**Kent Gardens PTA Meeting Minutes**

October 21, 2015

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:53 a.m. There were 26 attendees.

**Old Business:**

The meeting minutes from the September meeting were approved.

**PTA President's Update:**

* Jen Wormser, PTA President, provided a Power Point presentation.
* The PTA is going “green.” Friday folder inserts are being limited and families should sign up for the ROAR, the electronic newsletter.

**Fundraising Update:**

* One & Done Campaign: With this campaign, the PTA hopes to eliminate additional fundraisers during the year. The PTA has raised more than $18,000. Parents can talk to employers about matching donations. Families should also consider year-end contributions. Families should not feel pressured to donate $100 and should give what feels comfortable or give in installments. It all adds up.
* Enrichments Programs: After School Academies have been successful, with 287 students enrolled. The PTA knows families have options in the community and appreciate that they are choosing KGES.
  + Chess Club: 52 students enrolled. Thank you to Cara Cline Thomas who's been helping while the PTA is looking for a chair.
  + Musical Theater Club: 40 students enrolled.
  + Odyssey of the Mind: 100 students enrolled
  + STEM Saturdays are coming again. The goal is to have 7 sessions and then be done before the holidays. Flyers will go out this Friday and the plan is to have online registration.
* Box Tops: Every sheet is a dollar for the school. If every student handed in one sheet per month we would receive a lot of money. Please send box tops in. They don't have to be submitted on a sheet and can be sent in a seal top bag.  Grouping in 50s would be ideal and marked. One recommendation was to put an envelope on your office door to collect box tops at work too.
* Giant Bonus Cards: The PTA currently has 113 cards enrolled. Parents only need to provide the first 3 letters of their last name and the 12 digit card number. Everyone has to reenroll this year, and families can elect up to two schools.
* Shutterfly / Tiny Prints (and affiliated brands) fundraising program is new. Go through the link on the PTA's web site and the school gets 13% of the purchase price donated. Order all your holiday cards through the link.
* Popcorn Club: Our first pop was a success and families can still join. Next pop is on November 6. The PTA always needs help popping, bagging and delivering popcorn.
* French Video Club: Sif is converting some of the old VHS tapes to DVDs. We have more enrollments this year than last so far.

**Events Update:**

* The Monster Book Fair is the school's fair (not the PTA's book fair). KGES was selected as a Scholastic premier club this year.
* Walk-to-School Day was a huge success. We are currently in first place on the leaderboard for Fire Up Your Feet. We should know our placement by the end of month.
* Movie Night was a success. More than 300 attendees.
* International Night is on November 14. Jo Moak is organizing it again this year. We need volunteers. This is a great way for older kids to get community service hours.
* The school needs help with the courtyard cleanup this weekend on October 24. The cleanup up will be from 9 am until noon. This is an opportunity for students to get community hours..
* #KGPRIDE spirit wear. Keep sending students to school in spirit wear on Fridays.  Anyone interested in purchasing spirit wear can now send an email to kgspiritwear@gmail.com to let Amber Syed know what you would and she can let you know if it is in stock try to get it to you.
* PTA dollars at work: The PTA helped fund the Cox Farms Kindergarten field trip and the 2nd graders' National Building Museum field trips. If parents go on field trips, please share pictures with us.
* Help Wanted:
  + Treats for Troops. We lost our source and need a contact in the military.
  + The PTA needs a lunchroom volunteer chair to help organize the students and keep them calm.  Students need help at lunch opening yogurt, etc.
  + The PTA needs a volunteer to help create surveys for After School Academies.
* The PTA is also looking into the possibility of a morning program, similar to a morning academy. A few parents have requested some type of program from 8:00-8:30 a.m. and if anyone is interested in getting involved, please let the PTA know.
* Grant Writing Committee: There are several grants available in the county. There is money available and we just need someone to help write grant proposals and ask for the funds. If anyone is interested in helping with grant writing, please indicate so on the sign-in sheet.
* FCPS resource liaison: There are lots of county programs coming up.
* There will be a legislative update in Friday's ROAR.

**Treasurer's Report:**

* The September financials were distributed.
* The Academies, One & Done and Popcorn Club numbers have changed. October will show changes to those areas as well. We are still anticipating paying out summer academies salaries.
* There are plans to combine the annual fundraiser with One & Done.
* There was a transfer from the reserve account. The PTA voted on that at the end of the last school year and used the funds to pay for iPads and laptops over the summer and got them into classrooms before school started.

**Principal's Update:**

* There was a Principal's coffee earlier in the morning. The school has had a busy start to the school year.
* The school is challenged due to open teaching positions and open substitute positions.
* Kiss-n-Ride. The County looked at how the school operates and they had no real suggestions. The school will continue to looks for safety measures.
* Professional development money was used for the Lucy Calkins program through the Teachers College.
* A professional development day is coming up.
* The FCPS budget situation is real and something everyone is worried about.
* Teachers collaborate every week as a group. Groups are tight this year.
* Level IV AAP has been rolling along. Ms. Wines has been getting into the classrooms.
* 5th and 6th grade: The school still has an open position and is managing the situation in a different way.
* There is lots of support for the first grade teachers. The school is using people in different ways and no one has any down time.
* There was some discussion about the length of recess. Mrs. McGuigan said she would like to provide another PE for students but she could not work it into the schedule this year. Providing students with a 3rd PE will continue to be a goal in the future.
* The Amphitheater is an eye sore. The County took down some of the bamboo and the school is talking to the County about how to use that spot.
* We do have an Eagle Scout from Thomas Jefferson who will help with the courtyard. Email Mrs. McGuigan with ideas relating to the courtyard and school grounds.
* Lost and found: No one is picking items up. A parent suggested a campaign to label items and another suggestion was to ask teachers and room parents to email parents.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 9:46 a.m.