

## **Kent Gardens PTA Meeting Minutes**

April 13, 2016

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a..

### **Old Business:**

Motion made to adopt the February meeting was approved.

### **President's Report**

- A vote was held to change the quorum needed from 30 members to 10 members. Motion made to approve changing the number of a quorum. All in favor; motion approved.
- New Committee structure. Motion made to adopt the new format of the Board; All in favor; motion approved. (See PowerPoint presentation for details.)
- Nominating Committee -Several Committee and Board positions are open.
- Summer Enrichment Program - Registration has started; has been slow. Encourage people to sign their children up for Summer Camp.
- MTC show is at the end of the month. There is a sign-up genius for volunteers to help with the show.
- March Madness was a huge success. Kristin Apple did a fabulous job as Committee chair. There was lots of good teacher support this year. FCPS Police were a good idea; maybe look into have a group of parents to also help as security for next year.
- Book Fair was a great success. Over 100 books were put in the classrooms. Parents bought another 150 books for the classroom off the wish lists.
- Teacher Appreciation Week – Sign-up genius was sent out. The PTA will anchor the chalk walk and the vases for the flowers. Will be in the PTA Newsletter and a school-wide email will be sent out regarding Teacher Appreciation Week. Room parents will also be communicating.
- On-line auction. Amber Syed and Diana Kost are managing. The auction is comprised of school related items. (e.g., Teacher Experiences, Seats at Concert)
- One and Done – We are done; we have reached our goal. One and Done rolled two big fundraisers into one. Next year we are working towards consolidating more fundraiser categories so that more fundraisers are replaced by the One and Done.
- Author Visit – Lots of positive feedback was received.
- Courtyard cleanup this weekend. Help is needed for planting in the courtyard this weekend.
- Technology – Working with administration to try to get technology in classrooms; still have room for improvement.

## **Treasurer's Report**

- March financial statement was distributed
  - Fall Academies- We exceeded the budget. Only a few vendor invoices and salaries for FCPS need to be paid for Winter Academies.
  - Book fair- Revenues- \$ amount still needs to be paid to scholastic.
  - Box top- \$643. Close to reaching budget; one payment left to be received; anticipated in June.
  - Chess club- A couple of invoices need to be paid
  - Drama club- Invoices need to be paid
  - March madness- Great success. One additional payment needs to be paid (police).
  - Expense side- National PTA dues- \$1300 paid out. One more payment due. We will be close to budget of \$2100
- Vote was conducted on the building and grounds category to increase the monies in that category. Vote to move \$3800 to building and grounds to account for Wheats work - mulch. Six picnic tables (Metal base, wood top picnic tables). Motion approved.
- Ms. McGuigan reported that courtyard had animals and ruined the pond. Needs to be fixed in the near future.
- Free mulch from Fairfax county- Kirsten Apple. Asked if the courtyard is used frequently.
- Ms. McGuigan- The courtyard is used frequently. Five picnic tables are used. Encouraging outdoor classroom. Fourth grade-science. Sixth grade- picnic tables are used frequently. Big connection to science project. French steam uses the courtyard as well. No peanut products are allowed outside.
- Giant rewards (Amber) - \$6011 so far. Check will be here in June.
- Will begin preparing for next years budget.

## **Principal's Report**

- SOLs are coming. Have circulated the testing timeframes to parents. 375-379 will have an opportunity for a retake. SOLs are not always the best assessment for all of our students. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has the CAT this year in addition to math; which is hard for the students. We have a tight window of SOLs but the dates may need to be adjusted slightly. Several of the tests can now be done over two days.
- Kim Mitchell is the Strings teacher. She had a significant surgery and is recovering and will need physical therapy; will likely be out the rest of the year.
- Thanks everyone for dressing the kids in blue for Autism Awareness. PowerPoint was put together for kids. Will see if this can be shared with parents .

- Pinwheels will be done in conjunction with the PTA for Child Abuse Awareness Month; will just talk about being safe. Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> will plant pinwheels on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Will be sending out a parent survey for feedback for next year.
- Next year's staffing - just beginning this now. Some of the best, youngest and experienced teachers are looking at Arlington. Looking for support in this area. Continue to send letters to FCPS Board as that is helpful. Can the link be put back in the Newsletter for sending letters to the Board.
- French Immersion – have not heard this is going away.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade strings – have heard this is going to be cut.
- Technology – something that we will be working on; ongoing issues.
- Local Level IV - Look at different content areas; KGES group by Math/Science and Language Arts/ Social Studies. Have to offer the Local Level IV in certain areas. Debbie Wines builds the capacity to bring this in the classroom through critical thinking lessons.