



**Minutes from ESS PTA Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 3, 2025 - 7:30pm to 8:30pm**  
Held via Zoom

Attendees: Ms. Bodre-Woods, Erin O'Brien, Haile D, Genet, Hilary Catlin, Kareema Mitchell-Allen, Kaleb, Alexandra Harris, Allison, 3 usernames, Kristen Pisani-Jacques, Margaret Vice, Lucienne Joseph, Paulos, Eyerusalem Taye, Wubalem, mtgetaneh. Sylvia Bollie, Grace Kurland Mann, Robin Dickens, Amy Molina-Moore. Community Partners in attendance: Robert Love and Chris Burke from– Montgomery County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs

meeting started at 7:33

Thank you Shout Outs! To a number of folks but especially Building Service Team and parent volunteers for clearing the snow!

Presentation Montgomery County Housing Reps: Robert Love & Chris Burke

How to take advantage of Montgomery County Affordable housing opportunities

- To qualify for an affordable unit need to be making up to 65% or 70% of average median income. Do not have to apply to county – go directly to building and ask for moderately housed unit. Request to be on waiting list.

- 12.5% - 15% of new apartment construction designated moderately priced dwelling unit.

- Need to have one month worth of paystubs. Need more than 1 paystub. Prior years 1099 or W-2. Bring federal tax returns

- No amenity fees

- No citizenship requirements, but must have documentation to be here legally.

Proof of non-filing from IRS.

- E-subscription list that will notify you of availability. Goes to thousands of people:

Montgomery County E-subscription link:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMONTGOMERY/subscriber/new>

- We live in the 5<sup>th</sup> most diverse county in America with 1 million people within it.

For Sale Program

- Must be a First time homebuyer

- Gross Income - Minimum amount 40k, must be able to qualify for 150k loan to pay for the houses.

- Must attend 3 trainings and First time homebuyer class – 8 hours.

- Application tutorial – MPD certification.

- Enter into a drawing for available houses.

- If you sell within 30 years, MC will determine what you can sell on that house. Trying to keep houses affordable. Townhouses or condo are what's likely on offer. If you sell after 30 years MC gets a cut of the profits.

- 1% down payment.

Reference Links from DHCA conversation:

- Rental MPDU Information:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA/MPDU/mpdu-rentals.html>

- MPDU Rental Buildings:

<https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca-mpdu/Rental/List>

- HOC Housing/Rental Assistance Programs:

<https://www.hocmc.org/housing-opportunities/housing-rental-assistance-programs/>

- MPDU Housing Purchase Information:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA/MPDU/mpdu-purchase-applicants.html>

Questions: reach out to Robert Love [robert.love@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:robert.love@montgomerycountymd.gov)

### **School Improvement Plan Updates from Ms. Bodre-Woods:**

- In 2025 on our Maryland State Report Card ESS earned 60.3% out of 100%. School is a 4 star school.

- DIBELS scores from K-2 have shown improvement

- Now have FIT time (focused instructional time) 5 days a week tailored to what kids' reading needs are. Students re-grouped for specific needs.

- Students make goals including "moving to the next color band" for reading

- Students that were targeted for EBB were students just on the cusp of proficiency.

- Schools' Climate Goals – two school counselor, social worker once a week, community school liaison, Attendance rates rising – 93% not chronically absent.

Fall 2025 Community Survey – Shows vast improvement in children feeling safe – from 90.5%, last year was 59.2; teachers teach problem mgmt. 66.7% compared 40.8%, consequences handled fairly – 57.1% compared to 35.2%. Only had 21 people respond to this survey in the fall. Very important that people respond to the survey... but things feel like they're moving in the right direction.

People can schedule parent teacher conferences as they feel the need. Not limited to once a year. Teachers have 48 hours to respond, and then can reach out to office if haven't heard after 48 hrs.

**PTA Volunteer Needs** – Planning Spring Festival, Help planning our talent show. Positive event for community; help organize spring auction, write short grants.

Here are the slides and conversation MOCO IRC had with county representative Kristin Mink:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMONTGOMERY/bulletins/4054667>

To be aware - our teachers are writing a letter to advocate for more special education support. One of our challenges is that we have so many kids coming and going so a number of IEPs in progress, but makes staffing particularly challenging

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:33