**Kent Gardens PTA Meeting Minutes**

September 30, 2015

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 40 attendees.

**President’s Update:**

* Jen Wormser provided a Power Point presentation.
* The PTA is “going green.” Only a monthly calendar and checklist will go home with students in their Friday Folders. Parents should sign up for the PTA’s electronic newsletter, the ROAR, which is sent out every Friday.
* The PTA is on Facebook and Instagram and is considering signing up for Twitter.
* The One & Done campaign has a great team. In past, the PTA has had several fundraisers throughout the year. The goal this year is to wrap it all into One & Done. The more families can support us the better. Thank you to everyone who has donated already. For some families $100 may be too much so please donate what is comfortable for your family.
* Enrichment programs: The After School Academies chair is Elise Moss and she has lined up the fall academies ahead of schedule and worked all summer to have them in place by the open house. Chess Club launches next week and we are looking for a chair. We have a new vendor lined up for Musical Theater Club and the students will be performing the Jungle Book this year. Students can sign up for Odyssey of the Mind through next week. STEM Saturdays will take place again this year, similarly to last year. The PTA is lucky to have so many parents brining us so many programs.

**Fundraising Update:**

* Box Tops: It's easy. Keep clipping and sending them in. One parent suggested parents take a bucket to their offices to collect box tops from co-workers too.
* Giant Cards: There is a form circulating so parents can sign up their Giant cards to help raise money for the PTA. Giant gives us a percentage of what you spend there if you register your grocery rewards card.
* Family Dinner Nights: They are great events and an opportunity to see families and lot of teachers who come out. There will be a few dinners throughout the year. They are a lot of fun. Pulcinella’s is our biggest one during the year, so if you can only make one, that's the one to attend. The Elevation Burger event had great turnout. In Arlington, the restaurant started putting all the receipts towards the Kent Gardens fundraiser (and not just KG receipts). They were very generous.
* Popcorn Club: First popcorn is tomorrow. The program went completely online this year. Parents have until tomorrow to sign up and get this Friday's popcorn.

**Events Update:**

* Walk or Bike to School Day: It is on October 7th and there will be Kind bars and water bottles for a raffle.
* Movie Night is on October 16: The school’s first outdoor movie night will feature Despicable Me 2. Food and concessions will be for sale. It will start at 6pm. Bring blankets. We expect a large turnout so volunteers are needed.
* Reflections Arts Program: Kristine Thomas will chair the program again this year. Same categories as last year and we are adding a new 3D visual arts piece. October 29 is the students’ deadline for submissions. This year’s theme is “Let Your Imagination Fly.” Please contact Kristine if you have any questions. If anyone would like to be co-chair or judge, please let Jen Wormer or Kristine Thomas know.
* Spirit Wear: Spirit wear Fridays have taken off. T-shirts have sold out twice already. We are waiting for new tie dye shirts to come in. The goal is to have them in time for Walk to School Day or by Movie Night. Bags also came in. Teachers are also wearing their KG Pride on Fridays.
* Connie Howell is the FCPS Parent Resource Center liaison this year. She will be bringing in relevant information each month. The county offers programs and information on many important issues and also brings in great speakers for free. There is a book on essential skills that all children need and there are also two conferences that fill up quickly.

**Old Business:**

The June meeting minutes were approved.

**Legislative Update:**

* Jeff Heilbraun, the PTA’s Legislative liaison, discussed the budget and shortfall. This is a critical issue and Fairfax County often gets short end of the stick based on the algorithms the state uses. Everyone should take a look at the budget information which is on the school’s website. Take the time to get educated and there are great resources available. Jeff would like to act locally to help generate more money here and exposure here. Jeff is attending the relevant budget meetings on behalf of the PTA.

**PTA Funds Update:**

* Each month the PTA will share examples of where PTA funds are going. This month we have three field trips and the PTA funds buses to go, we bought new paper and art supplies, purchased guidance materials, purchased reading and writing guides, and purchased Music magazine subscriptions for students.
* Teachers are sending thank you notes to the PTA for what is being contributed.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* This month’s financials were distributed.
* There is not a lot in the August report because it was summer activity. There are changes in supplies for Popcorn Club, classroom materials we purchased, money was moved from reserves to technology and new iPads were purchased this summer for the school. That's basically it for August.

**Assistant Principal’s Report:**

* The school year is off to good start. Everyone loves the new mascot and spirit wear. Everything is going smoothly except for the bus schedules. The change in start times has been an issue and they are looking for ways to improve the process which has been a logistical puzzle. The school is making progress. Student will not be marked tardy if it is the buses’ fault.
* Our largest classes are in Kindergarten.
* CogAT testing is in mid-October for second graders. Parent can request a retest for CogAT or Naglieri once up until 7th grade.
* Sad to announce that Rebecca Boyer has accepted a promotion within Fairfax County and will leave in a few weeks. She will still work with KG a few days a week during the transition.
* They have been meeting with parents regarding grades and students. If parents have any concerns, they should let Mrs. McGrath and Mrs. McGuigan know.
* Teachers have also received a small stipend for the classroom from the PTA.
* AAP: Not everyone understands that the school has several levels. Last year, for the first time KG had an official level IV program. The AAP program is going strong. Teachers are being trained. The school is retaining students it may not have otherwise. The school is translating materials into French when possible.
* There is a long waiting list for the French immersion program.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.