PTA Meeting Minutes, November 2015

Meeting began at 7:04

Mrs. O:

* 3rd grade parents receive info on talented and gifted children
* In view testing required by state of MD-part of Global Screening Process. Every 2nd grader is assessed for gifted and talented.  How child learns, needs to be enriched, some cases accelerated.  This is one piece of data.
  + Gifted and Talented is not just about reading and math.
  + Any teacher can nominate a child, including art or music.
  + After data is gathered committee meets-Mrs. O, 2nd grade teachers, any teachers who want in committee. Look at many things, not just testing. Some students are not good testers.
  + May re-screen next year. Sometimes late bloomers.
  + Test
    - Sequencing-nonverbal assessment
    - Analogy
    - Quantitative reasoning
      * Mental reasoning
      * Verbal reasoning

 The In View assessment given in Dec. is timed but if kids need accommodations they will be given the assessment in their classrooms.

* March parent receives input form
* All data is compiled and flow chart is made to see who meets criteria.  In June will get letter to say if gifted and talented, rescreened or not.
* 3rd grade teachers are notified to use their deep thinking skills. Go to Coldsping for 4th and 5th grade.  About 60 children get selected. Typically 5-7 each year from each school. Past year 7 kids from Bells Mill. Should receive application in Sept. for 3rd graders, due Friday. After receive application school is notified. Sent to GT office. They want to see report cards, etc.
* Next step applying for highly gifted child is assessed at a much higher in depth level. People who apply-children are pulled out. Assessor comes out from gifted office. All decision made outside Bells Mill in GT office. They determine if your child is selected. Sometimes kids are waitlisted. We find out in early spring. Invited to Cold Spring for meeting; you decide to accept. If accepted, attend Cold Spring 4th and 5th year. Then come back to Cabin John unless you are picked for magnet program.
* Drop off and pick up at Bells Mill
* Bells Mill will still challenge your child. They can still be at a high level in math and reading even if they do not get selected.
* Going to Bells Mill prepares students for Cabin John and eventually Churchill
* Compacted Math
  + Not a gifted and talented program. Designed for children who need a faster pace of instruction. It’s for a few children where math is their gift. 4,5,6 grade combined into 2 year course. Identify children who just get it. Children are identified and pulled and begin assessment. They take copious notes about the math behaviors they are demonstrating. Process takes about 4 months. 3rd grade teachers are involved. End of year take all info and decide which children are identified. This would mean 4th and 5 ½ in 1 school year and 5th and 6 ½. Those children who do this are 1 school year ahead in middle school.
* UCARE
  + Understading-comprehending concepts
  + Computing-carrying out procedures
  + Applying-demonstrating and solving math problems
  + Resoning-use logic to explain solution
  + Engaging-joy of doing math
* Mrs. O talked about courses that lead to College and Career Readiness.
* Have to have 4 years of meaningful math to graduate from state of MD
* Lottery Programs
  + Middle School Magnet Programs-3 programs
  + Agile magnet school/ lottery program, no assessments, advanced math
  + Loederman for Creative and Performing Arts-communication and humanities
  + Parkland Magnet School for aerospace technology
* Applications Process
* Humanities and communication Program
* Eastern Middle magnet Hamnities and Communication Program
* Math Science and Computer Science Program
* Takoma Park

8:06 Stacy speaks:

Treasurer Report-Joselyn:

* 1st Club Bells Mill Event brought in revenue. Spirit wear came out even.

Delegate Meeting:

* Meeting spent 15/16 advocate priorities for PTA. Prior to delegate meeting was county council meeting.

* Spirit Wear is in
* Pants are backordered
* Lots of volunteer positions available.

* Mrs. O send out connected email. Nov. 16 Robert Frost middle school. 7-8:30 in media ctr. Common websites used by children, monitor social media. Workshop on cyber safety and social media.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm