study is on middle and high school students—it does not look at impact of earlier start times on younger children. Parent attended a MCA (McLean Citizens Association) meeting—sleep study is on Janie Strauss's radar screen.

#### **11) First Grade Talk**

- a) Sally's daughter was a first grader last year---a Goodman Gorilla. What impressed Sally were the reading strategies—reading café and different strategies on how to read. Very fun to volunteer with reading fluency. Ability to personalize reading program to the child. Reading is what first grade is all about. First graders received ipads. Math programs and reading. There was a writing celebration where parents and kids could see what other kids had written. Anne Rosenbaum is integral part of first grade: Baby chicks and bunnies and worms and a corn snake. Reading program was different from when her older kids learned how to read. Play—The Great Kapok Tree.

Whereupon at 8:52, Tara Tanner motioned to adjourn. Christie Johnson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Amy Kales

Recording Secretary