

## **Kent Gardens PTA Meeting Minutes**

February 24, 2016

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Introductions and Old Business:**

- Mrs. McGuigan and Ms. Hinton introduced the French interns.
- The February meeting minutes were approved.

### **President's Report:**

- Proposed changes to the PTA's bylaws:
  - Quorum changes: The PTA proposed changing the meeting quorum so that at least 10 members must be present at a meeting in order to transact PTA business. This would reduce the quorum from 30 members to the lowest quorum permitted by the Virginia PTA.
  - New Executive Committee Structure: Currently, the Executive Committee is made up of the President, VP (Fundraising/Events), Treasurer and Recording Secretary. The proposed structure would include: President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, VP – Events, VP- Fundraising, and up to 4 additional VPs can be designated by standing rules.
  - Changes would allow for improvements in communications and transition of responsibilities and promote involvement, creativity and commitment.
  - There will be a vote on this at the next PTA meeting.
- At the next meeting, the nominating committee will present a slate of officers and committee chairs. Elections will be held at the May meeting with the installation of officers at the June PTA meeting.

### *Events:*

- Enrichment Programs/ Academies: Registration for the Spring Academies opens on February 27, with a discount for early registration. Summer camp registration is also opening soon.
- KG Pride on Ice is tomorrow (2/25) night.
- Box Tops: The last collection of the year is coming up on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please turn them in at the front office in an envelope, zip lock bag, or on a collection sheet. Any box tops collected after this week will be sent out over the summer. Our goal is \$1000 but we aren't there yet.
- March Madness: This is one of our biggest events of the year. Tickets, t-shirts and pizza bundles are all online this year. There will be lots of snacks and student performances. Congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders who designed the shirt!

### *PTA Dollars at Work:*

- Technology: iPads in the classroom
- Courtyard Cleanup: Thank you to Wheats
- Cultural arts assembly
- Jarrett Krosoczka's upcoming author visit on March 15

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Box Tops is up to \$642.
- The PTA is close to meeting its goal on One&Done
- A few checks from the restaurant rewards will show up on the February financial report.
- This month the PTA paid for last year's audit and this month's cultural assembly.

- **Audit Report:** Financials from last year were handed out and discussed. These are the books from last year reviewed by the PTA's auditor. Everything came out ok. It shows a reconciliation from last year and is now being sent to the National PTA for approval.

### **School News:**

- The KG PTA would like to thank Mrs. McGuigan and our wonderful teachers for hosting STEAM Night!

### **Principal's Report:**

- Voting for the primaries is on March 1. School will be closed. SACC is open. Regular evening activities will continue. Mrs. McGuigan will send out a Keep in Touch.
- Second quarter assessments with students are taking place. The Naglieri (NNAT) test is coming up. WIDA testing is taking place. This is the first year the test is online and it has made it easier for ESOL teachers. Naglieri is an aptitude test and all visual.
- The school is up to 954 students.
- The school recently had teacher planning days. The PTA helped pay for substitute teachers on those days. The teachers have been reflecting on data and what they want to do as well as next steps. It is helpful for teachers to have that time. We do three of those a year.
- The school wants to do more professional development for the teachers around reading programs.
- This past staff development day they worked on student engagement activities.
- Spring break is coming up.
- Some information about technology will be coming out. Mrs. McGuigan conducted some surveys with other schools and got input from teachers.

### **Guest Speaker:** Janie Strauss, Dranesville District Representative (bullets below represent Ms. Strauss' comments to the PTA)

- Where we are now: The superintendent has presented her budget. By code it needs to be a needs-based budget. At the same time the superintendent is presenting her budget, the governor is presenting his proposed budget to the Assembly.
- The process with the governor moving forward but it looks like we aren't going to get much.
- The state looks at a two-year spending plan. VA is among the top ten in per capita wealth in the country but is in the bottom ten in education spending. They shrunk the pie and lowered the formula so we don't get a lot from the state.
- We may get an additional \$3-6 million from the state.
- Since the recession, the county has cut half a billion dollars from the budget, there has been a growth in students and a cut in jobs.
- Fairfax has lost its competitive edge in hiring and keeping teachers in FCPS. Teachers can go to Arlington and make \$15-20 thousand more.
- The county is losing teachers for the first time ever.
- The county cannot freeze salaries and cannot grow class sizes.
- On March 1, the Board of Supervisors will decide on a tax increase. A three cent increase has been recommended and some have suggested a higher increase. We have two new members on the Board of Supervisors who came off of the School Board. We are advocating for full funding.
- Most school systems have tax-raising authority but we do not.
- FCPS is the tenth largest school district in country.
- The Board of Supervisors will have public hearings in early April. In the second or third week they will decide what the budget will be and how much money schools will get and then it goes back to the School Board in May.
- The state requires a balanced budget. There will be public hearings again in May to make final decisions.

- FCPS funding is dependent on the citizens and the level they are willing to pay and the taxes they are willing to pay. It's dependent on property taxes.
- Montgomery and Arlington Counties are paying more per pupil than Fairfax.
- We have cut the school budget for eight straight years.
- An alarming number of schools in VA have lost art, music, and other electives.
- Citizens need to weigh in now. Send letters using the "I am FCPS" site. There is a link on the FCPS website.
- A group of people are looking at a meals tax. It would have to go on the ballot and be passed but the Chamber and others oppose it. It could go on the ballot this year.
- The state won't allow McLean to incorporate as a city.
- There are citizens groups working on options.
- Supervisor Foust is inclined to listen to what the schools need. This part of the county is bleeding teachers.
- Jeff Heilbraun provided an overview of the school budget timeline and key dates in the process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.