

Attendees:

Board Attendees: Alyssa Adeyemi, Sarah Yurasko, Sue Rizzardi

Members: Jason McConachy, Edward Reynado, Charles Emerson, Joanna Sampson, Theresa Thomas, Kristin Francher, Becky Rotem, Leslie Lauth Torres, Peichi Sopko, Meagan Dwyer, Jennifer Hallman, Laurie Wilson, Laura Jane Cohen

Meeting Minutes:

Principal's report:

- Renovation update: the target is for it to be completely done in 2 weeks.
 - There are working video cameras around the school now.
 - Russell, the in school renovation support person will leave, he is slated to do another school's renovation soon
 - Soon the teacher's lounge will be available for use, and the school can open the yoga room / sensory or meditation center
 - We are on schedule for clubs and community use to resume on Nov. 15 with the winter schedule
- In terms of upcoming testing, January is the midyear window for iReady testing, but not every student has to take the midyear test. There is also the IATT test being offered to some 6th graders relating to advanced mathematics.
- Relating to the new recess directives discussed at the last meeting, Mr. Bibbee has pulled together a group of 12 teachers to meet and discuss recess and the master schedule. This group has met two times so far, and will meet again. They're looking at special schedules and the two recesses, and the instructional schedule. Recess now can count as instructional time, but it still comes out of Language Arts or Math, so the group is looking into ways to balance that. Social Studies and Science are already only 30 minutes, so we didn't take time away from that.
 - Some teachers do 20 minutes of recess outside and 10 minutes of yoga instead of a second recess. Do we want to make than option, or do two 15 minute recesses and do it all outside? Yoga is supposed to be about movement, but what if a kid wants to read? We don't make them get up if they sit down outside. These are topics to consider.
 - Mr. Bibbee hopes next month he'll have an update on the schedule and will implement it at a manageable point that makes sense, maybe after winter break or end of a quarter.
- Visitors to Cherry Run (from other schools) liked our pumpkin patch
- We had the first field trips this month. Halloween is on a Wednesday – kids can't wear costumes to school. Ask the teacher first if you want to send in treats for Halloween.

- Jennifer Hallman had a question on IT support available while Mrs. Harvey was out on maternity leave. Mrs. Harvey was on maternity leave, but she's back as of 10/20. Her absence was not for a long enough time to get a replacement while she was out.
 - Relating to school IT resources, Ms. Hallman suggested to inform parents what is available online including Blackboard, Google classroom and how they can have access to study guides, etc.
 - Mr. Bibbee stated that Blackboard is going away. The FCPS contract is ending. We are replacing it with Google School (and Google classroom is part of that).
 - Joanna Sampson suggested having a technology night for parents built in to the PTA meeting, to cover topics such as: this is Dreambox, etc. Mr. Bibbee would rather create a video and link it. Ms. Hallman suggested considering doing it with Back to School Night, but Mr. Bibbee noted that parents complained previously about having too many activities during Back to School night and that they just want to meet teacher. It was also suggested to have it be part of the new family education which includes a tour etc. It was suggested that an IT information session could be covered with that, and any parent can come.
- Kristin Francher asked: Why do kids have to go in pairs everywhere? Mr. Bibbee responded that it's FCPS policy.
- Edward Reynado asked about picture retakes. Mr. Bibbee said November 16 is the makeup day. If your child already had a photo taken, bring the first set of pictures back on the re-take day, give the picture packet to the photographer, and they will re-take the picture. If you missed the 1st picture day, you have to do the order form. We'll put it in the weekly highlights and seek a parent volunteer to help with that.

1st VP report:

Sue Rizzardi: We had a great turnout at fall festival (selling approximately 500 tickets). It was our biggest year yet. Upcoming events include our 2nd restaurant fundraiser night on 11/15 at Café Rio, all day. If flyer is shown, we get portion of proceeds. You can order in advance, but pay at the store to give Cherry Run credit.

Donuts with a VIP is on 11/9. The flyer will hopefully go home in the next Tuesday folder.

2nd VP Report:

Sarah: We are still looking for a volunteer to chair the spring event and family reading night.

We are looking for parent volunteers for photo make up day.

Volunteers were recognized with gifts: The Audit committee, Linda Emerson for spirit wear, Kristin for staff relations, Leslie Lauth Torres as the Teacher PTA member, and Sue Rizzardi and Alyssa Adeyemi for their work on the executive board.

A door prize was given to two people who attended first PTA meeting.

Treasurer Report:

Given by Alyssa Adeyemi for Edom Aweke. We have a little ways to go with membership. We are not quite where we were this time last year.

Fall festival was a great success, and was only \$23 over budget which is great.

- Kristen Francher added a suggestion to add on to the budget for August for staff relations. The staff relations chair had to pay out of pocket for the first teacher event, and wait until the end of September for the PTA budget to be approved for reimbursement, as the PTA can't write checks after 7/31. There were not enough people who signed up online so we had to buy some things for the event. She suggests downgrading the amount of food next year. We learned that the event this year wasn't scheduled at a good time (it should be scheduled around an important teacher's meeting). Half the staff wasn't there the day it was scheduled.
 - Meagan Dwyer suggested: would you consider having people donate money for the staff relations events? The PTA will look into the rules on this.

President's Report by Alyssa Adeyemi:

- The pumpkin patch in the main hallways is adorable and creative. We got around 40-50 kids who participated. We have a participant from every single grade including preschool. It is not a judged contest, but they will do a raffle for a few prizes (including Sweet Frog gift certificate, gifts from a new comic book store). The pumpkins should be picked up tomorrow.
- We are applying for the National PTA school of excellence designation. We were awarded it 2016-2018. We are re-enrolling for 2019-2021 time period. It puts together an action plan for improving parent / school relations.
 - There was a baseline survey sent in the weekly announcements and we haven't had a lot of responses.
- The PTA is working with the SCA. The PTA met with SCA representatives at their last meeting. We compared roles and responsibilities and ideas for collaborating so events don't overlap. The SCA is working on some spring activities, including a family feud night. PTA will be there to help get volunteers for that.
- There is a new military families committee. Mrs. Waters and Leslie Lauth-Torres are spearheading that. There will be a Veterans Day assembly on 11/12. It's a school based event at 9:30am.
- Regarding possible presentations before PTA meetings, Ms. Hurley is working on a lot with digital citizenship, and we could consider a speaker related to that or topics of inclusion.
- Relating to school clubs starting, we got approval for chess club to start 11/19. Yoga and creating with cardboard club should hopefully be approved ASAP. We will have at least 3 clubs starting in mid-November. Peichi Sopko is coordinating a schedule so clubs don't overlap. Some additional clubs will probably start in January.
- Email from Jessica Bradley read. She has been working with Ms. Delaney to start a Special Olympics school program at Cherry Run. There is a team of teachers interested. It will involve

PTA and families. There is a Virginia PTA grant for PTAs to apply to up to \$2000 to fund inclusive activities. Special Olympics also offers grants. If you would like to be involved, contact Jessica Bradley. The prongs of the program are:

- whole school engagement
- Inclusive youth leadership (to create a socially inclusive environment through sports and other activities)
- Inclusive sports
- Book fair is finishing up – it has gone well
- Bulletins boards committee is working hard and board looking good
- Reflections had gallery walk last night and it was a sweet event –kids liked it. Everyone got a certificate, everyone enjoyed cake.

Committee Chair Reports:

- **Spirit wear update by Jack Emerson:** he received most orders this week and he is working on separating it. Likely by Monday he will have the bulk of everything ordered in bags for the teachers.
- **Website/Facebook committee updated by Joanna Sampson:** Veteran's day flyer will go out tomorrow. Send her Donuts with VIP or any other flyers you have.
- **Laura Jane Cohen, FCCPTA delegate update:** The FCCPTA had its first meeting on Oct. 17. They meet quarterly. They also had a conference on Saturday for family and community engagement. Their mandate is that we as a PTA take on family and community engagement. They would like to see true inclusion in schools. They offer an inclusion night on 11/7 at Robinson.
 - Some other schools (Camelot ES and Floris ES) have interesting programs on inclusivity. Floris has a "walk in my shoes" event which is a PTA night and people come in and there are different areas of the school set up and they see what it's like to have a disability. They go into a room to simulate dyslexia, some sensory issues are brought to life, some physical disabilities. Floris has seen this event as transformative.
 - Camelot has an acceptance team and buddy program which we would like to have here. They have acceptance month and a lot of parent programs. In kindergarten, a parent would come in and read to the class about their kid's disability. They think it helps the kids understand each other.
 - Laura Jane sees the ribbon cutting in a new building is a new opportunity for all of us.
 - The FCCPTA is also focused on military family engagement and trauma.
 - Kids are experiencing trauma, which affects learning in school. They're rolling out programs to deal with this. There are cool films, such as Screenagers. The offer take away questions for parents.
 - Regarding events at Cherry, we could coordinate with Sangster and White Oaks, too, for example. People in the county love going to Pyramid events.

- The FCCPTA also suggests that every PTA should have a special education committee rather than a liaison. Special education encompasses IEPs, 504 (which are probably double the number of IEPs), anyone with accommodations, and intellectual disabilities.
 - At Cherry Run, the preschool and students in the intellectual disability program should be included in everything we do.
 - We should have inclusive activities generally that all kids can do, rather than have to modify activities for kids special needs
 - Cherry Run does not participate in the county spelling bee, but Laura Jane will seek approval from the principal for us to participate in it.
 - She suggests that we could show a movie on Resilience before a PTA meeting, and have a session where people talk about it.
- There is a new Ombudsman position in FCPS, with Armando Perry (ombudsman@fcps.edu). There are a lot of parents who have legitimate complaints but don't know how to navigate the system and want confidentiality. He is a data collection station. He can provide resources. Based on the data he collects, at the end of every month, he shows Dr. Braband areas of frustration county-wide. The FCCPTA wants people to use him and increase that position. It's for staff, parents, students.
- Relating to digital citizenship, the FCCPTA has resources on their site with contracts before giving kids phones, having conversations with your kids about media, etc.
- Kristin Francher gave a staff relations committee update. In October they'll had an event with pre-packed items for teachers on the teacher work day. It went well, teachers loved it.
 - Nov. 5 is the next event. There is a sign up genius for people to bring in foods such as soups, brownies, corn bread, dinner rolls.
 - Ms. Hallman made a suggestion to have a cart outside of SACC so SACC parents can participate. Kristin will need a volunteer to help. Sarah has some people interested in helping with the staff relations committee, and she will give those names to Kristin. There is also a SACC liaison too (Mena Nakhla).
 - The food should be dropped off at 10:30, and equipment such as crockpots should be picked up at 2:30pm
 - There is no staff relations event for December (too much stuff going on, already).
 - It will pick up again in January for a "not your, nacho day," on a teacher work day.