



# Volunteering in Lexington Schools





# Agenda

- I. School volunteering overview
- II. Site Council
- III. PTA introduction
- IV. Why volunteering
- V. Efforts needed
- VI. Volunteering beyond school
- VII. Q&A



# What is a volunteer, President, VP...

**How did I start**

**How can you start**



# School volunteering overview I

## Volunteer opportunities

- Room parent
  - Head room parent vs. room parent
  - Organize class parties and events, teacher appreciation week, ad hoc help
  - Sign up in summer
- Library
  - Weekly or bi-weekly help, check-in and check-out books, see your children in class
- Green team
  - Sign up at your convenience
  - See your children at lunch
  - Save the environment



# School volunteering overview II

## Volunteer opportunities (-continued)

- Big backyard walk
  - Training right before the walk
  - Focus on nature
  - Hang out with your children
- Field trips
  - Parent chaperones
- Can double income family get involved? Yes!
- CORI required



# Site Council

- Required by the state
- *Harrington as example*, format might be slightly different for each school:
  - ❖ The School Site Council for the Harrington School is a group of **parents**, teachers, and a community member.
  - ❖ Assist the Principal in identifying the educational needs of the school, and in formulating an annual School Improvement Plan.
  - ❖ *Parent representatives to the School Council are elected each spring, and serve for a term of two years beginning the following Fall.* Teacher representatives are elected by the faculty, and also serve for a two-year term.



# PTA introduction

## ○ **PTA vs. PTO**

- ✓ PTA: Parent Teacher Association, pay dues to state/national organizations
- ✓ PTO: Parent teacher Organization, independent, no dues

## ○ **How to join PTA**

- ✓ Instructions usually are included in school welcome package, or join via PTA website
- ✓ Harrington basic membership \$27, gold membership \$100
- ✓ PTA Average spend on each student \$90
- ✓ Sponsor many other community events
- ✓ Access to student directory

## ○ **PTA core members (Next page)**

**Treasurer**  
PM

**Secretary**  
NR

**Co-Presidents**  
CM & AW

**Curriculum Enrichment**

ACT/Science Enrichment  
SS/ JZ

**VP Fundraising**  
JY

Spring Fair  
LR

Retail Partnerships  
HZ

Spirit Wear  
KM

Picture Day  
SV

Box Tops  
CR, CA

Fall Fundraiser  
JY

Fun Run  
KC

**VP School Support**  
SB

Green Team  
AA

Room Parents  
KA

Map Night  
JW

Lost And Found  
JH, AS

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation  
CC/ SH

Safe Routes to School  
BS

Harrington Reads  
CS

Beautification  
MV

Math Mornings and Nights  
SA (mornings)/ PB  
(nights)

Big Backyard  
**OPEN**

**VP Community Building**  
KC

International Night  
XZ

Talent Show  
CS

Bingo Night  
CS

Science Fair  
AS

Teacher Appreciation  
SV, KM

Metco Family Friends  
SH (GR)

Sports Outings  
CB

Game Night  
SV

Hurrah  
KB, TS

Movie Night  
JF

**VP Membership**  
JG

Directory  
JG

Language Liaison  
AW

Kindergarten Orientation  
JG

International Parent  
Orientation  
AW

**Communications**

Herald  
JR

PTA Email List  
WD

Website  
RD

Hawks List  
AD

Digital Communication  
JZ







# PTA Event guidelines

- How to run an event
- How to promote your event
- President responsibilities



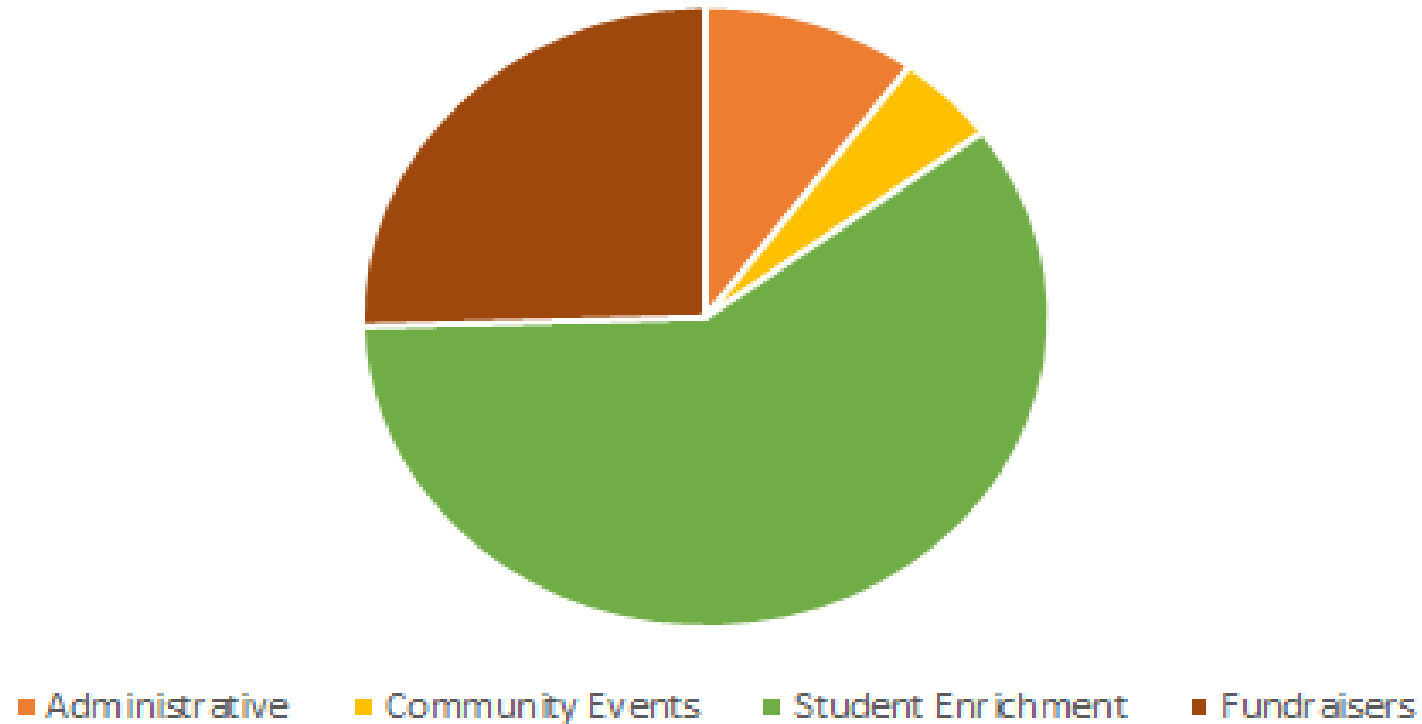
# PTA financials: Income

- ~25% membership fees and donations
- ~75% fundraising



# PTA financials: Spending

PTA 2016-17 funds utilization





# Why volunteering I

- Get to know teachers, principals, administrators...
  - ✓ Easier to communicate
  - ✓ Get involved and get your voice heard
- Check on you children in class, at lunch...
- Good role model for your children
- Good social network



# Why volunteering II

- Positive brand building for the Chinese community
- Give back to community
  - ✓ The community needs the help as many activities run solely by volunteers
  - ✓ Lots of positions such as TMM, SC are volunteers
  - ✓ School Needs the help from PTA
  - ✓ Culture driven



# Anything bad??

- Time and efforts required
  - ✓ Family support?
  - ✓ More work finds you
  - ✓ Hard sale
    - Lincoln field fundraising
    - Spring fair ads to town small business
  - ✓ Different opinions vs. other parties (school)



# Volunteering beyond school

- Unlimited opportunities
- Kids activities: Boy scouts, girl scouts, soccer/baseball team.....
- Community events: Walk for hunger, PAN-MASS challenge (PMC)
- Community needs: Grove St. project petition, Lincoln field fundraising
- Civic involvement: help in local elections, local committees, TMM, SC
- Indian community is ahead of us...



# Q&A