

GHES PTA March general meeting, 04/07/2026

In attendance:

President Doug Ryan
Admin VP Kim Sherk
Communications VP Bonnie Imlay (virtual)
Treasurer Devon Mayer
Secretary Melissa Guevara

Administrators;
Assistant Principal Eric Soskil (virtual)
Principal Tara Strain (virtual)

Please see slides [here](#).

6:30-6:45 Members socialized and potlucked.

Doug welcomed everyone and encouraged them to become a member if that have not yet done so.

Devon then presented the financial report for the month of March. Income included auction income and the book fair income. Devon has not received a check from Five Guys, but a check for \$125 for dine out night at Red Maple.

Devon then proposed the vote for the auction allocations (\$250, Student lunch, \$25 library books, \$90 indoor recess, and \$300 for staff appreciation). Kim proposed a vote on the auction allocations to include them in the PTA budget. 13 votes in favor, none against.

Devon then provided a mini grant update, and Melissa updated that the mini grant for the little book library

Sveta then asked specifically about the status of the headphones for Ms. Han mini grant. Bonnie followed up that she would order the headphones of the link provided by Tara, and she would process the reimbursement

Kim then proposed a vote to approve an additional \$2,000 to the mini grant budget. All 13 votes of members were in favor.

There was a question about whether all funds earned this year would have to be spent this year. Devon clarified that the PTA did not have to spend all the funds, and with the fundraising from this year, the PTA would begin with about \$12,000 for next year (\$2,000 more than this year). Kim reminded the PTA that some money would be needed to be budgeted over the summer for playdates and for the beginning of the year meal for staff during the pre-service meal.

GLEN HAVEN ELEMENTARY

PTA

PTA Bank Account Summary

Balance as of:	<u>3/1/2026</u>	\$19,844.98
Income:		\$15,310.84
Disbursements:		\$1,034.95
Balance as of:	<u>3/31/2026</u>	\$34,120.87

	Period Actual	FY Actual	Budgeted	Variance
INCOME:				
11. NET Membership Dues	\$40.38	\$780.61	\$500.00	\$280.61
12. Spirit Wear	\$0.00	\$205.51	\$400.00	-\$194.49
13. Book Fairs (2)	\$3,685.96	\$5,131.15	\$4,200.00	\$931.15
14. Auction	\$11,464.50	\$11,464.50	\$2,700.00	\$8,764.50
15. Dine-Out Nights	\$120.00	\$1,114.56	\$1,000.00	\$114.56
16. Other	\$0.00	\$8,532.75	\$500.00	\$8,032.75
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,310.84	\$27,229.08	\$9,300.00	\$17,929.08

DISBURSEMENTS:				
D1. Staff Appreciation	\$241.81	\$1,541.39	\$3,300.00	-\$1,758.61
D2. Minigrants	\$713.14	\$1,365.63	\$7,600.00	-\$6,234.37
D3. Operating Expenses	\$80.00	\$301.04	\$2,010.00	-\$1,708.96
D4. Other Organizational Expenses	\$0.00	\$90.94	\$500.00	-\$409.06
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,034.95	\$3,299.00	\$13,410.00	-\$10,111.00

Treasurer

Deron Mayer

Date:

4/5/2026

Doug then welcomed the military family liaison counselor Dr. Frank DaCunha . He presented slides 11-28. His primary responsibility is to provide non-medical counseling to students of military families. He has 33 years of experience in the military. His work applies to service members of all branches and their families.

An attendee asked: How many MFLC are in Montgomery county? He is the only MFLC working in the MCPS system, but there are others that work outside of MCPS in Montgomery county, at Walter Reed for example. He also provides support for summer camps and before/after school programs.

At GHES, Dr. Frank provides individual counseling and he also provides group counseling which is more of a social/ check in time. During the group counseling sessions, there is not group therapy but rather students explore different topics regarding the military or stress management, random acts of kindness, etc.

Certain situations that are outside of MFLC scope include substance, addiction, crisis situations, child abuse, depression, etc. In situations like this, the school team works together with MCPS procedures and military resources to help families get help. MCPS/ military confidentiality policies limit him to what can be shared.

He also provides guidance on developmental milestones and emotional needs of the military child, and he can do observations in the classroom if there are some concerns about specific behaviors for these students.

Some concerns that have arisen at GHES include self-esteem, bullying, deployment, divorce, problem solving. An additional topic that he mentioned is guidance on peer relations amongst students.

One question that came from a member is how do non military students receive guidance about their friends who leave due to relocation/ deployment of their friend's families. Dr. Frank indicated that they work with

Another question that was asked whether how the students compare to non military families. Dr. Frank responded that different kids manifest behaviors differently.

Mr Soskil then applauded Dr. Frank's participation and role at GHES. He also wanted to clarify that any family, active, reserve, veteran and military connected families are all celebrated when GHES has special events whereas Dr. Frank deals mostly with active duty families and those families that have provided consent and verified.

There is no cost to the family or to the school for his services.

Doug then highlighted the following upcoming dates:

- April 9 - Purple Star BREAKFAST Program
- April 12- Last Day to Purchase Spirit Wear
- April 14 - International Night, 6:30. Last Day of Quarter 3
- April 15 - Now a School Day!! Early release 12:55 p.m.
- April 19 - Glen Haven Green Fest 2-4pm
- April 20 - Spring Picture Day
- April 22 - GHES Earth Day Celebration
- April 24- Community Coffee, 9:00 a.m.
- May 5- PTA Meeting- Staffing Update 6:30 Hybrid?
- June 2- PTA meeting/ Officer vote and Celebration 6:30 In person? (MAY NEED TO RESCHEDULE)

Kim highlighted the upcoming coffee and the spirit wear sale.

Jesse then provided a nominating committee update and has proposed the slate of officers for the June meeting election:

- President
Scott Parkinson
- President-Elect
Vacant
- Vice President
Jaimie Worker
- Vice President-Elect
Vacant
- Secretary
Julie Daily
- Secretary-Elect
Vacant
- Treasurer
Devon Mayer
- Treasurer-Elect

Samantha Kinney

- VP Communications
Bonnie Imlay
- VP Communications Elect
Martha Powers
- Delegates
- Ally Nelson
- Sveta Wilkson

Melissa clarified that the position is a one year commitment with an option for a second year, but the term is a one year commitment. As such, it is a good idea to have a shadow position even if the candidates will be new to the position for next year.

Doug thanked the nominating committee for all their hard work.

Kim plugged Green Fest that is coming up on April 19th. Melissa provided a staff appreciation update, and encouraged membership to provide any updates for staff appreciation week May 4-8.

Ms. Strain then took the floor for GHES administration updates.

Updates:

- Kids After Hours' last night out is April 17th. Thank you to KAH for all your support!
- June 16th- 5th grade promotion
- June 18th, Last Day of School, early release. UPDATED
- Vision screening on Thursday, April 9th for all students. Ms. Chung says that underserved students will be prioritized, but if your student has a valid subscription (within the last two years), Ms Chung can access free glasses for those students.
- She shared a photo of GHES staff/students/ families with the MCPS board who highlighted the work that GHES does to support the military.
- International night is our largest school event. She encourages everyone to participate and attend.
- Career day on May 29th-Ms Levin is still looking for speakers. A question about what the time commitment is for participating
- Please complete the community needs survey so Ms. Chung can evaluate needs as our community liaison. Ms. Chung has posted the flyers in the chat and they have posted in the newsletter. This survey is a requirement so that Ms. Chung can access resources and funds for our school. If GHES WANTS \$, FILL OUT FORM.
- Ms Chung is also requesting some middle school and high school volunteers for international night.
- Ms. Strain then shared photos of the newly installed playgrounds. Pre-K playground is now open. Main playground, but there is a drainage problem near the west side of the playground. Quick mulch could potentially swallow students. So Tara needs to ensure that area is safe, and she will not sign off that it is done, until that area is fixed.
- Next step will be to provide a sidewalk from the pre-k playground to the gymnasium which they could not
- The new MCPS staffing standard has affected GHES negatively, so she will update the PTA

about those changes at our next meeting. It has moved from benchmarks to ranges for staffing.

- 40 kids are registered currently for Kindergarten. With those numbers, she has been allocated 3 kindergarten teachers.
- No more focus school for next year, but rather now a TIER 2 school which has 35%-70% FARMS. Currently 62% of the students are considered FARMS population.
- Kim requested that she also update the testing schedule for the spring.