

## ATHOLTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA GENERAL MEETING

May 24, 2022

Meeting started at 6:31 p.m. on Zoom

### **Welcome, introductions & thank you:**

PTA President Melissa Jones: Well done! We made it to May 2022. [Board members introduce themselves.]

Melissa Jones: Thank you a million times over to the volunteers who keep this community moving. There's a whole group of people who are doing work, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you to Katie Scotti and Jen Adawale and Ms. Gigler for the cultural night. Thank you to Bia Lewis and Daria for doing the yearbook. All the kids love looking at the yearbook. We were on a very tight deadline with this new publisher that the school tried out this year. Thank you for creating a beautiful yearbook that our kids will love to dive into when they receive it later this year. Thank you to Bia Lewis for organizing another assembly for us, the reptile man. The PTA is excited that we had the funds to sponsor another assembly. Thank you to Leigh Roberts, who contacted our old yearbook publisher to get a photo of a class from 2020. That publisher is going to put together a collage of the individual photos. Thank you to Leigh Roberts for making that happen so that all Atholton students are recognized with a class picture. Thank you to Leah Shepherd for organizing movie night on June 4, a showing of "Wonder." You can park at the Atholton swim club that night. Thank you, Kevin Cropper. For Teacher Appreciation Week, thank you to Kesha Plumber, Shanea Bradley, and Shayna Glicksman. For the book fair, thank you, Maura Ward and Katie Dalziel for organizing another wonderful book fair for us. I want to give a huge shoutout to Karen Stoner and Laura Hettinger for all the hard work that you've done years prior and made it an easy transition for us.

### **Updates from Administration:**

Dr. Shawna Holden (Principal): Thank you to the PTA and the community for all you do constantly to support our school from the phone calls to conversations and sweet treats for staff. We hope all who could come did come to the volunteer lunch and field day last week, which was amazing. We put together an equity team at school with staff members, looking at the data from the survey, looking at our highest and lowest areas of concern, looking at areas of strength and growth to develop a school improvement plan for next year. There is still time to complete the survey. Thank you to the 116 families who completed the survey. Rec and PreK are having a celebration for end of year. Thank you to the fifth grade committee for working with the fifth grade team to make sure they have a fine end of the year. We plan to work with our new PTA board to schedule play dates for incoming kindergarteners. I want to talk a bit about staffing. This is the first year we had five classes in a grade. It did make a few changes in our staffing for the upcoming school year. We are scheduled to have four kindergarten classes. That could change based on enrollment. It's a possibility that we could have five classes for the first grade. Fifth grade will have two classes. Grades two, three and four will have three classes. We have quite a few events on the calendar. Thank you to the PTA for the cultural assembly. The kids

loved him (the reptile guy) at my other schools. I think the students will enjoy being up close and personal with him and the animals. We have the fifth grade field trip to Annapolis. There was a wax museum showcase. We will have a readers picnic on June 3. We have the 5K fundraiser. We have the fifth grade promotion. It's a busy time. Are there any questions?

Amy Giger: We as teachers are so grateful to you. We love you. You are rock stars. It is appreciated from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for giving us such an amazing teacher appreciation week. You guys are awesome.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Shannon Rembert-Gonzales (PTA treasurer): Our current balance as of today was \$23,238. Our deposits have been coming from restaurant nights and Taharka brothers ice cream fundraiser and the book fair. I've been writing checks for reimbursement for teachers, staff materials, team funds. Each full-time staff member gets \$100 a piece for individual classroom materials. Front office workers get \$50. Admin gets \$100. Our part-time staff members get a prorated amount. Each grade level team gets \$100 for team funds. Staff has until May 30 to get the receipts and forms to me, so I can get everything organized and ready to pass on the torch. We reimbursed Mrs. Volz for food for volunteers for readers day. My own children loved the last assembly, so they're going to be super pumped when there's a reptile guy. The birthday book club has been popular. I appreciate Shayna Glicksman and the committee for staff appreciation week. We have been reimbursing their efforts anytime they are spending money on our staff. Julia Zick has been a rock star. A shout out to her and the Fun Run committee. We have been able to make a ton of deposits for registrations and donations.

Melissa Jones: Thank you, Shannon. Our Fun Run is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year. So far it has raised over \$11,000. It will be on June 12. It will be a one-mile course that you can walk or run. There's a 5K course for more competitive people. After the race, we have a huge party on the blacktop. There will be raffle prizes. Your race bib will be your raffle ticket. The class that has the most families that have registered will get an additional name in the hat for raffle prizes. If you take your race bib to the Atholton Swim Club, they will let you in for free that day. Julia Zick, I appreciate all that you do for us.

Katie Scotti (PTA vice president): We have 330 registered runners! We have blown way past our stretch fundraising goals. We took in \$4,400 for sponsorships (compared to \$3,500 goal) and \$7,200 for registrations (compared to \$4,500 goal). That's \$11,600 total raised so far! It's not too late to register for the Fun Run. Registration is still open until June 4. Any registrations from now on do not get a t-shirt. We placed our t-shirt order yesterday. We are waiting on the design proof. Once we have the final t-shirt design proof, there will be an email announcing the winner of the design competition. We were overwhelmed with the number of amazing submissions, and picking a winner was hard. We wish we could use each and every one of them. We are finalizing food orders and signage for race day. Race packets will be distributed at school the Friday before race day and available the morning of race day 7:30-8:30 for any families that we were unable to distribute to at school. Race packets will include shirts, race bibs, safety pins, and a flyer with the course map (plus there will be signage and course marshals along the race to make sure nobody

gets lost). Atholton Swim Club is generously making their parking lot available for runners and walkers to park in. Atholton Swim Club also generously invited all participants to the pool the afternoon of the race for free admission with their race bib. Strollers are allowed at the race, but no dogs. We will need race day volunteers to make sure we can pull off this event, especially course marshals. Volunteer your grandparents! We will repost a volunteer link to Facebook. It's also in AES PTA newsletter. Sign up here to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044ea8a82ba5fd0-volunteers>

Katie Scotti: The Spring Book Fair was another successful event held by the PTA. A big thank you again to all of our dedicated book fair volunteers for their time setting up, manning the registers and helping to pack up the fair, and to the Media Center, Mrs. Veihmeyer, Ms. Thompson and Mrs. Muir for their assistance. The last in-person Spring Book Fair was held in 2019, so it was a nice change to have it back at the school. We had almost \$7,000 in sales, which means many of our families took advantage of this Buy One Get One event. Looking ahead, Maura Ward and Katie D. will be handing the reins over to Shayna Glicksman and Karen Estrada. We know that means the book fairs are in capable hands, and we thank them for stepping up for this role. The fall 2022 book fair will be held the week before Halloween again this year, and we plan to bring back trunk-or-treat as a culminating event.

Katie Scotti: Teacher Appreciation Update: In April, snacks and drinks were provided in the staff lounge. The staff appreciated the assortment of snacks and drinks, especially the gluten-free options. In May, we had Teacher Appreciation Week. Tuesday was a yogurt bar (special thanks to Shanea Smith Bradley and Kesha Plummer for taking the lead on this). Wednesday was flowers for teachers. Thanks to Cynthia Bouchard for taking lead on this. Thursday was a potluck lunch. Thanks to Melissa Jones for taking the lead and Shanea Bradley for offering to collect items the night before. Friday was Taharka Brothers ice cream delivery for staff. Staff were eagerly awaiting this and excited to dig in. Upcoming event: Fresh fruit will be delivered to staff on Monday, June 6. We are still asking for a volunteer to take over as chair of Staff Appreciation Committee for next year. It's a really necessary and important committee.

Karen Stoner: 5th Grade Committee Update: 5<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirts have been delivered to all students, and a class photo was taken with students wearing the class shirt. We ordered yard signs that will be delivered to congratulate the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We will have cake after the promotion ceremony for the families to enjoy. We asked if we can send thank you gifts to judges for Simulated Congressional Hearing. The end of the year party will take place on Monday, June 13 from 4-6pm at Atholton Swim Club. We have a DJ (Thank you Dr. Heiserman for being our DJ) and a photo booth booked. We will provide food, drink and ice cream at the party. The fifth grade promotion ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 14 from 9:45-10:30 (all 3 classes together), and we will have a cake celebration afterwards.

Melissa Jones: For any 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents, we need a fifth grade committee to form for next year, so start thinking about that. We hit the road running with the pancake breakfast at the beginning of the year. You will be given a thick binder with all the info you need. I've been told it's perfect. Does anyone have any questions?

Milande Watson: PTACHC Update: It stands for PTA council of Howard County. The major thing with PTACHC is they are having forums with the candidates that are running for board of ed, county council and county executive. On May 11, they met at Oakland Mills High School with the candidates for Howard County board of education. We were able to ask questions. Tomorrow night there will be a meeting at River Hill High School, and it will be with candidates for Howard County Council. On June 22, there will be a forum for county executive and state delegate candidates at Mt. Hebron High School. These forums are being reported and will be shown on the PTACHC YouTube channel. You can subscribe. The events are not going to be live on the YouTube channel, but they will be updated within a day or two. You can feel free to send Milande questions or submit a question on the PTACHC website. The primary election is in July, and school board funding and programs that are essential to us is happening right now. We want to voice ourselves. I will be reporting back. Listen to the candidates on YouTube. PTACHC website is <https://www.ptachc.org/>

Melissa Jones: PTACHC is a great way to get involved in your local government. You are in good company with the current reps that we have sent there. Any questions?

### **Voting on Bylaws**

Melissa Jones: We are a local unit. Above us is the county council unit, and above them is the Maryland Free State PTA. There is a lot of compliance that the county chapter and the local units have had to do to stay compliant with PTA. We have to redo our bylaws. These proposed amendments are the same that we've had in our bylaws for several years.

**Proposed Amendment 1:** Duties of Officers: Current Language: Represent this PTA at all council meetings and/or send alternate. Proposed Amendment: Replace with: Represent this PTA at all council meetings and/or appoint delegates to serve in that capacity. Rationale: Provides adaptability for who can attend council meetings on behalf of our PTA.

Motion to approve from Leah Shepherd. Katie Scotti seconded motion. 17 members voted yes, 0 voted no. Amendment approved.

**Proposed Amendment 2:** Duties of Officers: Current Language: An auditor or an audition committee shall be selected by the board of directors at least 30 days before the new officers assume their duties. Proposal to strike "at least 30 days before the new officers assume their duties" and replace with "within 90 days of a treasurer's election." Rationale: Ensure audit is done at the end of October, which provides adaptability to be within 120 days following the close of fiscal year, which is June 30.

Motion to approve from Leah Shepherd, seconded by Katie Scotti. 17 members voted yes, 0 voted no. Amendment approved.

**Proposed Amendment 3:** Board of Directors: Current language: The chairs of standing committees" Proposal to strike "the chairs of standing committees" and replace with: "a representative from each standing committee or one of its subcommittees." Rationale: Provides adaptability to members to commit their time to attend meetings.

Motion to approve from Leah Shepherd, seconded by Katie Scotti. 17 members voted yes, 0 voted no. Amendment approved.

Proposed Amendment 4: Board of Directors: Add to section 4, stating "to elect the nominating committee" Rationale: added to be in line with Article VI, Section 3a.

Motion to approve from Leah Shepherd, seconded by Katie Scotti. 16 members voted yes, 0 voted no. Amendment approved.

Proposed Amendment 5: Committees: Proposal to add to section 4, "The chairperson of each standing committee or their alternate shall attend each executive committee meeting. The chairperson shall maintain and make available to the executive board, for the duration of their term and in a timely manner, records of the committee business, including procedures for carrying out the business of the committee and financial records. Upon expiration of office, or in the case of resignation, each committee chairperson shall submit a written report, turn over to the executive board within 14 days all records, books, and other materials pertaining to the office and shall return to the treasurer within 14 days all funds pertaining to the office." Rationale: Ensure a timely handover that is in line with Article VII Section 7.

Motion to approve from Leah Shepherd seconded by Katie Scotti. 17 members voted yes. 0 voted no. Amendment approved.

Proposed Amendment 6: Council Membership: Proposal to strike "elected" and replace with "appointed." Rationale: Create a streamlined process for our volunteers.

Motion to approve from Leah Shepherd, seconded by Katie Scotti. 17 members voted yes, 0 voted no. Amendment approved.

### **Vote on Slate of Officers for 2022-23 School Year**

Melissa Jones: Thank you to our four volunteers who have stepped up to take the reins for us.

Secretary: Jennifer Killion volunteers. Katie Scotti moves to approve. Shannon Rembert-Gonzales seconds the motion.

Treasurer: Thomas Kirk White volunteers. Katie Scotti moves to approve. Shannon Rembert-Gonzales seconds it.

Vice-President: Zachary Hooker volunteers. Katie Scotti moves to approve. Shannon Rembert-Gonzales seconds it.

President: Brian Goodwin volunteers. Katie Scotti moves to approve. Shannon Rembert-Gonzales seconds it.

All four board members are approved.

Melissa Jones: I have a message to read from Brian Goodwin. "I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as PTA President. I look forward to doing my part to continue the role the PTA plays in keeping AES family's connected, informed, and engaged with the school. In my family's time here, this community has welcomed us. We have had a great experience at AES,

and I have seen the way all PTA members show appreciation to the teachers and do all they can to help. I am fortunate enough to have received commitments from some wonderful people whom I have great respect for to join the board with me. Zachary Hooker as Vice President, Kirk White as Treasurer, and Jenn Killion as Secretary. They bring knowledge, perspective, and the willingness to help partner with our community to make the AES experience great for everyone. I apologize that I could not be there in person. Our family is enjoying a wonderful vacation. I am resting up and can't wait to get started. Look forward to meeting all of you that I haven't met yet."

Melissa Jones: We will be meeting together this summer to pass the torch. Any other comments or concerns people would like to raise?

Dr. Shawna Holden: Thank you for the microwave. It has been put to good use. Thank you, PTA, for always taking care of our needs.

Katie Scotti: It's been a difficult two years, but Melissa has led us through. We couldn't have done this without her. She was an amazing president. She was a fantastic president over the past two years. We're going to miss you as president.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

*Melissa Jones, PTA President 5/25/22*