**Haycock PTA Meeting Minutes**

October 15, 2014, 7:30 pm

**1. Call to Order.**

Whereupon, at 7:40 p.m., Karen Leiser called to order the general membership meeting of the PTA. Per the PTA sign in sheet there were 26 people in attendance. Karen advised of handouts in back of the room (budget report, last month’s minutes, and agenda). Karen issued a general thank you to all the people who are working hard on the PTA and at PTA events. Karen is still looking for a president-elect for next year. Come talk to her if interested.

**2. Secretary Report.**

Karen asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the September meeting. Katie Pisocky so moved, however Tatiana Vandivier asked if it was standard procedure to ask for a motion to approve the minutes before everyone has had the chance to review them. Amy Kales noted, it has been generally the procedure to ask for the Motion within the first few minutes of the meeting. Karen Leiser said we could table the motion until the attendees have had enough time to review the Minutes.

**3. Treasurer/Fundraising Report. (Karen for Christie Johnson and Heather Kimmel)**

Heather Kimmel, the Treasurer, is out of town and Christie Johnson, the VP of Fundraising, is at Camp High Roads, so Karen is reporting for both of them in a combined report:

As you know the Armchair Fundraiser has a goal of raising $40,000.00 in the first 40 days of school. You can’t see from the budget report (as we’ve received more donations since the report was last run) but we’re about $10,000.00 away from our goal. We have one more week to get to our goal, and we’re only at 27% participation. We’re hoping everyone continues to give. You can donate via Paypal (see the yellow button on bottom of PTA website) or give us a check. We’ve had donations from $5 to $1,000.00, so any amount helps. This is the largest fundraiser of the year. We do this so our kids don’t have to do bake sales at Giant or go door to door. The money that we raise is given to the school: technology, equipment, assemblies, field trips, etc.

The next thing coming up for fundraising is the Mixed Bag fundraiser. Christie will have samples for you to see at the Costume Ball. The bags are made from recycled material and come in a variety of sizes and are very useful. In next week’s Tuesday’s folder, look for a catalog and order forms. PTA earns 50% on paper orders 40% on online orders. Orders will be due on November 12th and the bags will arrive by the holidays. This fundraiser replaces Square One Art this year.

We will be doing a Pennies for Playground fundraiser, so start saving your spare change.

**4. General VP Report (Alison Seddon)**

We have started with the new Hotsheet format. You should be receiving it. It looks great—thanks to Katie Pisocky who is drafting the Hotsheet this year! We’re also getting all the membership information together and will be working on getting out the printed directories.

If you haven’t joined the PTA, please come by and you can join tonight.

**5. VP of Social (Laura Sachwitz)**

This Saturday--come on out to the family Costume Ball. There will be costume contests, crafts, DJs, pizza, and caramel apples and water. If you want to volunteer, please sign up.

November 8th is skate night at Kettler arena—there will be two sessions.

Sally Johnson noted that we really need volunteers for our events to make them run. At the Costume Ball, we’re all bringing our kids, so we can share shifts but it’s important to volunteer. If you haven’t signed up, this is a great one to sign up for. Don’t assume someone else is going to volunteer. Lots of notices have gone out. Three times in PTA Hotsheet, a call for volunteers has gone out in a KIT, but the response hasn’t been great.

Laura noted that middle school students need service hours, if you know any middle schoolers that could face paint, sign them up. We’ll need game monitor volunteers—to just walk around to watch kids—it’s a pretty low key volunteer event.

London Liebengood reminded everyone that next week is bus driver appreciation week. Please consider having your kids write a thank you note if they ride a bus. This week is cafeteria worker appreciation week—so be sure to send in a note or have your kids say thank you.

Laura noted that as the hospitality chair London has already done a ton—two teacher breakfasts, back to school night, and custodian, bus driver and cafeteria appreciation weeks. Anyone that wants to help London with teacher appreciation week, please do!

**6. VP of Curriculum Enhancement**

Tara Tanner couldn’t be here but informed Karen Leiser that there was nothing to report/no new updates.

**7. VP of Community Affairs (Victoria Lippincott)**

On November 1st, Cougars Care is doing a Stop Hunger Now event. It’s a great and meaningful event for everyone. Even the little kids can help. It’s a two hour commitment. Organizers bring in bags of rice, dehydrated vegetables. Kids are scooping and weighing and sealing in assembly lines. Cougar Cares has reserved 80 spots for the Haycock community. There is a sign-up genius. 8:00 to 10:30. At Redeemer Lutheran Church. Put it on your calendar. Wear your Cougar spirit wear. It’s also very fun—there’s dancing and the kids get to ring a gong when a certain number of bags are filled.

Thank you for donating Halloween costumes for our Costume Drive. Today was the last day. They’ll be taken downtown for kids in need.

Dr. Garza is starting another round of listening tours. Victoria encourages you to go and speak at the events. Advocacy is very important. Last year Kim Harris and Victoria went to most speaking tours to advocate for smaller class sizes. We currently have four additional teachers assigned to Haycock that we would have otherwise lost without advocacy of our principal and parents.

Beth Anderson noted the McLean Safety Coalition sponsored a talk: The Good Enough Child by Dr. Brad Sachs. The talk included information about the importance of resiliency. Kids need to learn to perform for themselves and not for the parents.

Kristen Chandler mentioned the success of the Autism Walk. Amy Kales issued a huge thank you to all the teachers and families who showed up at the walk. It was truly heartwarming to see the amount of support we have at Haycock. Amy Kales noted that, as the parent of a child with a disability, that the community support truly means a lot!!

**8. From the Floor**

Haycock’s new librarian, Debbie Diaz, came in to say hello. The Book Fair is coming up on STEM night. Will open on November 5th and will be open until Thursday, November 13th. Most days it will close at 5:00. Debbie is looking for volunteers on Tuesday, the 4th for set up and for volunteers to help keep things organized. K-3—kids will come in during their regular library time. She is working with the teachers to find a time for the older kids to come in. The online Book Fair will start October 30th and the cutoff is November 18th. Volunteer forms are available in the back or on the website.

Tatiana Vandivier asked that the following addendum be appended to the September 2014 minutes: With respect to common hygiene practices, the CDC and FCPS recommend hand washing with soap and water as the most effective preventative step to reduce the spread of communicable diseases, clean soiled hands and effectively remove allergens or cleaner residues. She also expressed again the need for a Health and Safety Committee which is a common presence in the PTA particularly when there are high risk situations such as major construction in a school environment. This committee would be comprised of  parents, teachers, and staff who would work together to ensure safety practices are followed in situations involving construction as has been noted as a concern by several parents, with mention of blowing cement dust and the close proximity of hazardous construction materials being located near the children’s marquee/outdoor recess area.  Such committee would be a volunteer run committee which would not have any effect on the PTA’s financial resources. Additionally, access to portable hand washing stations in the trailers is important, and she suggests at least a Renovations Committee be formed with these considerations in mind.

Amy Kales suggested that we go ahead and approve the September minutes and then the minutes from this October meeting will include the addendum. Katie Pisocky made a motion to approve the Minutes from the last meeting. Sally Johnson seconded. There were no objections and the September minutes were approved.

Parent Lili Huang nominated Tatiana Vandivier as PTA President Elect. Tatiana said she is honored to receive the nomination and will speak to Karen Leiser about the responsibilities to decide if she wants to take it on. Lili asked about procedures to elect a President-Elect. Amy Kales noted generally, that there has to be a nomination, a second and then the President-Elect’s name must be published in the Hotsheet for a number of weeks.

**Adjournment:**

Victoria Lippincott made a motion to adjourn and Alison Seddon seconded. No objections.

Prior to adjourning, Julie Reily won two tickets to the Costume Ball for reading the Hotsheet all the way to the end.

Whereupon at approximately 8:17 pm, the meeting was adjourned.

**Amy Kales**

**Recording Secretary**