

The 10/8 PTA meeting got underway at 7:02 PM. It was noted that the Fall heat switch over should occur on 10/14. Due to the Book Fair coinciding with parent-teacher conferences, and low attendance in December/January, February is likely the next PTA meeting. The treasurer reported that no money was spent, and very few parent checks came in besides membership/donations. The Joe Corbi fundraiser sheets are due in as of 10/11. Based on the high price per item of this fundraiser, Yerania Benicio suggested selling much lower cost tamales or candy bars, as the school's population may find these types of items more tenable.

The Latino Night meeting on 10/10 will feature a snack and social session for 30 minutes preceding Mr. Muhammad's welcoming remarks at 7 PM. Oscar Alvarenga will M.C. the event with 9 information tables to provide answers on topics such as SSL hours, VILS, Excel Beyond the Bell, etc. Teachers and parents called to personally invite those parents to whom this multi-lingual Q & A evening might be of interest. Mr. Alvarenga also gave a synopsis of his life story to at an in-school Hispanic Heritage assembly, hopefully prompting students to get their parents to become more engaged with PTA and school related activities/events. At a future Latino Night, Mr. Muhammad suggested that a somewhat detailed statistical breakdown of F.O.M.S. educational benchmarks and expectations may be in order.

At a future PTA meeting, Mr. Dimmick (Gaithersburg H.S. Principal) is likely to appear offering insights on G.H.S. vocation centered learning tracks, including getting a 2-year college degree upon high school graduation. The magnet school deadline for 8th graders is 12/6/19. The book fair will coincide with parent-teacher meetings (11/11 & 11/12) during Veteran's Day week. Teachers are supposed to be available for 7 hours over that 2-day span. The Sept dine-out at Habit Burger should bring in over \$200, and the next dine-out is at the Gaithersburg Chipotle from 5-9 PM on 10/29. If some logistical issues can be worked around, a holiday shop may be set up at F.O.M.S. to sell low-priced items for a minimal profit during Cougar-Time and lunch as another fundraiser.

Mr. Alvarenga is also the Montgomery County Educational Association (MCEA) representative, and among several missions they support is increased funding for schools. The MCEA also props up teachers within MCPS as a politically active, pro-union organization. An 11/6 meeting at Blair H.S. is planned where the county executive and perhaps council members will listen to citizen concerns in the realm of school funding. A "Brown & Black" meeting is planned for F.O.M.S on 11/15 with similar goals.

The Principal's report:

Mr. Muhammad indicated a roughly 75% return rate for parent permission slips, and one adult per student is supposed to take the on-line digital class as a quasi-prerequisite before their child is given an iPad. (Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Initiative) Parents can opt out of nighttime iPad use. An Open House will be held Columbus Day, 10/14, from 8:30 - 2 for parents who would like to get a first-hand sense of their child's classes. On 10/25 and 11/1, the school will hold kickball games by grade for

'Intramurals with a Message' promoting sportsmanship and collaboration. The end of the marking period is 11/8/19.