

**Louise Archer PTA
General Membership Meeting
December 10, 2014, 9:30 AM, Teacher's Lounge**

Minutes

Attendees: Kerry Blankenship, Heather Buescher, Jennifer Condra, Elaine Cudney, Tinelle Davies, Reshma Eggleston, Mary Francischini, Michelle Makrigiorgos, Abby Shannon

I. Call to Order – Kerry Blankenship called to order at 9:34 am.

II. Principal's Report – Presented by Michelle Makrigiorgos

a. Thank you to Withers Hurley for hosting the Staff/PTA Holiday Party on Monday evening. A lot of people were able to stop by and relax for a few minutes. We appreciate everything the PTA did to make it possible.

b. Millie McMahon is retiring at the end of this month. Staff is attending a retirement party for her this week. There will be a tribute at the sing-a-long on 12/19.

c. Teachers are returning from leave. Mrs. Harris (4th grade) is back. Mrs. Everett (5th grade) will be back next Tuesday.

d. Some of our choruses have been out performing. Some students performed at the Vienna Holiday Stroll and some will be performing on the Ellipse. Our winter concert is 12/16 (Advanced Band/Strings).

e. We are trying to do one parent session per quarter. Last month we did a presentation on our new STEAM lab. There is a Blackboard site and you can see what the students are doing in the class. We had an Assistive Technology Specialists come last week to give a presentation to parents. On January 21st at 6:00 pm we will be hosting a talk on internet safety and new social media sites. The presenter will also talk about how to protect your children's devices. All Vienna pyramid schools are invited.

f. December 19 is a two-hour early dismissal.

g. Parents are now able to notify the school via email that their children will be absent. The email address is LouiseArcherESAttendance@fcps.edu.

h. If you have a rising 7th grader, you'll start to see info from Kilmer/Thoreau/Jackson about field trips and information sessions in January.

III. President's Report – Presented by Kerry Blankenship

a. The Thanksgiving Lunch went really well. Thank you to Danielle Somers and Jennifer Riddle. Some of the decorations in the cafeteria were donated by DePaul's. Thank you to those who sold tickets and cleaned up and helped in any other way.

b. Before/After School registration started Sunday evening. Everything is going smoothly. We have added Lego Robotics and some sports classes. Thank you to Petra Palmertree, Meredith Caldwell, Hank Arrington and Jennifer O'Beirne.

c. The Holiday Cookie Carry is next week on Monday. Please drop off cookie donation on Monday morning.

d. At the last meeting Kerry sent around a sign up sheet to help wrap gifts. Now, a church is going to donate and wrap the gifts, so Kerry will only need a small group of parents to help organize the packages. She will let the people who signed up to help know when their help is

needed.

e. We are looking for iPads to give to Bonnie Alexander for use with ESOL students and families in need. If you get a new device, please consider donating your old device that is in good working order.

f. There is a talk tonight at Kilmer Middle School to explain the difference between AP and IB hosted by FCAG.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Presented by Kerry Blankenship

a. We had thought that our 5K missed its budget by \$5000, but it turns out that we were only \$2800 under budget.

b. The PTA is going to send out a letter to parents with an itemized listing of our expenses (IXL, mini grants, field trip buses, etc.) explain our shortfall and ask for donations in January. Based on the response to this letter, we will then decide if we need to add a spring fundraiser.

c. Cheryl Mitchell (a parent) has offered to review our expenses and make sure that we're spending money wisely.

V. Old Business

a. Minutes approval of November meeting – We will approve at the January meeting as there was no quorum.

VI. New Business - None

VII. Program Announcements

a. Reflections – Presented by Mary Francischini

The reception on November 24th was well received. Our principal and Vienna's town mayor attended. Each student received a medal and recognition for his/her participation. The school's winning art entries were delivered to Fairfax County for further judging against other schools' winning entries. That judging is done but we don't know the results yet. The theme for next year is "Let Your Imagination Fly." Students can prepare their entries for next year even now. The Sunbeam will send a reminder over the summer with the new theme.

b. Loyalty Rewards – Presented by Tinelle Davies

i. Giant Food - After asking people to re-link their cards and re-linking cards we received through the PTA Website, we still only have 47 people earning money for Louise Archer while shopping at Giant. So far we have earned \$103.52 this year for the PTA. To note – if your receipt doesn't say you are linked to Louise Archer at the bottom, then you need to re-link your card at their website or submit through the PTA website for us to link it.

ii. Amazon Associates Program - We have earned \$952.54 for the school.

1. September - \$229.35

2. October - \$316.99

3. November - \$309.33

4. December as of 12/4 - \$96.87

c. LA Reads – Presented by Heather Buescher

We're distributing our first set of books next week. There will be a sorting party at Heather's house on Monday evening at 7:30. More

details will be in the Sunbeam on Sunday. There are around 70 children who will benefit from this program.

d. Box Tops – Presented by Elaine Cudney

Ms. Kass's class and Ms. Rhode's class were the Box Top winners. We collected 3427 Box Tops.

Adjourned at 10:14 am. Next meeting is Wednesday, January 14 at 7:30 pm in the Library.