

Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
September 23, 2015, 9:30 am, Library

Minutes

Attendees: Samantha Bailes, Sarah Barry, Christy Bishop, Kerry Blankenship, Sarah Bohn, Stephanie Bollini, Heather Buescher, Jeannie Church, Jennifer Condra, Elaine Cudney, Tinelle Davies, Beth Forbes, Mary Franceschini, Elisa Galindo, Alison Georgelas, Amy Grover, Cathy Hardman, Kathy He, Gergana Jostova, Emily Korff, Karen Landwehr, Stephanie Laubner, Elizabeth Lucca, Leslie Maffeo, Michelle Makrigiorgos, Christine Mao, Sarah Martin, Vanessa Murphy, Robyn Nguyen, Huyen Pham, Ameer Shah, Stephanie Shin, Ajay Tiwari, Catherine Yeagle, Yunna Yi,

I. Call to Order – 9:35 AM by Kerry Blankenship

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

We had a very smooth opening. We have 628 students as of today and 28 classes. For the most part, our class sizes are smaller, but some of our upper grades have 32 classes. Hopefully at BTSN, some of the teachers shared with you that we secured extra funding to help with the larger class sizes with pullouts and rotations. This schedule will be settled in about a week. One of our music classes is back in the building and band is now in a trailer instead of on the stage.

We have some new staff around, but didn't have much staff turnover this year. New Librarian, new AART. Buses haven't been quite as smooth as we'd hoped. We have 12 buses and a small bus loop. The buses are having a difficult time getting here for the second rotation. We've been communicating the problems to Transportation and hope to have things worked out in the next week.

I encourage you to stay engaged with the FCPS budget process. It takes the full year. There are tools on the website even to the point of creating your own budget for submission. Every school, parent, and family has a different perspective. There is a very long list of possible cuts for you to view. They want to hear from parents about how important these items are to them. Please go on the website to get specific information.

Jennifer has visited each classroom this year to talk about student rights, responsibilities, bus safety, dress code and bullying/mistreatment. She told all students that her job is to make sure all students feel safe and are following the rules. If you haven't signed the Student Rights & Responsibilities (SRR), please do so and return the first page. She read a lot of the SRR Quick Guide to all classes except kindergarten.

You can always find up-to-date information on the school website under the Parent tab. You can also reach out to Jennifer and Michelle at any time with questions or concerns.

III. President's Report - by Kerry Blankenship

So far the PTA is off to a smooth start. We had a lot of people at the popsicle party after the Open House. We've handed out school supplies. Teachers received their stipends before school started this year.

BTSN went well. We started before/after school registration on Sunday night for our first round of before and afterschool classes. The 5K is on 10/17 and we are soliciting student designs for the front of the 5K t-shirt. The deadline for submissions is 10/2 and they can be turned into the office. There will be more information coming for ways to volunteer and help with the 5K.

IV. Treasurer's Report –by Gergana Jostova and Kerry Blankenship

We had expenses for before and afterschool classes and sports camp during the summer. Revenues just started coming in this month. We've received about \$6000 in donations, especially since BTSN. We still have \$39,000 in cash. Teacher stipends was a large expense at the beginning of the year.

We need to make a few changes to the budget for the upcoming year for field trips and homework club (for students who need some extra support in grades 3-6) and we need to increase these items by a total of \$1500. We cover the cost of the teachers staying after school to support homework club. It last for an hour each session and teachers stay with all students until they are picked up. For field trips, we cover the gas costs for school buses for field trip. Because our budget year closes 6/30 and school ends earlier, sometimes costs come in at the last minute. For the last few years we've been about \$500 over budget. Homework club budget was overrun because we had more children in need and because teachers were staying a little longer to make sure children are picked up.

Motion made to increase budget to \$1500 by Mary Franceschini and seconded by Heather Buescher. Motion passed.

Motion made to pass this year's budget Catherine Yeagle. Seconded by Mary Franceschini. Motion passed.

V. Old Business

a. Minutes approval of May meeting. Motion made by Mary Franceschini and seconded by Gergana Jostova. Motion passed.

VI. New Business

a. Mini Grants committee request – Kerry Blankenship

We will be sending a letter next week to the teachers to write a grant proposal for a need for their classrooms. In the past we have provided IXL funding, a wagon for the library, dry erase boards, privacy shields, etc. Some requests are larger than others and every year a committee reviews the requests and makes \$10,000 budget. We are seeking volunteers for this committee.

b. Audit Committee – Elaine Cudney

It was a very easy audit. We found the books to be in order with just a few minor corrections. We were done in an hour. Catherine Yeagle made a motion made to accept the audit results.

Stephanie Bollini seconded. Motion approved. Thanks to Elaine Cudney, Courtney Johnston and Kerry Crum who served as our Audit Committee.

VII. Program Announcements

a. Directory – Catherine Yeagle

We've received the data file from the school and it's been sent to A to Z Directories. We usually get about \$800 back from the vendor because they sell advertising that goes in the directory. There is also an online version. An email will come out soon asking all of you to review your data and make any necessary changes. You will have about two weeks to make changes and after that it will be published.

b. Yearbook – Huyen Pham

We need theme suggestions and volunteer photographers. Please email yearbook@louisearcherpta.org if you're able to help.

c. Sock Hop

DJ is not finalized. If you have a recommendation please email it to sockhop@louisearcherpta.org. The format of the evening will be similar to last year - pizza, soda, water, and root beer floats. We will send out a sign up genius in October.

d. Reflections

Reflections is a nationwide PTA art program in which students interpret an annual theme into different forms of art, such as a story, poem, photograph, drawing, painting, film, dance, and music composition. This year's theme is Let Your Imagination Fly. The PTA's website has the rules and required submission forms. Every student who enters is presented with a medal at an evening art reception in November. Winning entries advance beyond Louise Archer for further judging. All entries are due by October 14th and can be dropped off in the library.

e. Before/Afterschool Activities

Registration is open. Classes will start the second week of October.

f. Virginia PTA – Kerry Blankenship

They revised their bylaws and this will affect next year's PTA. They increased the dues that we pay to the Virginia PTA from \$1 per person to \$1.50 per person. They passed a few resolutions about the dangers of e-cigarettes, looking for sign of dxyslexia, and an opt-out form for SOL tests.

We'll be asking our members to vote on a few items to include development of a technology funding formula and the adoption of parent engagement plans at the state and local levels. We'll have an electronic vote through our website starting next week and it will be open for 2 weeks. We'll turn in the results to the Virginia PTA.

g. LA Newspaper – Sarah Bohn

We hope to put out two copies this year. This was a parent suggestion and will be run by Sarah Bohn. Students will have the opportunity to make submissions.

h. Bike Club

Susan King, a Louise Archer parent, is interested in starting a Saturday morning bike club. It's called Sunspokes and they will meet around 10 am and do a group bike ride on the W&OD. If your child is interested, contact suspokes@louisearcherpta.org

i. STEAM Lab/Copying/Library Help

We're trying to standardize some parent help in the school doing copies and helping with STEAM lab materials. Library volunteers will be coming soon.

j. Loyalty Rewards – Robyn Nguyen

Please register your Giant and Harris Teeter cards. We raised a little over \$1000 last year and would like to raise more this year. Please go through the PTA website to make your Amazon purchases and we will get between 4% and 7% back.

k. LA 5K – Nicole Martin

We're looking for 5K sponsors. Please feel to pass out information to your favorite businesses. We'll have a bunch of LA parents at the Caboose at 1:00 on Friday because we'll be asking them to sponsor us.

l. School Supplies – Mary Franceschini

If there was a problem with your child's school supplies, please contact Mary Franceschini today.

m. JMHS Homecoming Parade is at 2:00 on Friday.

Next meeting is October 14 at 7:30 pm in the Library. Adjourned at 10:35 am.