

**Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
April 13, 2016, 9:30 am, Teachers' Lounge**

Minutes

Attendees: Kerry Blankenship, Heather Buescher, Jennifer Condra, Tinelle Davies, Lisa Dowell, Mary Franceschini, Cathy Hardman, Rebecca Huffman, Gergana Jostova, Karen Landwehr, Michelle Makrigiorgos, Abby Shannon

I. Call to Order at 9:33 am by Kerry Blankenship

II. Principal's Report by Michelle Makrigiorgos and Jennifer Condra

The Science Fair was fantastic. The children went through during the day and were able to leave comments on the students' projects. I was there during the evening and was able to speak to many of the students who were with their projects. Thank you to everyone who worked to make it successful.

We've had a few field trips lately. The 5th graders went to Medieval Times and there are also lots of events to local parks and Gunston Hall.

Louise Archer Day was last week and we celebrated the 77th anniversary of the school. It's like a school pep rally. The children are really invested in the school and learning about Louise Archer. It's a school effort from the music department, to Junior Optimists to the SCA. Rebecca Huffman did a great job with the history.

Kindergarten Orientation is next Thursday, April 21st after the early release. For our incoming AAP students, the orientation is Wednesday, April 27th.

The students and teachers are really thankful for the TV that was purchased with a mini grant.

The appreciation events are coming up. April 25th through 29th is Admin Support week. May 2nd through 6th is Teacher Appreciation Week. April 19th is our Volunteer Tea at 9:30 am. Please come by if you can.

The FCPS budget is still in discussion. Teachers are leaving the County to get higher pay in other jurisdictions. Dr. Garza is really trying to support them and trying to get us back at the market pay scale. There's also a big discussion about a meals tax and how that may or may not support the budget shortfall. We'll know pretty soon about the final decision about those cuts. April 26th is when the Board of Supervisors approves the County budget.

SOL testing for grades 3 through 6 starts the week of May 16th. For our school it runs through June 3rd. 400 is a passing score. There will be retakes available for children who score between 375-400. It's the parent's decision if they allow their child to retake. There is some additional intervention with the reading and math specialists before the retake.

III. President's Report by Kerry Blankenship

Stephanie Laubner and Laura Plante did a great job with Science Fair and Mike Parutti did a great job with the Faculty Volleyball Game. It wasn't as well attended in the past, but we had a great time.

The biggest push is our Nominating Committee. Hank Arrington has been working on a letter that's going to go out through our Facebook page, on paper and in an email. We currently have no candidates for the Executive Board. We are looking for a President, Vice President and Secretary. We also have a lot of committees and positions that are open for next year.

The Read-a-Thon was before Spring Break. Our children read over a half million pages in two weeks. The Hope Center reached out to us and wanted to contribute and will be sending a check for about \$800. Mrs. Toth's fifth grade class read 95,000 pages. We made about \$750 in parent donations.

Field Day is June 14th with a rain date on June 15th. We will be looking for volunteers for next year's Budget Committee soon.

IV. Treasurer's Report by Gergana Jostova

We had two donations of \$100 each during the month for general PTA. We had deposits through PayPal for the Read-a-Thon. We had additional income for 6th Grade Dinner donations.

Guitar Club and Spanish were canceled due to lack of interest for Before/After School programs.

This year's and last year's sixth grade classes donated a soccer goal as their gift and we just wrote the check for that. We also paid for the rental for the volleyball game. International Night had some expenses. Homework Club was an additional \$1200 and Sunshine Times was \$300.

V. Old Business

a. Minutes approval of March meeting

Motion to approve made by Mary Franceschini and seconded by Gergana Jostova. Motion approved.

VI. New Business

James Madison High School is requesting a donation for their All Night Graduation Celebration. We have budgeted for this. Motion to make \$25 grad party donation made by Mary Franceschini and seconded by Heather Buescher. Motion approved.

VII. Program Announcements

a. Teacher Appreciation Week – Heather Buescher (Program Chair)

Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week in May. We will have our flower station out on Monday. Tuesday will be the lunch that Rebecca Huffman is organizing. Wednesday the teachers will receive notes from their students and will receive a small gift card from the PTA. Thursday will be an afternoon coffee shop from Caffe Amouri with coffee, hot chocolate, tea, syrups and donated baked goods. Friday will be an oatmeal bar.

b. Original Works Fundraiser – Cathy Hardman (Program Chair)

The Original Works Artwork fundraiser looks to have been very successful. I don't have final numbers yet, but there were a lot of orders. You are still able to place orders.

c. Loyalty Rewards – Robyn Nguyen (Program Chair)

Giant A+ rewards has ended for the school year. Our total earned for the 2016 Program is \$3259.76. For Amazon, our total for July 2015 through April 9, 2016 is \$1986.

Adjourned at 10:45 am.