

## Minutes of the Sept. 7, 2010, Takoma Park PTA meeting.



TAKOMA PARK  
Elementary School  
Parent Teacher Association

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Shruti Bhatnagar.

Newcomers were welcomed and agendas distributed. The last item on the agenda was addressed first. Lucy Neher, Takoma Park City's coordinator of the federal Safe Routes to School program, spoke about the program that funds municipalities to encourage walking and pedestrian safety. She asked for volunteers to help coordinate "Walk to School Day" on Oct. 6 and asked parents to fill out surveys that will translate into more funding for TPES. She said there are activities she can bring to TPES such as a bike rodeo or a crosswalk simulator game. She reported that a 5K run will be held again this school year on May 1, 2011. As in the past few years, the run is a joint effort of volunteers from TPES, East Silver Spring ES, and Piney Branch ES. It includes a one-mile fun run and one-quarter mile youth run as well as the 5K. She said 544 people ran last year. She presented a check for \$1,500 to Principal Gadsden and Ms. Bhatnagar from the proceeds of last year's 5K event.

Principal Gadsden then gave her update. She said the school year got off to a pretty good start and credited parents Andrew Partan and Doug Becker for suggesting a new dismissal routine that will send walkers out the front door to the grassy area, while car riders will be walked down the sidewalk next to the car pickup lane, where parents will wait in line to load their children into the car. This will greatly reduce the congestion that was experienced when everyone came out the front door as well as when everyone was lined up on the sidewalk. She asked that parents not sit on the yellow curb in the bus lane as that is unsafe and asked that people drive slowly in the car lanes. She welcomed phone calls, emails, or personal appointments through Ms. Paz if parents have any challenges or concerns.

New Science Teacher Mr. Hutton then gave a brief report. He said TPES is the only elementary school, other than PBES, in the county to have science as a special subject once a week, in addition to the science taught by the homeroom teachers. He said he is using an "inquiry approach" where he will facilitate children's developing the skill of explaining their thinking. Kindergarten students will be studying the water cycle, first graders "from tree to paper," and second graders the water cycle on a more advanced level. He said he is pursuing a master's degree in science education.

The meeting then divided into three breakout sessions, with Mrs. Woods leading the kindergarten session; Ms. Wunsch the first grade; and Principal Gadsden with the second grade parents.

The full meeting resumed and President Bhatnagar said the second grade ice cream social will be Friday, Sept. 10; the first grade social will be Friday Sept. 24; and the kindergarten social on Tuesday, Sept. 28. She introduced Lichelle Lawson and Lisa

## Minutes of the Sept. 7, 2010, Takoma Park PTA meeting.



TAKOMA PARK  
Elementary School  
Parent Teacher Association

Gianakos as Committee Chairs of mixers who requested help of volunteers for the event.

Nominations of officers was next. Lisa Moran, Vice President and Chair of the nomination Committee called out the names of the nominated officers. Kathryn Desmond was nominated as recording secretary for PTA meetings. The nomination was seconded and Ms. Desmond was elected by voice vote, with no objections. Mary Hanisko was nominated as recording secretary for Executive Committee meetings. The nomination was seconded, and Ms. Hanisko was elected by voice vote, with no objections. Heath Winter was nominated as treasurer. The nomination was seconded, and Mr. Winter was elected by voice vote, with no objections.

Elections of Executive Committee Officers was completed with full support of PTA members at the meeting and no objections from anyone.

The draft budget was distributed and the president asked for input. She said the PTA has a goal of raising \$15,000 in this year's Dolphin Appeal. Donations are accepted throughout the year, with big push from February to June. She said \$7,000 will be used for cultural assemblies, \$3,000 for field trips, and \$4,000 is given as cash to teachers to buy room supplies.

President Bhatnagar introduced new TPES Vice Principal Ms. Smith, who thanked parents and staff for welcoming her to the school.

Fourteen PTA items were raffled off.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn Desmond  
Secretary TPES PTA