

October 7, 2019 Louise Archer PTA Meeting Minutes

Location: Library

Call to Order at 7:33 pm

Presentation on the 2019 School Bond Referendum

Tim Thompson spoke about the school bond referendum. School bonds come up every two years and are voted on during the general election. Since the vote covers a two-year period, the proposed bond is only collected one half at a time. We have a State and County bond rating of AAA. Louise Archer is on the bond this year for \$1.7 million and covers the planning phase of the renovation. Madison is on the bond as well for \$19.5 million which covers the construction phase of the renovation. In addition to the schools listed, this funding is used to help maintain and improve the schools across the county. The vote is all or nothing and will be November 5th. Louise Archer's total planning and construction is estimated to be about \$28 million-\$30 million.

Principal's Report

- To follow on with the School Bond Referendum presentation, we are about a year and half away from the planning phase. We are aware of the historic parts of the school and will be working with the town and district to preserve our history.
- Camp Highroads was a few weeks ago, and the students, parents and teachers had a great time. We are one of the few schools left that stay at Camp Highroads for several days.
- Friday was Madison's Homecoming, each year the 6th graders are invited over to the pep rally and get a glimpse into high school life. They also shut down 123 for the Homecoming parade which is a great event for all to see.
- Math workshop: please encourage your kids to tell you about math workshop and what they are learning through games and activities. The students are very engaged and are learning math in different and fun ways.
- For grades 4-6, we will be starting open seating in the cafeteria. We first started with 6th grade earlier this year. 5th grade is starting in the next week, and 4th will be starting later in the year. The students have been really excited about the open seating. This gets the students ready for middle school while also encouraging community, and more social interaction.
- While Parent Teacher conferences are not required, we do encourage the teachers to offer them. You should be hearing from your teachers soon, as these conferences are usually scheduled around the end of the 1st quarter. We encourage parents to ask for feedback on how the students are doing not only academically, but also socially, and to ask for other pieces of information that will help them to be successful.
- We are working on have teachers provide information to the parents at least monthly if not more.

Treasurer's Report

- For the month of September, Fundraiser income appears to be down, because the LA5k is collecting money outside of the PTA this year, so rather than collecting the funds upfront, we will get a lump payment later.

- Software costs are anticipated to be lower than budgeted. This is a result of not purchasing one of the more expensive licenses that we've purchased in previous years. After discussing needs with the school, we are recommending these funds be reallocated for new tablets for the school. In addition, about \$2000 will be added to the minigrants budget. The software license we are no longer purchasing is Dreambox, which was something the county really encouraged the students to use, but we found that use was waning, and parents and students were not taking advantage of the software enough to be worth the cost. We have been looking for alternatives but, in the meantime, shifting the money toward tablets that have Apps will be more developmentally appropriate to the primary grades. In addition, the upper grades will be able to use the tablets for their research projects. The shift in funding does not require a vote because it's within the same budgeted line item.
- The high-level and detailed budget are now on the PTA website, under PTA admin.

President's Report and Program Announcements

LA5K

- The LA5k is our largest fundraiser of the year. Thanks to the last-minute registrations, we have 212 runners signed up and are on target with our numbers last year. The one thing we are still in need of is additional adults to help man the race route. While our sign-up genius looks to be almost full, after talking to our race Marshall, if we can get an additional 10 adults that would be really helpful.
- Erin Karney has done a great job getting sponsors totaling over \$5600 in donations.

Sock Hop

- The Sock Hop is scheduled for Friday November 8th. We have the DJ booked and we are meeting this week to take a look at the sign-up genius and supplies needed. We also have the space rented from FCPS and the staff have been alerted and is working that day. The chairs will be coordinating with Stephanie Bollini on the 6th grade table hoppers.

Book Fair

- The book fair is coming up! It will be from Monday, November 4th through Friday, November 8th including at the Sock Hop that evening. We will need volunteers that week AND to help set up and to work with classes on wish lists the week before. The SUG will be coming out later this month. The budget this year includes Azarra funds for the voucher program that allows low income students to get a book (no toys or games) from the book fair.

Membership

- Total memberships are the same as last year at this time, but up from the last few years at 281 members as of today. If you haven't signed up yet, you can do so on the PTA website.

Sunshine Committee

- The sunshine committee is compiling a Getting to Know You binder for room parents to reference. The forms have been sent to all the teachers and will be compiled within the next few weeks.
- This month the Sunshine committee helped staff members with August and September birthdays celebrate their special day with a fruit bowl and personalized gift card.
- Mid-month, we will be providing lunch for those staff members who helped to contribute to the success of the 6th grade Camp High Roads trip.

Sunshine Times

- There will be two editions this year, your children can submit poetry, short stories, and art to be published in our school newspaper.

International Night

- International Night has been scheduled for March 6th. Signups will be sent out in January.

Reflections

- The Reflections committee is on track. The due date for submissions is Wednesday, October 16th. Submissions can be dropped off in the library. In order to avoid pieces of paperwork from getting lost or shuffled, we suggest putting everything into a large Ziploc bag. That way it's easier to ensure the paperwork stays with the artwork.
- Also, as a reminder, parents need to sign the submission forms. Please ensure you put your contact information correctly, so we have a way to contact you in case of a follow up question.
- The submissions will be unbiased judges, and the winners can reach state and national level. This year, the theme is "look within".
- November 21st, we will have the Reflections Awards Reception in the cafeteria. Every student will be getting a medal.
- The class with the most participation in Reflections will have a party to celebrate.

Minigrants

- We are really excited to get \$2000 more to our budget! We've been at \$10k since 2014, so an increase is greatly appreciated. This is an opportunity for teachers and staff to submit requests, and we have a committee review and grant requests. Since we've received more funding, we will be going back to teachers to get a few more requests before the deadline, we will especially reach out to those grades where we've received no requests.
- The committee will meet on October 15th to discuss the requests. If you want to be on the committee, please reach out to Sarah Barry.

Yearbook

- We are working on a new theme for the yearbook. The details about the competition for the cover will be coming out soon.
- We still need a 4th grade rep. Each grade has a representative put together the pages for that grade.
- In addition, this year, we've added to the room parents' responsibilities taking pictures of the classes during class events.

Box Tops

- The box top program is changing. Box tops will still be accepted, but if you see the logo on a box, without a box top, then the receipt would need to be scanned. You can either scan in via the app or submit the receipt to the pink mailbox (within 2 weeks) and Karen will scan it. The app is very easy to download and use. The classes will still have a competition and the class with the most box tops will win a Popsicle party. If you have questions, please reach out to Karen Meade.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:19 pm