

Louise Archer PTA  
General Membership Meeting  
March 11, 2015, 7:30 pm, Library

Attendees: Kerry Blankenship, Heather Buescher, Ceci Campbell, Priya Chenthil, Kerry Crum, Elaine Cudney, Tinelle Davies, Cathy Hardman, Rebecca Huffman, Malini Iyer, Courtney Johnston, Karen Landwehr, Michelle Makrigiorgos, Bill Mann, Petra Palmertree

Minutes

I. Call to Order at 7:32 pm – Kerry Blankenship

II. Principal's Report – Michelle Makrigiorgos

We are still trying to make up activities that were canceled due to snow. Children are starting to get back into the routine. There are a lot of decisions that go into the closing decisions. It's a tough decision and everyone wants everyone in school. We've missed 11 2/3 days (including full days and two hour delays).

Louise Archer Day is this Friday, March 13 at 2:30. It includes an assembly and historical tours. Rebecca Huffman has been working with two teachers to set up the artifacts.

The Faculty Basketball Game versus Wolftrap is this Saturday night. There is a Teacher Workday on Monday. Monday is a pyramid-wide day where all teachers will meet across the pyramid and they're focusing on math this time. We work hard on having that continuity among the schools. Teachers and specialists lead the professional development.

Science Fair is coming up. The day after spring break is also a Student Holiday (Strategic Planning Day). We often have a lot of students out that day.

The next big budget item is the Board of Supervisors hearings. The Bottom Line newsletter that came out today via email is a great resource for tracking where the county is on these decisions.

Kindergarten Orientation will be on April 16th from 3 to 4pm. AAP Orientation is May 12th.

III. President's Report – Kerry Blankenship

March 22 is a Dining for Dollars at Chipotle. They will give the school 50% of the profits that evening. We'll be promoting that next week. March 19th is our rescheduled date of Navigating Social Media speaker. We have a student assembly on March 26th on bullying.

There is a Signup Genius for Science Fair volunteers. Pizza Bingo was great. A huge thank you to Elizabeth Lucca, Jennifer Riddle, Colleen Monahan, Withers Hurley and the rest of the Pizza Bingo team. We made about \$1000 more than we had budgeted to make.

We have been struggling with our budget this year. Pizza Bingo made a little more than expected. The 5K and the wrapping paper fundraiser didn't make as much as anticipated. We think that this is because both of these were so close together in the fall. With the 5K, we also didn't have as many corporate sponsors as we've had in the past. The PTA Executive Team met last week and went through the budget line-by-line and determined that we will be meeting our budget almost exactly this year. At this point we do not feel like we need to do a big campaign to ask parents for funds for the remainder of the year. Unfortunately, we will be unable to donate a large gift to the school this year because we do not have a large surplus.

Maybe we could pair a fundraising activity with the science fair. We're looking at parent awareness of what technology is used in the classroom so that they can purchase similar equipment for home use. Karen Landwehr and Cathy Hardman will put together a small fundraising activity for the science fair. Motion made and seconded for new spring fundraiser. Motion passed.

We have a Nominating Committee. Malini Iyer, Cathy Hardman, Cheryl Mitchell, Rebecca Huffman and Petra Palmertree . Motion made and seconded for these committee members. Passed.

We have received two requests for All Night Grad Party Sponsorships. TJ and JMHS have each requested \$25. We have funding in our budget for both of these. Motion made for both and seconded. Passed.

Kerry will be sending out a request to all Chairpersons to see who is willing to perform the same roles next year.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report – Priya Chenthil

Currently we have about \$49,000. With the expenses we still have to incur, our income and expense will be just about even at the end of the year. At the beginning of the next school year, we will not have a big surplus like we've had in the past, so you will have to keep that in mind. Please submit any outstanding expenses.

#### V. Old Business – Kerry Blankenship

a. Minutes approval of November, December and February meetings

Motion made to approve the November, December and February Minutes. Motion passed.

#### VI. New Business - None

#### VII. Program Announcements

a. Spirit Wear – Tinelle Davies

Spirit wear has been distributed. We have a few extra hats and tie-dyed shirts. Contact [spiritclothing@louisearcherpta.org](mailto:spiritclothing@louisearcherpta.org) if you'd like to purchase these items.

b. Garden Club – Ceci Campbell

Garden Club has been graciously allotted a \$1500 budget and the mulch was a separate budget

item. We're trying to move the mulch to a "grounds" issue instead of one for the PTA to fund so that the County will handle it.

c. Odyssey of the Mind – Malini Iyer

Louise Archer Division 1 team came first in the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition held on March 7th at Oakton High School. They have the opportunity to represent the school at State level.

d. Dining for Dollars – Karen Landwehr

Chipotle in Vienna is on Sunday, March 22 from 4-8pm. 50% of proceeds will go to the LA PTA Azarra Fund. You must bring the flyer to participate. The April event is at Social Burger. If you buy a gift card, they will also give a portion of those proceeds.

e. Loyalty Rewards – Reported by Tinelle Davies. Information provided by Robyn Nguyen  
Giant Food is \$698.50 year-to-date. Amazon January earnings were \$173.11. Total earnings this school year from Amazon are \$2009.

f. Reflections - Reported by Tinelle Davies. Information provided by Keira Schwartz

We had two students who placed first in the Fairfax County level (which was against all Fairfax County schools). One student then placed second among all district schools (which is the local districts, like Fairfax County, Arlington, and Alexandria City). There is a county-wide awards reception and those two student have both been invited to attend.

g. Hip Hop - Reported by Tinelle Davies. Information provided by Keira Schwartz

The spring hip hop class registration began last week and the class itself is scheduled to begin on 3/19. There are still lots of spots open if your children are interested.

h. Before/Afterschool Programs – Petra Palmertree

We added a lot of classes this school year and would love to have feedback. We would love to have feedback on how you feel about these programs. Send an email to [programcoordinator@louisearcherpta.org](mailto:programcoordinator@louisearcherpta.org).

i. Walk 'n' Wheel Wednesdays – Cathy Hardman

The next event will be after Spring Break. Cathy will be applying for another mini grant. National Walk & Bike Week is the first week of May.

j. Box Tops – Elaine Cudney

We raised \$651 this past session.

Adjourned at 8:18pm.