**Kent Gardens PTA Meeting Minutes**

November 18, 2015

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Old Business:**

The meeting minutes from the October meeting were approved.

**President’s Report:**

* Last year, the PTA had 10% participation with the Armchair fundraiser; we are currently at 30% participation this year (raised $20,000).
* Distributed Winter 2016 Academy handout with list of courses.
* Super STEM Saturday (slide).
* Chuck Marks talked about putting something together for morning STEM 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. one day/ week. It will be math/science focused. Have some vendors looking to put it in place. It will be on the same schedule as the Winter Academies.
* Box Tops:
  + Amber/Tamara – The PTA just submitted 4,000 box tops. We will receive $400 for this. (September/October timeframe).
  + Keeping a tally for the year for the class for the end of year competition. We had a competition in October and will do another one in March.
* Giant grocery cards – October alone earned $1200. We will include a reminder in the newsletter to encourage families to sign up. Will also include a phone number for how to contact Giant to get bonus card number.
* Square One Art – Mia – We earned about $16,000 - $17,000 on Square One Art. We get about 33% for Square One Art.
* Chipotle night –Question asked about whether a family pack can be done so that ordering/pickup will be easier. We will check on this.
* Haycock received a $20,000 grant for its playground through the McLean Community Foundation (non-profit focused on the McLean community). The PTA would like to apply for this grant for the spring. Let us know if there is someone that would like to work on this.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Presented November financials.
* Completing the 2014-2015 audit.

**Principal’s Report:**

* Some of the areas the school is using Technology is for project research, MyON. Upper grades use it for testing and also project research. Upper grade teachers are using Google with their students. Emily Phelin is the new technology specialist; comes from a middle school background. Rebecca Boyer has been working with her. Biggest challenge is with the iPads; IOS 9 was not approved right away by the County.
* Hoping to get all overhead projectors so that carts will not need to be used.
* Received sound equipment for the gym; worth $10,000.
* Kelly Mackelmore is the new 5th/6th grade teacher. She is starting in December; speaks French. Excellent references.
* French Immersion – Working to support 4th grade immersion teachers.
* FLE – December 1st night - Parents can look at the social/emotional counselor courses they do for 4th through 6th. You can also view these through Parent View online.
* Will have another AAP information night – December 3rd at 6 pm.
* SHARE – SCA looking for gift cards, etc. Publicizing this soon.
* 3rd grade class is going into DC this Friday. Parents can opt out if they are worried/concerned. FCPS has not sent out anything cancelling this.
* Amphitheatre is gone. Working on keeping trailers up to date.
* Working on kiss & ride protocols.
* Quebec would like to partner with us; worked with Marie Hinton though French Steam.
* Connie, the Liaison with FC Resource Center, discussed workshops that are available. She distributed a list of upcoming workshops through 2/2016 and website information.
* Community Action Items
  + Dr. White’s Family home encountered significant fire.
  + Cheryl Waysome’s father died.
  + Crossing Guard is bringing his bride home.

**Legislative Update:**

* Jeff Heilbraun showed a Fairfax County video on ‘Understanding the Budget’.
* Message internally within Kent Gardens - potentially see activities that impact us directly (e.g., Immersion, Band/Strings). Nothing is absolute at this point. There is still an opportunity to get involved.
* Presented slides on FCPS Budget Background, Overview and Upcoming Meetings. All FCPS budget meetings are videoed and there are links in the newsletters to these videos.
* To get support, go to the Board of Supervisors to get support for our school’s programs and salary increases for teachers. Dr. Garza will put forth full budget and then ask for support. There are 90 open teaching spots in FCPS. Many teachers going to Arlington and Loudoun County.
* Fairfax County.gov goes over the pros and cons of budget and changes. 2016 is the best year to do this because you will get more participation with it being a Presidential Election year.
* Distributed a letter draft that can be used to send to local representative showing support to fully fund the budget.