



Imagine Discovery Public Charter School

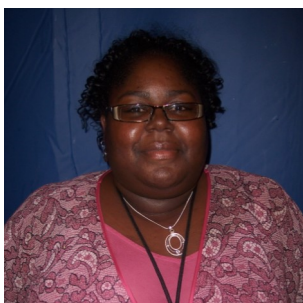
The PTA Connection

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New Changes to the PTA: Imagine PTA's 2011-2012

Vision by Carlette Flowers, PTA President



Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year at Imagine Discovery PCS PTA! We embrace this new school year with the opportunity for everyone to take an active role to better Imagine Discovery

for our scholars. Therefore, if you haven't already done so, please join the PTA. Membership dues are \$10 per person. Please also consider supporting our no fundraising option by donating \$50 per family to opt out of fundraising. The PTA not only plans events and activities throughout the year, but also financially supports teachers within their classrooms, Teacher Appreciation Week Ac-

tivities, Parent Involvement Activities, Cultural Arts Assemblies and many other wonderful programs at Imagine. Finally, please consider volunteering - it is a great way to meet other parents and gain a better understanding of your child's school.

We look forward to a fun and exciting year. Remember to sign up and get involved today!

Support Your Child's Classroom by Donating Supplies *by Mrs. Sara*

Becker, 3rd Grade Teacher

Please support your child's classroom! Due to a change in Baltimore County policy, we had to adjust our supply lists this year. We are no longer allowed to require students to bring important items like tissues, hand sanitizer, or Clorox wipes. A donation list was sent out with the summer mailing you received prior to the start of the school year. A donation of any of these items would be greatly

appreciated and would ensure that your child has a successful school year. Also, teachers have been asked to set up accounts on AdoptA-Classroom.org. If you are unable to purchase supplies to send in with your student, you may choose to donate using this option. You can donate any amount to your child's classroom. The teacher will then be able to use these funds to

purchase tissues, sanitizer, etc. How to Donate: When you go to the website, there will be a search box on the left-hand side of the page. Enter Imagine Discovery in the "School Name" box and you will be able to locate your child's teacher. Thank you in advance for all of your support from the Imagine Discovery teachers! We couldn't do it without you! *We are Imagine!*

PTA Updates SEPTEMBER

DATES



Monday, September 19-Tuesday, September 20—continuation of Stanford Achievement Testing

Wednesday, September 21-Thursday, September 22—make-up sessions for Stanford Achievement Testing

Thursday, September 29—School closed for Rosh Hashanah

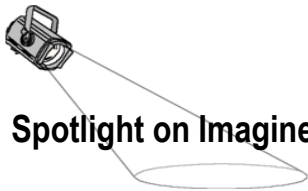
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Spotlight on Imagine Discovery PCS 2011-2012 PTA's Board of Directors *by Myra J. Sydnor*



PTA Board of Directors from left to right: Jackie Turner, Carlette Flowers, Nadja White-Dowtin, Adrienne Brown, Diane Reynolds, and Tina Coates

Imagine Discovery is very fortunate to have a group of dedicated parents who want to make a positive difference in the lives of the scholars of this school. They unselfishly volunteer their time to be an active part of Imagine Discovery's PTA. Who are these parents? They are the Board of Directors for the 2011-2012 school year. Members of the Board include: Carlette Flowers, President; Adrienne Brown, Vice President I; Nadja White-Dowtin, Vice President II; Diane Reynolds, Treasurer; Tina Coates, Corresponding Secretary; and Jackie Turner, Recording Secretary. The

to join the PTA is to benefit "your child(ren)." Other advantages include: (1) getting connected—know what is happening at Imagine; (2) discovering great resources designed for parents as well as students; (3) tapping into a network of getting to know other parents as well as teachers to build rapport; (4) putting your skills and hobbies to use to benefit your child(ren) and the school community; (5) witnessing improvement—help make positive changes and be a part of the solution to improve the school; (6) being a role model to demonstrate to your child(ren) the emphasis you

Board has just six members, so we need many more parents, grandparents, and guardians to help support them in their endeavors as they continue to make positive changes for the benefit of Imagine Discovery.

Why join the PTA? According to the National PTA's website, the number one reason

place on education; and (7) enjoying substantial benefits by taking advantage of PTA membership discounts and offers from member benefits providers—check out: http://pta.org/member_benefit_providers.

There are a lot of committees in which to be a part. You do not have to donate a lot of your time, just a small part. The committees are: Book Fair, Fifth Grade Farewell, Fundraising, Hospitality, Male Involvement, Newsletter, Parent Involvement, PTA Website, Reflections, School Store, Spring Fair, and Teacher Appreciation.

Remember that dues are just \$10 per person. Also, in an effort to avoid multiple fundraisers, you may select the "no fundraiser" sales option for a one-time donation of \$50.00 per family. This donation should be received prior to October 31, 2011 or the first PTA fundraiser. The PTA needs your support—from parents as well as teachers! Together, "we are Imagine!"

The PTA of Imagine Discovery would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Principal, Dr. R. Mark Harris, Acting Assistant Principal, Ms. Kathy Dryden, and all new teachers and staff to Imagine Discovery!



WELCOME



The PTA Connection
Volume III, Issue I

Editor:
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Contributors:
Beverly Lofton
Charles E. Sydnor III

Changes May be on the Horizon for Baltimore County's Board of Education *by Charles E. Sydnor III*

Last legislative session, state Senators Bobby Zirkin (D-11th) Jim Brochin (D-42nd) and Joseph Getty (R-5th) introduced a bill to elect 7 of the 12 members (a "Hybrid" board) of the Baltimore County Board of Education. This bill failed to get past committee by a 5-3 vote. Only Senators Zirkin, Brochin, and Getty voted in favor of the bill.

Currently, the Board of Education is one of five appointed school boards in Maryland, including one (Caroline County) that is in the process of transitioning to a hybrid board of appointed and elected members. The Board consists of 12 members, of whom four members are appointed from the county at large, seven members are appointed from each of the seven legislative districts in the county, and one is a student member.

While the aforementioned bill died, House Bill 398 was signed into law as Chapter 460 establishing a Task Force on the Membership and Operation of the Baltimore County Board of Education. The Task Force was charged to make recommendations on:

- (1) the ideal size of the Board of Education;
- (2) the most appropriate method of selecting members of the Board of Education, including consideration of the following methods:
 - (i) all elected;
 - (ii) gubernatorial appointments;
 - (iii) Baltimore County executive appointments;
 - (iv) partially elected and appointed;
 - (v) county nominating commission; and
 - (vi) appointments with additional ap-

proval; and
 (3) the appropriate phase-in period for changes to the existing selection process; and
 (4) improving the transparency and professionalism of the Baltimore County Board of Education.

The Task Force held three public meetings on July 6 in Reisterstown, July 7 in Essex and July 25 in Towson. Some of the community weighed in, including Baltimore County Council members Vicki Almond, Todd Huff, David Marks and Cathy Bevins. They all say they would support a Hybrid board and sent a letter to the Task Force noting their position. The letter said "While we believe the school system is fundamentally strong, there are disturbing issues that have eroded the trust that must exist between parents and those who lead our public schools." Even the Baltimore Sun, in an August 4, 2011 editorial wrote: "We have been generally supportive of such a hybrid board, and the idea has distinct advantages. Elected school board members would undoubtedly be more responsive to the public, because they will have to stand for re-election. The system would guarantee geographic diversity on the board and ensure that every area of the county had a strong advocate." The Baltimore County League of Women Voters also expressed support for a hybrid board.

Some opponents to board members being elected have pointed to the fact that blacks account for more than half of the enrollment in the 104,000-student district and currently hold three

seats on the 12-member school board. It was stated that blacks have historically had a very difficult time winning elections in the County and if the board was elected rather than appointed, racial diversity would suffer. Regarding the "distinct advantages," the Sun's editors believe a hybrid board has, the facts have proven otherwise. At one of the Task Force's hearings, when asked whether students achievement was better under an elected or appointed board, a representative from the Maryland Association of Board of Education said it did not make a difference.

The PTA Council of Baltimore County had not adopted a position on this matter at the time this article was written.

The idea of the elected board was rejected at the September 9th work session by this Task Force. However, a change of some sort is still expected. There seems to be support among the Task Force members for a commission which would nominate school board members who may ultimately be selected by the Governor. The Task Force's report of findings and recommendations are due by October 1, 2011. However, even if the Task Force does not recommend a certain change, no legislator is prevented from introducing legislation on their own reflecting their view. It is very likely that some members of the Baltimore County legislative delegation will once again attempt to change the manner in which Baltimore County's Board of Education is seated.

The PTA Connection

Imagine Discovery PTA's Spring Fair 2011 *by Myra J. Sydnor*

Parents, grandparents, guardians, and children all gathered in the Imaginarium on Thursday, June 16 for Imagine Discovery PTA's Spring Fair—a perfect close to the end of the school year. There was the delicious smell of popcorn and cotton candy along with the sounds of laughter and people busy talking, having a fun time. The event was held from 4-7 p.m. sponsored by the Spring Fair Committee under the direction of Ms. Adrienne Brown. Ms. Brown along with her committee members and other volunteers facilitated a very successful event! There were games, snacks as well as prizes for the children. Ms. Brown commented, "I believe it's safe to say that we had a very successful Spring Fair...everyone seemed to have a wonderful time...and that alone is satisfying." She further states, "I just wanted to take the time to thank [everyone] for [their] help. It takes everyone working together in order for an event to be successful. Your time and commitment are greatly appreciated."



Imagine That!

The PTA has a goal for the 2011-2012 school year to have 150 members join the organization—parents/grandparents/guardians as well as teachers.

The general meeting for the PTA is Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Imaginarium.

Teachers have assigned parking spaces to ensure they have a place to park so they can be on duty for the start of the school day. Please be mindful of these reserved spaces and do not park in them.

Arrival/Drop off starts at 8:05 a.m., not before.

Imagine is a uniform school—please adhere to the Uniform Policy.



"Diversity Means" 2011– 2012 PTA Board of Directors

President

Carlette Flowers

Vice President 1

Adrienne Brown

Vice President 2

Nadja White-Dowtin

Treasurer

Diane Reynolds

Corresponding Secretary

Tina Coates

Recording Secretary

Jackie Turner