

Education Committee Report
Jonathan Edelson & John DiTomasso, Co-chairs

The committee met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7th, in The Other Barn.

The first item of discussion was a program brought to our attention by Kim Prium, special assistant to Councilman Calvin Ball. This is a tutoring program run out of Long Reach High School for Long Reach students. Ms. Prium is collecting more information about the program. The committee discussed the program and determined that while we may want to inform our schools of its existence, we could not be responsible for administering such a program in OM schools.

As a result of this discussion, we also discussed tutoring and mentoring services available in OM schools. A-OK is one such service and provides free mentoring through the school.

The second item of discussion was a review of the Board of Education Forum held September 17th. All in attendance agreed the forum went very well and liked the format. There was one comment about candidates answering some audience questions referring to what they wrote in the pre-submitted responses; however, we did not provide these responses to the audience until after the forum. We agreed that while this was a minor issue, it was still preferable to distribute the written responses at the end of the forum so the audience could be engaged in the live forum rather than distracted by reading through many pages of information.

Sandy will include reminders of the availability of BOE candidates' written responses in the OM newsletter as the election date approaches (November 4). The co-chairs asked members of the committee to distribute reminders as well.

The third item of discussion was upcoming PTA Council of Howard County events. These include a BOE candidate roundtable discussion, 10/12 from 4-6 at Atholton HS, a BOE meeting with the Community Advisory Council and PTA Presidents, 10/14 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the BOE facility, and a County Executive candidate forum on 10/19, 6-7:30 p.m. at Mt. Hebron HS. For the county executive forum, Howard County residents can e-mail PTACHC their questions.

The fourth item on the agenda was school news. Oakland Mills HS football continued its undefeated season at the time (they have since lost one game). An Oakland Mills Middle student's art is on display at the Howard County government building. OMMS PTSA is also successfully recruiting student members and held a restaurant night at Shop House on the 7th.

Upcoming education events of interest:

Savage Community Association BOE forum, 10/15 from 6-9 at Bollman Bridge ES.
Authorpalooza, 10/18 from 2-4 at Oakland Mills HS.

Beyond the meeting, members of the OMCA Board learned at the village festival that the OMHS band is looking for donations to purchase new percussion equipment. Jonathan Edelson and Kay Wisniewski have contacted the band director for more information to determine how we can advocate for the band.

Kay Wisniewski will also meet with the OMHS Fine Arts Boosters on Wednesday, 10/15, to learn more about them.

Stevens Forest ES is looking for volunteers on 10/15 during lunch periods to help with the “Blue Pinky Promise” to prevent bullying. Anyone interested should contact the PTA at sfesbobcatspta@gmail.com

Stevens Forest ES will also provide Thanksgiving meals and Christmas presents to pre-identified families in need in the community. Anyone interested in contributing can bring non-perishable food items to the school for its food drive or can contact Assistant Principal Trish Lannon at trish_lannon@hcpss.org for more information.