

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

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

The first agenda item at the Education Committee meeting was school news:

OMHS: Mid-terms are approaching. The Early College Program has been announced and will be run by Mr. Smart. There is a meeting for families on the evening of January 13 at OMHS. The OMHS theatre group is participating in the Maryland State Thespian Festival.

OMMS: OMMS held its spelling bee, which went very well. OMMS is planning a spaghetti dinner that may be open to the community. More details to follow as they plan the event.

SFES: SFES is holding its first Art Night Extravaganza on January 8. It will unveil the mosaic mural students created with the assistance of a local artist thanks to a Howard County Arts Council grant the PTA received. SFES will also recognize the students who participated in the National PTA Reflections Art Program. Several have been selected to move on to the county level.

TSES: TSES held its spelling bee, and like OMMS, the spelling bee went well. TSES is holding its International Festival on January 8. TSES also participated in the Reflections program and is awaiting word on which students move on to the county level.

The next agenda item was the “State of Our Schools” Town Hall:

Members of the committee should submit ideas for topics and format to Jon & John. The event will include all schools with students who ultimately feed up to OMHS. Jon is working on coordination with Frank Eastham of HCPSS Central Office (and former OMHS Principal). The event is scheduled for April 29, but there may be a conflict for OMMS. Ms. Nash alerted the OMMS Principal and Mr. Edelson alerted Mr. Eastham.

The committee went into discussion about potential topics of discussion. Much of the focus was on OMMS and what programs or events it could be known for. The OMMS PTA President also noted that OMMS currently does not have a Student Government Association (SGA). There was some discussion of possibly asking local leaders to talk to OMMS students to inspire them toward SGA.

Other Education Items

Two Oakland Mills schools were featured in the newspaper for very positive developments. SFES appeared in the education section for its Art Night and mosaic mural unveiling. OMHS was featured in a full article for the new early college program. The OMHS early college administrator said he was very pleased with the way the article portrayed the program and OMHS.

Dr. Foose presented her proposed budget to the Board of Education on January 8.

The Board of Education suspended its citizen budget review committee while it revamps the process.

At the January 15 Board of Education meeting, the PTA Council of Howard County plans to ask for changes to the school wellness policy to allow for more flexibility. SFES and OMMS PTA/PTSA are in favor of this.