

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 30, 2025, 5:30-6:45pm

Longfellow Elementary Media Center

For online meeting link: www.loespta.com

Prepared by Kishia Blackburn, LoES PTA Treasurer

Call to Order

Call for Quorum

Welcome Back, Happy New Year, and Thank You

- Winter Wonderland
- Dec and Jan Hospitalities & Other Staff Recognitions
- GL Socials
- BHM Working Group
- Meeting Survey
- Funding to Staff: Sensory Hallway; PBIS
- Happy Lunar New Year

Section 1: Updates (5 minutes)

- . Needs
 - Complete the Golf Fundraiser Feasibility Study (due 1.31) www.loespta.com/fundraising and sign up for Planning Committee...16 people need to sign up, which is half the slots we need to sign up. 100.00 per person/some...will hold this in early June. Could possibly look at early Fall 2025. Need 5-10 volunteers to start planning.
 - Complete the PTA Meeting Survey www.loespta.com.. Will be out there for another week or so to collect data.
 - Clothing donations for the Health Room [new or gently used]: elastic waistband pants in all sizes (*biggest need), shirts in all sizes, new packages of underwear and socks. Drop off at the front office. ALL SIZES.
 - Read-a-thon Committee Members (1-2 more). Readathon starts in March. Could use 1 or 2 more people on the planning committee.

II. Participation/Volunteer Opportunities

- Book Vending Machine. Sign up at www.loespta.com

III. Calendar Update (PTA only)

- GL Socials - 2nd & 3rd Grades, date TBD possibly sometime in Feb.
- Fundraising Committee Call, Wednesday, Feb 5, 9pm..Open to everyone. For PTA general fundraising
- Sweet Treats Bar Hospitality on Friday, Feb 14
- BHM Events (Feb 11, 12, 13, and 21)
- Read-a-thon (March)
- Culture Con (April)

Section 2: School Spotlight (15 minutes)

- . Admin Report
- Field Day (late May), will begin looking for volunteers in March. This is Ms. Collins' last year..Volunteers needed to help fun program. Will try to get sign ups out by March.
- Talent Show Sometime in the spring.

Mrs. Jackson:: Thank you to Hospitality team. Thank you to winter wonderland. Looking ahead, February is Black history month..3rd grade is working on a research project due 2/28. There will be parent readings. Taste of soul 2/26, in the gym. Spirit Friday, morning announcements, door decorations, wax museum. Need volunteers for taste of soul ...is there funds for little trinkets/gifts for students who participate/volunteer during this event?

Vday, everything must be labeled so names can be seen

Support for families that may be effective by president administration/ICE, see Mrs. Jackson and she will call central office. 2 releases of articles have been shared with info so far.

MAP testing held for grades 1st-5th.

II. Teacher/Staff Spotlight

Joleine, we call her Ms. G, building sub at Longfellow 2 years, has her Masters in business. She has a dog named Teddy and a family of 6. Lives with parents. Likes to shop and go to the movies.

Aubrey Roesener, student support, school psychologist. Just came back from maternity leave. She has 3 kids, a 7 mo old, 1st grader, and a pre-kindergartener. This is her 10th year here.

Yon Berezin, sensory wall genius! Focuses on alternative education. Yon has been here for 7 years and has a daughter, Charlotte and a dog, Winston. He loves to run, garden, take walks.

Eleeshabah Yahudah-Yisrael, social worker at Longfellow 2 years. Crisis intervention, She likes to get mani/pedis, go to the spa, get her hair done, go to concerts, travel, and take care of her plants. She is a new homeowner!

Shereima Smith is Longfellow's Pupil Personnel worker.

Mrs. Victoria Coleman, community engagement rep, and it's her 3rd year here at Longfellow. Ms. Coleman likes to go to church, shop, read, and go out to eat.

Mrs. Lezlie Hatcher is Longfellow's Black Student Achievement Program leader. She has 2 adult kids, husband and a puppy. This is Mrs. Hatcher's 6th yr here at Longfellow. She likes to shop eat, and sing in choir at church.

Mrs. Cusick, Hispanic Achievement liaison. Mrs. Cusick has been here at Longfellow for 2 yrs. She has 2 kids, a husband and dogs. She has a grandson and a granddaughter on the way! She enjoys walking, cleaning and spending time with family. Mrs. Cusick is from Columbia.

1st grade team, Ms. Roemer is in her 8th yr of teaching. She likes to run and play golf. Mrs. Deneane is in her 8th yr here. She has 3 kids and 3 cats. Mrs. Petree is in her 2nd yr here. She has 3 kids, Likes to sew, watch movies, and hang with family. **Ms. Engelbrecht and Mrs. Petree are the school's Rainbow Reps.** Mrs. Rower has been here 5 yrs. She likes poetry, spending time with family, fashion and chocolate.

Section 3: Reports and Business (20 minutes, *aim to end by 6:25pm*)

. Exec and Committee Reports

- AIM Meeting (no meeting took place in Jan)
 - PTACHC Updates
 - Next PTACHC meeting (Monday, Feb 3) www.ptachc.org
 - Follow up from Proposed Legislation for 2025
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/state-delegation/2025-proposed-local-legislation-and-legislative-bond-initiatives>

- Community Input Opportunity for Capital Budget Prioritization Process (school facilities): Virtual Office Hours: Fri Jan 31, 10:00 am-noon & Tues Feb 4, 1:00-3:00 pm: Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/phz-atvo-cdj>

Brandon/Shavonne notes: Proposed legislation for 2025..voted on each bill. Outcomes can be posted to PTA website. Feedback: Majority for all of them except 1...operating budget for 2026, expressed the need to advocate for the budget. Budget focused on: Staff retention, compensation, safety/security.

- Committees
 - Hospitality 2/14, sweet treat bar for staff...no signup genius, if anyone likes to bake reach out to Kristin F. to volunteer..
 - Read-a-thon in March. Bingo card for older grades, prize cart for younger grades to track reading..need 1 more person in the committee. May need volunteers to run the prize cart.
 - Culture Con, participant driven..signup genius or google form..showcase whatever culture you want. (ex. Vegan lifestyle, or a skill you're into -gardening lifestyle, or a sport -soccer lifestyle..Anything!) the 'Con' can be interpreted as 'CONnection'. Will be held April 4th.
- Working Groups (think of these a issue/project specific with a deadline)
 - Black History Month WG, 11th, a lecture on hair..3 black owned panelists/businesses...food...12/13th virtual reading, google meet..kid friendly African American authored books...TBD family fun event, group line dancing (cha-cha, electric slide, wobble). Website for details and the flyer.
 - Lunar New Year Celebration WG, potentially small craft for kids to take home?
- PTA Survey Results: some insights. Reminder, data to help Exec make decisions.
 - Q1. Meeting day/schedule: data split by thirds
 - Meeting schedule for 2025: Jan: Thur; Feb: Fri; Mar: Fri; Apr: Thur; May: Thur
- From the Community

- Donations for Blessings in a Backpack Program: non-perishable drinks, snacks. More information to Ms. Coleman, Family Engagement Liaison...
 - **Attendee question: How do we reach out to Ms. Coleman to volunteer to help her pack weekend snack packs?**
- SpringFair Discussion: **cupcake walk? Hire magician? Shoot any and all ideas to PTA**
- II. Treasurer Update: **thank you Shavonne! 85% of all purchases have been accounted for. Should have all data ready to send out by next meeting.**
 - Budget Accounts Update: **8 categories we report on.**
- III. Business (or Actions)
 - Approval of Minutes from December (tabled to Feb)....**Follow back around with JP/Shavonne.**

Section 4: Community Building (SKIP THIS MONTH)

End of Meeting

Transition to Family Fun Event, this month's activity: **BINGO**