

Kent Gardens PTA Meeting – May 9, 2017  
25 attendees

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am

PTA President: Jenny Wormser

- Teacher Appreciation week was a huge success! Thank you to Jalyn Tiffany and a wonderful group of parents who put on a wonderful event. More than 300 families donated and our teachers had wonderful feedback to the events.
- Bike and Walk to school day was also very successful: we have 270 walkers and 72 bikers, thanks to the volunteers who assisted in the event.
- Nominating Committee: Marie Lee and the nominating committee did a wonderful job in bringing in 14 new people to leadership roles for the 2017-18 school year. There are still some positions available for those who would like to volunteer, they are still looking for a room parent coordinator for the upper grades.
- The slate of officers was presented for next year:
  - President: Jackie Shepard
  - President – elect: Bethany Nguyen
  - VP enrichment – Elise Moss
  - VP Events – Kristine Thomas
  - VP Marketing – Kara Horgan
  - Treasurer – Daniel Marquandt
  - Secretary – Caryn Margita
- PTA Dollars @ Work: Just over the last month the PTA has purchased new playground equipment, balls and outdoor games for students to use. There is a cultural arts assembly planned for the end of year, a Magician will be coming in at lunchtime and Popsicle Day to celebrate the end of SOLs.
- Summer Camp: Mami presented a Summer Karate Camp that will be held at Kent Gardens for several weeks this summer. There are ½ day and full day options, with Karate instruction as well as arts and crafts and basketball/sports.

Finance Committee 2017-18 Budget Presentation

- The Finance committee has met 4 times over the last 2 months.
- Our Treasurer has prepared the proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year. This includes accounting for the cancellation of the summer camp program. Without the summer camp program we no longer have to hold as much money in our reserves and our reserves fund will follow PTA recommendations that we hold 50% of our budget in reserve funding.
- Spending over the last year has been aligned with the Parent Survey sent in 2015 that ranked the priorities of parents. This included funding for technology as well as improvements to the cafeteria (tables), playground (tables, umbrellas, sporting equipment) and classrooms (projectors, outdoor classroom).

- Mrs. McGuigan discussed her priorities and wish list for next which included maintaining 1:1 computers in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and her goal is to add enough computers so that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is also 1:1. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders had a great year with access to the technology and used it for blended learning, research and with google documents.
  - The computer based learning overall really assists with individualized learning, ESOL and test prep as SOLs are now completely computer based tests.
  - The overall goal is to have 1:1 computers in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. To add 6<sup>th</sup> grade comes at a cost of \$40,000.
  - Once we purchase the computers through Fairfax County, the county agrees to maintain them at no additional charge.
  - Some questions asked were “Why 4<sup>th</sup> grade instead of 6<sup>th</sup> to move to 1:1 computers?” Mrs. McGuigan stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team is ready to go and eager to use the computers.
  - Question regarding whether we can ask students to “lease” the computers from the school for the school year and Mrs. McGuigan stated that the county does not support that model.
  - Some suggestions were to ask parents to contribute money specifically towards technology, and be very direct on where the money will be spent.
- Daniel Marquandt (Treasurer) presented the rest of the proposed budget for next year and highlighted some of the key expenditures. (info enclosed in proposed budget spreadsheet). We will vote to adopt the budget at the June 16<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting.
- There were no further questions, next and final PTA meeting for the year will be June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 am. Motion to adjourn, seconded and meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.