

**Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
November 11, 2015, 9:30 am, Teacher's Lounge**

Minutes

Attendees: Kerry Blankenship, Jeannie Church, Jennifer Condra, Tinelle Davies, Eugenie Garris, Cathy Hardman, Gergana Jostova, Liz Kohler Maya, Karen Landwehr, Janetta Lun, Huyen Pham, Laura Plante, Michelle Makrigiorgos, Abby Shannon, Danielle Somers, Kelly Stratman, Sumei Wang

I. Call to Order - at 9:31 am by Kerry Blankenship

II. Principal's Report – by Michelle Makrigiorgos

I want to introduce our new Parent Liaison for this year. Her name is Eugenie Garris. She does a wonderful job of reaching out to our parents and connecting them to the school.

We've had some great things going on. I know that many of you were able to come to the Sock Hop and Book Fair. We had a very successful Book Fair and our new Librarian was pleased. Our next big event is the Thanksgiving Lunch. It's a nice way to bring parents and families into the school. We'll do our Winter Holiday Sing on 12/18 from 1:00 until 1:45. Dismissal is at 2:00 that day.

I believe that many of you may have received, as a KIT, information about the FCPS budget. There is information about the budget proposals. They weighed in on tough decisions. It's not a list of exactly what is going to happen. They want the community to see what decisions need to be made. There are some items that have minimal impact and others that will have great impact. One of the items is student to staff ratio. They are also looking at AAP and Centers and one of the things that is on there for consideration is transportation. I don't have more information, but I just want you to know that's one of the items listed. They are looking at cutting strings at the fourth grade level. They're also looking at cutting some funding to Title I schools and asking the state for more money. Now is the time to speak up about your concerns. Do not wait until the decisions have been made because it's too hard to make changes at that point.

III. President's Report – by Kerry Blankenship

Our 5K was a great event. It raised more than we had budgeted and we even received more sponsor checks after the event. I think that everyone had a lot of fun at the Book Fair and Sock Hop. The DJ was fantastic. We had 120 sixth graders serve and we made \$300 in tips. The family participation was great. Thanksgiving Lunch is coming up and then it will be December when we will do the Holiday Cookie Carry.

Claire William reached out to me about two weeks ago and she wants to offer a Little Free Library (LFL) in the cafeteria. The LFL offers children the opportunity for kids to take home additional books without a time limit. If you've cleared out your bookshelves recently, please consider donating those books to the LFL. We're looking for all levels of books.

The Armchair Fundraiser is still going on. We're about halfway to our goal and we're still looking for additional funds. If you haven't donated to the PTA, please do. We're going to be pushing this fundraiser until we meet our goal. Please also link your Giant card to Louise Archer and make Amazon purchases through the PTA link.

We have reached out to our nominating committee that was in place last year. Heather Buescher, our current Vice President, is concerned that she won't be able to give the President role the attention it deserves so we're looking for a President for next year and someone who could possibly start shadowing the President role now. Next year will be a big turnover year because we will be electing a new President, Vice President and Secretary. We are also still looking for someone who will take over for Hank Arrington as our Building Use Coordinator. It's a behind-the-scenes job that can be done from home and doesn't require the person to come to school.

We have set dates for some additional PTA events.

International Night is March 4th. Sarah Bohn has volunteered to chair and she would love to have a co-chair. If you're interested, please email Kerry. Louise Archer Day is April 1st. The faculty basketball/volleyball game is Saturday, April 2nd at Madison High School.

IV. Treasurer's Report by Gergana Jostova

Our income for the three months September through November is \$51,000 and we've spent \$28,000. A lot of income came from before/afterschool activities and donations and the expenses have been from the summer. We would love to have more parents donate. We have renewed our IXL license.

V. Old Business

a. Minutes approval of September and October meetings

Move by Gergana Jostova to accept the September meeting minutes. Seconded by Karen Landwehr and approved.

Move by Gergana Jostova to accept the October meeting minutes. Seconded by Danielle Somers and approved.

VI. New Business

Abby Shannon suggested a monthly Teacher Luncheon that would be lead by Room Parents where they would send an email to parents within a grade asking them to sign up to bring lunch items. Each grade would take one month during the school year.

VII. Program Announcements

a. Thanksgiving Lunch – Danielle Somers

The lunch is Thursday of next week. My biggest worry right now is the volunteers. We're very light on volunteers to serve the food. Even if you can only do a portion of the time slots on the Signup Genius, that is fine. It's a lot of fun to serve.

b. Reflections – Keira Schwartz

With over 70 students representing every grade, we received 102 pieces of artwork in the categories of visual arts, photography, literature, film production, music composition, and dance choreography. More Louise Archer students participated in the Reflections program this year

than in any other year. All entries were judged by third-party professionals, and we will have a reception for the participants and their families the Monday before Thanksgiving. Our winning entries have moved on to the Fairfax County Council of PTAs for further judging against other schools' winning entries.

c. Sidewalk/Bike Safety Issues – Cathy Hardman

I need to start making a list of our priorities for bike and walk routes. We've seen an increase in the number of walkers because of the crossing at Blair Rd NW. We'd like to thank the Town for putting it in. Our sidewalk across the street will be built next summer. The National Walk to School Day is May 20th, but we've decided to have our walk/bike challenge during the last week of school so as not to interfere with Teacher Appreciation Week.

Children have been biking to school and not bringing locks. Please be sure that your children have locks. We did have an incident a few years ago where a bike was taken.

d. Assemblies – Cathy Hardman

Sally Smallwood is happy to come in to do an assembly on safe biking. Please let me know if you're interested in doing this.

I've had a problem reaching out and finding good talent for assemblies this year. The cultural group that was doing them for Fairfax County has really been stripped down.

e. Spirit Wear – Tinelle Davies

Spirit Wear ordering is closed. The items will be delivered to the students during the first week of December unless alternate arrangements were made.

f. Vienna Shopping Center – Kerry Blankenship

Vienna Shopping Center is running a promotion where someone will win a \$500 shopping spree and a \$1000 donation to the school of their choice.

g. Holiday Bike Drive

You can donate a gently used or new bike on 11/14 or 11/28 from 10:00 to 2:00 at Vienna Presbyterian.

h. The Sunshine Committee - Kelly Stratman

We've already done two appreciation weeks. The teachers are getting Caffe Amouri gift cards on their birthdays. We also give flowers to the music teachers after the concerts. If anyone is getting married or having a baby, please let us know and we will send a gift.

i. Yearbook – Huyen Pham

The cover contest is open. Please encourage your children to submit a drawing. This year's theme is "Louise Archer Has Character." The deadline for submission is December 4th.

Next month's meeting is in the morning on December 9th at 9:30 am in the Teacher's Lounge.

Adjourned at 10:31 am.

