

Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
Minutes

June 18, 2014, 9:30am

I. Attendees:

Kerry Blankenship, Stephanie Bollini, Michelle Makrigiorgos, Priya Chenthil, Courtney Johnston, Reshma Eggleston, Ceci Campbell, Heather Buescher, Mary Franceschini, Elizabeth Toledo, Karen Landwehr, Danielle Somers, Eileen Sciuto, Emily Terrell, Adele Hubbard

The meeting was begun at 9:35 a.m. by President Stephanie Bollini

II. Principal's Report. Provided by Principal Makrigiorgos.

1. At this point, there are 3 staff members not returning for the 2014-2015 school year. Natasha Moore (3rd Grade) will be taking a year's maternity leave. Mrs. Ambrose, the part-time AAP advisor, is retiring. Jackie Bowser, the School Based Technology Specialist, is having her placement altered due to FCPS budget cuts and their impact on staffing. Mrs. Ambrose and Ms. Bowser will be replaced with new staff.
2. Principal Makrigiorgos noted that the FCPS budget cuts may have an impact on class sizes for the upcoming school year, but there are no definitive numbers at this point. She asked that parents come to her or be directed to her if they have questions or concerns.
3. Principal Makrigiorgos stated that the Monday Elementary Full Day proposal is being looked at by FCPS. There are questions and discussions underway, but a decision will be reached soon about implementing that change for the upcoming school year. It was noted that if a parent feels strongly about the proposal, they should communicate to the school board as soon as possible.
4. Friday, June 20th will be the 6th grade Graduation Ceremony and class awards Ceremony.
5. Progress Reports will go home on the last day of school. SOL scores and DRA scores will be included in the Progress Report envelope. If children are not in school on the last day, their Progress Reports will be held in the school office in their teacher's mailbox and can be picked up by a parent over the summer.
6. Principal Makrigiorgos confirmed that the school will be using the classroom across from the gym as an Art classroom for the upcoming school year.
7. Principal Makrigiorgos thanked everyone present and the PTA as a whole for the efforts and help given throughout the school year.

III. President's Report. Provided by President Stephanie Bollini

1. Thank you's were given by President Bollini . She passed around a large card created by Bonnie Alexander, one of the ESOL teachers. The card had thank you's written by many of her ESOL students and included a letter from Ms. Alexander detailing how the materials purchased with her MiniGrant money benefitted her students.
2. President Bollini noted that there were funding items that needed to be voted on by the General Membership
 - o Homework Club - The amount of funding allocated in the PTA budget for Homework Club was not enough. This was due to miscommunication between the school and the PTA about the cost of Homework Club during the 2012-2013 school year. For that time period, there were extra costs that were incurred, but not passed on to the PTA. The cost overages were determined after the PTA had closed their books for the year. As a result, the school paid the extra cost without

communicating the extra costs to the PTA and the PTA did not adjust the budgeted amount for Homework Club. The 2013-2014 Homework Club costs are \$1692.41 over the budgeted amount of \$2,100. The increased cost was due to a change in the format of Homework Club. Four teachers were used instead of two, resulting in smaller teacher to student ratios and more focused instruction. This change was beneficial and reflected in these students' grades and SOL scores. A motion was made for the PTA to provide \$1,700 to fund the additional costs of Homework Club. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership present.

o Field Trip Funding – It was explained that the same communication issue that developed with Homework Club occurred with Field Trip funding. The PTA funds the transportation for all Louise Archer field trips that occur within an area allowing the use of FCPS buses (i.e., if the Field Trip transportation is a FCPS yellow school bus, the PTA funds that transportation). Field Trip transportation that involves charter buses is paid for by the parents of those students. During the 2012-2013 school year transportation costs were billed after the PTA budget had closed, so those costs were covered by the school. When this was not communicated to the PTA, the PTA lowered the budgeted amount for field trip transportation. A motion to provide an additional \$2,500 for the field trip transportation costs was made. The motion was seconded and approved by the members present.

o PTA received guidance from the Virginia PTA regarding the amount of funds held in reserve. Based on that guidance, the Louise Archer PTA will hold \$20,000 as reserve funds. That leaves an excess of \$15,000 to be used or allocated by the PTA.

o The change in the amount of reserve funds freed up PTA funds. As part of the \$75 for 75 Campaign, technology needs were identified. The PTA was able to fund part of those needs. The additional funds available can pay for SmartBoard Projectors for the 3 1st grade classrooms and the 3 2nd grade classrooms. A motion was made to approve a technology gift to the school in the amount of \$12,000 to pay for the purchase and installation of 6 SmartBoard projectors.

o It was noted that the IXL school-wide license will need to be renewed October 1, 2014. The initial license was funded by a PTA gift. The upcoming expenditure was noted and added to the 2014-2015 budget.

3. President Stephanie Bollini thanked Eileen Sciuto and Shannon Sieff for their hard work on the 6th Grade Dinner and she thanked Adele Hubbard for her hard work on Field Day.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

1. Treasurer's report was provided on tables for review. The report was reviewed with no additional questions.

2. Treasurer Priya Chenthil noted that Virginia PTA guidance stated that a smaller amount of reserve fund was adequate. She also explained that the Virginia PTA gave guidance regarding PTA Budget line items. Based on that guidance, the Budget categories will be amended.

V. Old business

VI. New Business

1. Vice President Kerry Blankenship and Karen Landwehr presented President Stephanie Bollini with flowers and a card signed by parents and PTA members to say thank you for all of her time and efforts over the last 3 years as Vice President and then President.

2. Everyone have a wonderful summer.

VII. Program Announcements:

Next meeting: September 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in LAES Teachers Lounge