

Hillsmere Elementary PTA Meeting

October 26, 2021

Attendance

C. Heckman, T. Stakem, L. Brodjieski, M. Galvanek, T. Conover, C. Van Nest, D. Green, L. Dana Evans, N. Rubin, T. Clements, R. Sweeney, B. Bell, S. Kennard, S. Janu, C. Mullen, L. Bleacher, M. Szurovy, Sara, Daysh, Lauren, Will, The Queen Bee

Minutes

7:02 Call to order

7:03 Cassie welcomes guest Charlene Van Nest, Children's Guild Therapist assigned to Hillsmere

7:03 Charlene speaks re: mental and emotional health of children; Charlene is a social worker who works with students that are Medicaid qualified. Children's Guild sees students directly at school.

- Please reach out to your school's counselor if you notice your student is not acting like themselves
- If your child is exhibiting signs of suicide or self-harm, please call 911 or visit the closest emergency room
- Email for Ms. Van Nest: VanNestC@childrensguild.org

7:34 Officer Reports

- President Report (Cassie Heckman)
 - Spirit wear store is open—may be only time to order this year. Store closes on 11/8. Link: [Hillsmere Elementary - Select Spiritwear a division of Select Screen Prints & Embroidery, Inc.](#)
 - Anyone who has a student who was not in school last year—should have received the gray t-shirt that was ordered in the Spring (please reach out to Cassie if you did not receive a t-shirt)
 - Character day is on Friday (school appropriate costumes, no weapons or items that looks like weapons, nothing too scary)
 - Thank you to room parents who are assisting with games and goodie bags for 10/29
 - Fundraiser with True Value: as of 10/26 Hillsmere will receive just over \$3,000. This is still ongoing—continue to make donations at True Value to Hillsmere and they will match your donation! Thank you to the community!
- VP Enrichment (Sara Witting)
 - Looking into after school options for students in COVID world (already some available through community partners—determining if these are feasible with AACPS; working through these issues now)
- VP Membership/Engagement (Lisa Brodjieski)
 - All registrations—92 members, and looking for more
 - Sign up here: <https://www.hillsmerepta.org/pta-membership>
- VP Equity/Diversity (Lauren Bolin)
 - Hopeful for annual Holiday Bizarre (hope to have an answer from the county next week). Donations are already coming in!

- Treasurer (Michelle Galvanek)
 - Full report at next meeting
- Secretary (Tracey Stakem)
 - No updates
- Volunteer Coordinator (Jamie Hanauer)
 - No updates
- FUNdraising (Danielle Franz)
 - No updates
- Advocacy and Community (Kinley Bray)
 - No updates
- Buzz (Christine Crosby)
 - No updates
- Webmaster (Charmaine Rostien)
 - No updates

7:46 Cassie opens for questions/comments

- What is Harvest for the Hungry? Monetary donations at this time through AACPS. Refer to link in the Buzz for donations.
- Masks? Is there a need? Should we get some to send in? Cassie will inquire.
- Keeping informed of what is being taught on a weekly basis in your child's classroom
 - Many teachers do send a newsletter weekly or monthly.
 - Conferences are an option as well as reaching out directly to the teacher.
 - Parent Portal is an option to review student grades—this is a great resource, please sign up! Note: not available for Kindergarten at this time

Next meeting: November 30, 2021! See you there!