

Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
May 13, 2015, 7:30 pm, Library

Minutes

Attendees: Kerry Blankenship, Stephanie Bollini, Heather Buescher, Priya Chenthil, Elaine Cudney, Tinelle Davies, Reshma Eggleston, Mary Franceschini, Payal Ghala, Cathy Hardman, Adele Hubbard, Rebecca Huffman, Malini Iyer, Courtney Johnston, Gergana Jostova, Karen Landwehr, Michelle Makrigiorgos

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

II. Principal's Report – Michelle Makrigiorgos

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful Teacher's Appreciation Week. Heather Buescher and the Room Parents did a great job. The flower stand on the first day that gave every child the opportunity to participate was really nice. The variety of events was really appreciated.

I don't have any updates on the budget beyond what's been sent out already. There are a few means through which you can get information. The Bottom Line email sent by FCPS is one way. They are starting budget sessions in June and they don't normally start them until September. The timeline has been moved up because so many decisions need to be made.

Class size can vary from year to year. We have been fortunate, though we do have peaks and valleys in the grade levels. It really does depend on who moves and where new students come in. We really don't know the class sizes until late in the summer because we don't know until the parents have notified us. The caps are 30 children up through 3rd grade and 35 in 4th through 6th grade.

The Parent Input Survey is active and is now on the LA website. We invite you to share information about the class environment that you would like for us to consider. This is one piece of the information that we consider when forming classes. The teachers work diligently to get the best class makeup. June 1st is the deadline to submit this information.

You've probably received information regarding SOL retakes for those students in grades three through six. This year, Virginia made the decision to allow children who fall in the 375-399 range on an SOL exam to retake the exam. We wanted to collect the permission information now so that should it happen, we can get those children retested right away. There are a few reasons for this: sometimes the children are so close to the cut-off (the range is 1-4 questions) and some versions are more difficult than others. We will talk to parents before we do the retake. We're provided with the actual strands in which the children struggled and there is some intervention on the school's part with the child before the retest is given. SOLs start on Monday of next week. If you have any concerns about it, please talk to your child's teacher.

III. President's Report – Kerry Blankenship

Thank you to Heather Buescher, Rebecca Huffman and all of our Room Parents who did so

much for Teacher Appreciation Week. Walk/Bike to School Week was last week. Thank you to everyone who put that together so quickly.

We have thank you cards for Teacher Appreciation Week and the Sunshine Committee.

Today we had a little snafu with Walking Wednesday. We had a signup online and nobody signed up so we didn't have coffee. We will send out a Sunburst to ask more people to help.

We have announced all of the open Chairperson positions in the Sunbeam. Thank you to everyone who has chaired this year. We are looking for chairpersons-in-training for next year for the LA5K, Garden Club and Building Use. If you know anyone who is interested and would like to start shadowing the current Chairs, please let me know.

Field Day is approaching and the signup will come out in the next week. We would love one more member for the Budget Committee.

The June meeting is held on an as-needed basis. It's currently scheduled for June 10, but we would ideally not like to meet. Once the budget is set, we'll promote it through the Sunbeam and it doesn't need to be voted on until the next school year.

Harris Teeter starts their Loyalty Rewards program on August 1st, so we will be promoting their program over the summer. We have only 59 people signed up for Giant rewards and we've accumulated \$1200 this year.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Priya Chenthil

Currently we have about \$68,000 in our bank account. Less expenses, we'll have about \$30,000. We're budgeted to break even. We will give STEAM contributions that we received during the Science Fair back to the school.

We need to vote to increase the expense line for before/after school classes. We need to increase by \$15000. Motion made and approved.

STEAM fundraiser made \$801.51. Motion made to transfer these funds to the school. Motion passed.

V. Old Business

a. Minutes approval March and April meetings

i. Motion made to approve March and April meetings minutes. Motion seconded and approved.

VI. New Business

a. Treasurer vote – The plan is for the two candidates to work together over the next few years. Gergana would like to take the official position as Treasurer and Payal will be her assistant.

i. Gergana Jostova – She worked as an auditor 15 years ago. She did her undergraduate in business and MS in Finance. She has a relatively flexible schedule and can come to many school meetings. She's done budgeting work before.

ii. Payal – She has an undergraduate degree in Accounting and worked in accounting before

deciding to stay home with her children.

iii. Motion made to elect Gergana. Seconded and passed.

VII. Program Announcements

a. School Supplies

i. Ordering is underway and you can order on the website. You can make a donation for students in need when you place your order.

b. Walk & Wheel Wednesday

i. We have two people who will chair next year and they are Erin Ramana and Jennifer Grotzpetter.

ii. Last week, we had over 200 walkers on Wednesday

c. Dining for Dollars – Karen Landwehr

i. We have the opportunity to do more D4D this year. Tuesday, May 26 with Lombardi's and Tuesday, June 9th with Potbelly (5-8 pm and they will give 25% of sales). We've averaged around \$140 for each one except for Chipotle, which was \$1200. Lombardi's will give us 10% of all sales for the day. Lombardi's will be for school supplies and Potbelly will be for general PTA funds.

d. We need one other person to be a part of the audit committee. Priya will close the books the week after the July 4th weekend and it will take place July 11-12.

e. Thoreau – The auction was last Friday and they raised \$35,000 that will be used to furnish the new addition. The goal is to raise \$100,000, so there will be more fundraisers in the future.

f. Box Tops – We will do one more collection and the deadline will be Friday, May 29th. The top class will get a popsicle party.

g. Sixth Grade Dinner – The theme is "The Future's Bright." Invitations have gone out, the parents received an email and the teachers received an Evite.

Adjourned at 8:26 pm.