

Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
February 11, 2015, 9:30 am, Teacher's Lounge

Minutes

Attendees: Surapong Benchamart, Kerry Blankenship, Stephanie Bollini, Heather Buescher, Priya Chenthil, Tinelle Davies, Mary Franceschini, Elizabeth Lucca, Michelle Makrigiorgos

I. Call to Order at 9:34 am - Kerry Blankenship

II. Principal's Report – Michelle Makrigiorgos

Be sure to keep an eye on the Fairfax County budget. They are highlighting funding for salary increases (they're trying to maintain competitive salaries with the rest of the area). For this to happen, we need transfer of funding from Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Other funds are also needed to support in-need families, full-day Monday resources, later high school start times (requires a few more buses) and elementary class size.

Kindergarten Orientation is April 16 from 3-4 pm which is an early release day for the students. AAP Orientation is on May 12 at 6:30 or 7:00. Time is still TBD.

The internet session planned for January is now on March 19th at 7:00. The speaker is going to be great.

May 18-June 5 is the timeline for SOLs. There are fewer SOLs this year, so the timeframe has been compressed. Please avoid trips and appointments during these dates. A final schedule will be published soon.

There was a misprint in the newsletter - our projector systems will not be added to 4th and 5th grades in the modular since those are temporary classrooms and the systems are very expensive. K-3 will now all have projector systems. We also purchased 20 laptops that are now in the computer lab.

III. President's Report – Kerry Blankenship

There were more than 350 parents at the Beginning Strings/Band concert last night.

Thank you to the Before/Afterschool Program Chairs. The vendor who does soccer offered a few scholarships that went to a few kindergarteners.

Box Tops collection ends this week. Pizza Bingo is one week from Friday on 2/20. Elevation Burger Dining for Dollars is 2/26. We will check to see if we get credit for gift card purchases.

Louise Archer Day is Friday, 3/6. There will be activities in the school during the day. We'll be using the original rooms that were part of the school when it was built. We'll have a LA museum where children can see what the classrooms looked like then and how they were set up. We need volunteers to help set up on 3/5.

Faculty Basketball Game is on Saturday, March 14th. March 22nd is Dining for Dollars at Chipotle. March 23rd is set up for the science fair on 3/24. On 3/26, there will be two cultural arts assemblies during the school day.

We need nominating committee members for the Treasurer position. The new person will take over on July 1.

If you have receipts for any past activities, please turn them in so that we can update our budget. We have received a request from TJ for a donation for their all-night graduation party. We typically send a \$25 donation. We will vote when we have a quorum.

We budgeted for a jog-a-thon, but we do not have a Chair and this has received no traction. However, we do need to fill our budget gap. We're considering sending a letter home asking parents to send in checks. We can send a letter that says where the PTA money goes and how much we spend per child. We can point out that we don't charge admission for some events that we used to charge for and that we won't be able to fund some things next year without this additional money.

There is a group/website called Class Size Counts driven by Dana Jackins where parents can fill out their children's' class size information and other info. You can download letters to send to the School Board.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Priya Chenthil

We will work together and come up with a number to determine our shortfall in the budget. We will determine this number after Pizza Bingo. Please turn in receipts.

V. Old Business

a. Minutes approval of November and December meetings posted until next meeting

VI. New Business – Kerry Blankenship

a. FCPS Budget Process - Parents can contact the FCPS Board of Supervisors Representatives to support School Board funding.

VII. Program Announcements – Tinelle Davies (unless stated otherwise)

a. LA Reads – Heather Buescher

We delivered 216 books (3 books per child) before Winter Break to students. There will be a final delivery before the end of the year. Ms. William was excited by the book selection. Thank you to Mary Franceschini and Reshma Eggleston who helped stuff envelopes.

b. Spirit Wear

Sale goes through 2/21. Samples are in the office.

c. Loyalty Rewards

In December we earned \$668 from Amazon and we earned \$216.39 in January. These amounts put us at \$1836 for the 2014/15 school year. We've earned \$478 from Giant and they haven't updated their numbers for January yet.

d. Pizza Bingo – Elizabeth Lucca

The event is Friday, 2/20 from 5:00 until 8:30. We've done pretty well with getting volunteers. We do need additional help at the auction tables and prize tables. Heather will include this information in tomorrow's Sunburst. We're still soliciting for prizes from the community and we're collecting prize donations from families. Withers Hurley and Jennifer Riddle are handling the pizza. Mr. Drost and Mr. Garrahan will be calling.

e. Dining for Dollars

Thursday, 2/26 @ Elevation Burger (15%) of proceeds to LA PTA
Sunday, 3/22 @ Chipotle (50%) of proceeds to LA PTA

f. School Supplies – Mary Franceschini

Worksheets are due Friday, 3/13 from teachers. The sale will go from 3/1 through 3/31.

g. Thoreau – Stephanie Bollini

They are predicting that the renovations will be complete in August 2016. They're hoping that the first phase will be done sometime this summer. Information about the renovation is available on the Thoreau website. The renovation will allow for 1200 children (the capacity is now 800), which may result in some boundary changes.

Adjourned at 10:20 am. Next meeting is 3/11 at 7:30 pm in the Library.