

**Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
October 14, 2015, 7:30 pm, Library**

Minutes

Attendees: Erin Berk, Kerry Blankenship, Elaine Cudney, Tinelle Davies, Gergana Jostova, Michelle Makrigiorgos

I. Call to Order by Kerry Blankenship at 7:33pm

II. Principal's Report by Michelle Makrigiorgos

Our sixth grade students attended Camp Highroads last week. The students are gone for four days and three nights. Both Jennifer and Michelle went as well as 10-12 staff members plus parents. They had wonderful weather.

I mentioned class size at our last meeting. We still have 32 in several classes. We have Instructional Assistants in classrooms with the larger classes and I'm hearing from the teachers that it's working really well.

The new calendar options for next year have been published. There are two calendar options for starting before and two for starting after Labor Day. If we get five snow days this year, we qualify to apply for a waiver to start before Labor Day and if we apply, we will probably get it. Take a look at the options and provide your feedback.

The FCPS website has a lot of good information on the main page about the budget. The budget tool is still available for residents to balance their own budget. Just because an item is listed does not mean that it will be cut. The School Board is really looking for more people to use that tool and submit information because different communities have different needs.

III. President's Report by Kerry Blankenship

Most before and afterschool classes started last week with one starting this week. We owe a big thanks to Petra Palmertree, Meredith Caldwell, Hank Arrington and Kathy Cutri for organizing our programs.

Our 5K is this Saturday. We're a little low on enrollment compared to past years. We're about forty people below last year's registration numbers for both the 5K and Fun Run. Packet pickup is tomorrow in the Kiss & Ride line right after Kiss & Ride ends and on Friday at Joe's Pizza.

We'll be putting out more information this week in the Sunbeam about the FCPS budget. We really want parents to mobilize and talk to people. We are about one third of the way to our goal for our LA PTA fundraiser and we will give more information about that in this week's Sunbeam, too.

Today is the last day for Reflections submissions. Right after the 5K we'll start gearing up for the Sock Hop and Book Fair. International Night is March 4th. The planning has started for the Faculty Basketball Game and they are considering a change to volleyball.

IV. Treasurer's Report by Gergana Jostova

We have been receiving donations toward our Armchair Fundraiser. We have received 56 donations for a total of a little over \$8000. We would like to encourage more donations.

Our big revenues for the past month were Before/Afterschool programs. These are pass-through expenses and the vendors will be paid from these registration fees.

V. Old Business

a. Minutes approval of September meeting – will vote at November meeting due to lack of quorum

VI. New Business

We're going to start a Copy Brigade where parents who want to volunteer their time can make photocopies for teachers. We're looking at a Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

VII. Program Announcements

a. Sock Hop

The Sock Hop will go from 6:00 until 9:00. The food will be served until 8:00 and the DJ is here until 9:00. We have a new DJ this year who was recommended by a few different people. Pizza, soda, water and root beer floats will be available. There is no entrance fee, however there is a cost for food. Sixth grade students will serve the food and tips and any extra money will go to the Sixth Grade Dinner.

b. Loyalty Rewards

We have 89 cards currently linked to earn Giant Rewards. That is up 30 from last year but with how many families we have at the school, we can do better. There is an easy link on the PTA website to enter your giant card and last name and we will register your card.

We have earned \$757.77 in Amazon rewards since the summer. Please continue to go through our link to make your Amazon purchases.

c. Thanksgiving Lunch

Thanksgiving Lunch will be on Nov 19th. Forms will go out in the Tuesday folders at the end of the month. We need a lot of volunteers to make this day a welcoming, fun day for our kids and their families. Please consider signing up to help decorate or serve lunch. Sign-Ups will go out at the end of the month.

d. Box Tops

Due 10/23. Please send in all unexpired Box Tops by this date.

e. Sprit Wear

The sale will start later this month and last for about two weeks. We will have items available for try-ons during at the Sock Hop and in the Main Office.

The next meeting is November 11 at 9:30 am in the Teacher's Lounge. Adjourned at 8:21 pm.