

Louise Archer PTA

General Membership Meeting

September 10, 2014, 9:30 AM, Library

Minutes

Attendees: Nikki Abbott, Julie Barnes, Kerry Blankenship, Kathy Boatwright, Stephanie Bollini, Kim Brown, Meredith Caldwell, Veronica Cass, Heather Buescher, Ceci Campbell, Ling Cao, Teralyn Carlson, Priya Chenthil, Julie Choi, Lynn Collins, Joni Curtis, Tinnelle Davies, Reshma Eggleston, Peggy Femencella, Mary Franceschini, Janice Gould Alodah, Bernie Grace, Jennifer Grotpeter, Keira Guthrie, Colette Hanson, Rebecca Huffman, Julie Jung, Courtney Johnston, Emily Korff, Karen Landwehr, Nicole Martin, Inge McKenney, David Mentzer, Robyn Nguyen, Erin Ramana, Jose Reategui, Abby Shannon, Danielle Somers, Izumi Stephon, Elizabeth Toledo, Jennifer Wohlander

- I. Call to Order – 9:35 am
 - a. Kerry introduced officers and Michelle Makrigiorgos. Attendees introduced themselves.
 - b. Agenda on each table and copy of the survey that we will go over later.

- II. Principal's Report
 - a. Very smooth opening through the first week of school. Consistent staff. Not much hiring over the summer. Two new teachers – AART and new P/T PE teacher (Becky Worsham). Some teachers with new last names.
 - b. 28 classrooms down from 31 last year. Art is in a classroom this year. Full-day Monday new this year. Worked over the summer to come up with a plan for what to do to cover the extra time. Each grade level has an additional art, music or PE. K-4 has 30-minute STEAM lab session. Fifth and 6th get STEAM through regular specials.

- c. Class size varies. 31 in 6th grade AAP and 29/30 in 6th grade Gen Ed. Teachers are used to this and she doesn't foresee a negative impact. Smallest class is 16 in 5th grade Gen Ed. Low 20s in primary grades and upper 20's in upper grades. School is under 700 – first time in several years.
- d. Everyone is welcome to stay for New Family Coffee following the PTA meeting. Specialists will be there. Back to School Night is next week from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Two sessions for 4-6 and 2 sessions for K-3.

III. President's Report

- a. Popsicle party instead of ice cream social. Well received. Seemed to be a good start to the school year. Thank you to Karen Landwehr, Patty Elmas, Heather and Tinelle and Giant Food who gave donation to help cover cost of popsicles.
- b. Changes – PTA has been “green” for the past few years. Based on survey comments and other feedback, we have decided to have a judicious use of paper. Important info will go home in Tuesday Folders. Sunbeam went home yesterday. Will be done again in the winter and one more time this school year. Go to PTA website to sign up for Sunbeam. If you've already signed up and are not getting it, send email to Kerry Blankenship and she will check into it.
- c. New format for Afterschool Classes. Meredith Caldwell and Petra Palmertree worked with Hank Arrington to implement standardized registration process, program start and end times. Registration starts on Sunday. New Minecraft, yoga and cooking classes.
- d. If you haven't joined the PTA, please do so. Can join on the website or use the flyer that came home.
- e. We would love to have volunteers. Work in a classroom, chair a committee, stuff envelopes for 30 minutes. Every bit helps.
- f. Thank You's
 - i. Mary Franceschini for School Supplies.
 - ii. Popsicle party crew
 - iii. Meredith, Petra, Hank and Cathy Kutri
 - iv. Packet stuffers last Tuesday
 - v. Lara Hammock, Ceci Campbell and Karen Landwehr for stuffing PTA packets on Tuesday

IV. Treasurer's Report

- a. The budget and audit are posted on the website. Audit was successful.
 - i. Audit Committee met on 8/3 to go through financials of PTA. Everything in order and balanced. A few minor recommendations. Asked that the Treasurer keep checks in order and a marker for voided checks. Make sure there's documentation.
 1. Audit report submitted for approval. Motion made. Vote to approve/adopt audit. Passed.
 - ii. Budget – Two new fundraising events this year. Hope for more to give back to the school this year.
 1. Opening balance and reserve carrying over are missing.
 - a. Balance brought forward \$30875. Projecting a loss of \$3200 for this year. \$27675 is reserve.
 2. Motion to accept the budget. Seconded. Budget approved.

V. Old Business

a. PTA Survey Results

- i. Thank you to those who completed the survey. There is a copy on the table minus all of the comments. The best part of the survey was to hear that most were happy with the PTA. There are areas for improvement with biggest area being communication, which is why we're now going to use paper. If you're interested in reading all of the comments, please tell Kerry and she can make them available.
- ii. Changes to before/afterschool classes came out of this survey.
- iii. People are interested in Parent Programs – electronic devices and social media as well as study skills. We're looking into how we can do a presentation on Social Media and one on study skills.

VI. New Business

a. Sunbeam info submission process – Heather Buescher

- i. Now comes out on Sundays around 7:00 pm. Trying to include more information. If you have something

you'd like to submit, email Heather by Thursday evening. Links in Sunbeam take readers back to PTA website.

b. Website update/changes

i. Jennifer O'Beirne is new Webmaster. Changes to PTA website over the summer. You can go to the front page and see all upcoming events. If you are a program chair and you would like to modify your own program page, she will set it up so that you can do it yourself. Email Jennifer for more information.

ii. Must create a new user name to use the new website. If you want to register for a program, might want to set up the new user ID and password now. Can join the PTA at the same time.

c. PTA meeting agenda

i. Inclusion on the agenda – Email Tinelle Davies by the Friday before the meeting if you'd like to be included on the agenda. Tinelle will send a reminder email to all Program Chairs.

d. Homework/Study Skills Seminar

i. Looking into partnering with another PTA. Michelle Makrigiorgos will meet with pyramid principals on Friday and ask if they have a need for this program.

ii. Under \$300, so do not need to add to the budget just yet but will need to do so if we do additional programs later in the year.

iii. Parent Ed/Special programs - There are only \$150 allocated on the budget right now. Motion to increase budget to \$650. Seconded. Vote approved.

e. IXL Funding

i. The license is coming up for renewal. It lasts for a year. It's a web-based program that can be accessed at school and home. Tied directly to Virginia standards/SOL. Many teachers allow time in class to use IXL and some assign it for homework. Students like it because they get certificates for completing sections correctly. Teachers can monitor use and progress. Feedback from parents has been that they like it. It was available over the summer for returning families.

ii. License was \$3200 last year and was based on number of classrooms and students. We have fewer classrooms and students this year, so expect it the amount to be less.

Michelle is requesting to maintain the funding. IXL is already funded in our budget.

iii. Teachers are currently inputting students. All students will receive new login information in the next two weeks. A letter will go home with access information.

f. Volunteer openings

i. Mini Grant Committee – In the fall we ask that teachers write up proposals for items in the classrooms that they think they would benefit their classrooms.

1. Requests in the past have been exercise balls, hand puppets, remote music systems, etc.
2. Committee meets in October to allocate funds.
3. Looking for 5-6 people
4. Mary and Stephanie

ii. Sock Hop – Terralyn Carlson and Heather Carey will chair.

iii. Skate Night

1. Evening event a SkateQuest in Reston. Date is not known due to Faculty Basketball game.
2. Veronica Carr volunteered to chair.

iv. International Night

1. Night in the spring highlights the different nationalities at our school. Typically in March or April

v. Field Day

1. In the spring

VII. Program Announcements

a. Yearbook

i. Looking for a representative from each grade to take candid pictures throughout the year and put them in the year. Also looking for event (Sock Hop, 5K, etc) picture takers. Meeting at Emily Korff's house on Friday. Email Yearbook for more info.

b. Directory

i. Email going out in the next few weeks asking parents to update their information. Early October for printed copy to go home (one/family). If you don't receive an email by the end of the month, let the PTA Board know.

c. Great American Wrapping Paper Fundraiser

i. Starts 9/22. Child will receive a packet with booklet. Can order through catalog or online. Orders completed on paper will be shipped to school and help is needed to bundle those orders. Orders placed online will be shipped home.

ii. Two check-in dates – midway through and at the end of the fundraiser.

iii. Money will support classroom programs and leftover money goes to General Fund.

iv. Similar to Sally Foster. Many items online beyond what you will see in the catalog.

d. Garden Club

i. LA parents maintain gardens. Always looking for new members. Great way to meet other parents.

e. Loyalty Rewards

i. Received a check from Target for \$558. Earned about \$150 from Amazon. Really want to push Amazon to people because other schools have earned \$10000.

ii. Giant Food card can't be linked yet, but can do so in a few weeks. If parents were linked last year, do not need to re-link.

Next meeting is October 8th at 7:30 in the Library.

Adjourned at 10:29 am.