

<b>Board Attendees:</b>
Jason McConachy, Kim Painter, Sarah Yurasko, Theresa Thomas, & Becky Rotem
<b>Members:</b>
Kristin Fancher, Jack Emerson, Olivia Andrada, Robin Hilton, Leslie Lauth-Torres, Jennifer Formagus, Lisa Baxter, Ashley Robbins, Charlotte Adamo, Mena Nakhla, Angela Messenger, Ashley Kudirka, Edom Aweke, Jennifer Hallman, Katherine Seto, Molly Quinones, Mark Bibbee, Anne Neumann

Meeting Minutes:

**Call to Order**

J. McConachy called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

**SCA Update:**

- Postponed

**Principal's Update:**

- It's already the end of Oct. and we are in the middle of testing, towards end. We've done iReady – it's a screener. After the screener, teachers will give a diagnostic as needed (if a child does scores below 40%). We are in the middle of doing these diagnostics. We have 10 school days left in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. We have conferences coming up.
- Renovation – we are still on the bond, and still have some punch list items (minor repairs) being addressed.
- The school year is going well.
- There were 3 field trips today. Field trips are starting.
- The sad news is that two students passed away. A former student in the intellectual disability ("ID") program who the specialists worked with passed away. 2 days later a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student passed away from brain cancer. In her memory, we are collecting toys, and there has been a tremendous outpouring of support for the toy collection. Toys are being collected through 10/31. The school has already collected 4 huge boxes full of toys.
- Mr. Bibbee took questions from parents.
- Kim Painter asked if there were issues with iReady this year? Mr. Bibbee responded that its administered by Pearson testing. The Pearson servers crashed on one of the days of testing. The school tried again a few days later, and the system crashed again – so we waited until the clear from Pearson to resume. It delayed the iReady testing about 2 weeks.
- Ashley Kurdika had a question about the Keep in Touch emails from the Cherry Run front office. Mr. Bibbee said to call and speak to Vicky Williams in the office to make sure you're signed up for these emails if you're not receiving. She is the school registrar. She can confirm your email in the school SIS system. The PTA sends its emails separately through the Gov Delivery system.
  - Mr. Bibbee sends weekly emails to families himself. Last year's FCPS survey results showed that parents wanted emails from principal directly. Mr. Bibbee

contributes to the PTA's Weekly Highlights, but he also has a Friday email direct message from Principal, and learning targets for each grade are sent out weekly on Tuesday or Wednesday. The learning targets are sent in the format of: "I can do..." whatever the target is for that grade level. Please contact the school if you're not getting the school emails & for PTA weekly highlights, you need to opt in yourself online.

### **President's Update:**

- Approval vote:
  - Motion to approve the September 19 PTA General Membership Minutes as presented: Jennifer Hallman
  - Seconded: Anne Neuman
  - Passed by popular vote
  
- Recap of Fairfax County Council of PTAs ("FCCPTA") Meeting. The FCCPTA has been a very helpful resource for how to run our PTA and help answer our questions. They have quarterly meetings. Mena Nakhla and Jason McConachy went to the last meeting. Any PTA member can attend. Dr. Braband opened the meeting.
- Mena, our FCCPTA liaison, gives a report of the FCCPTA meeting:
  - Per Dr. Braband, One Fairfax is the county's commitment to consider equity. The county will be intentional in considering equity. Regarding boundary issues in the news about busing students, that is not an issue. Our boundary policies now are 20-30 years old. He asked the School Board to look at it. They're bringing in a consultant to look at it, and it's a long process and Braband has a video addressing it for those interested in learning more.
  - SEPTA PTA – special education PTA. Similar to our PTA but focused on special ed teachers. They do fundraising and help support kids across Fairfax County. They fundraise for the whole system.
  - Vaping – it was suggested that parents start talking to their children about the side effects. It's a problem that FCPS is aware of and they're trying to encourage parents to talk about the impact and danger with their kids. The FCCPTA thought this was even an issue for elementary PTA's to discuss.
    - If you would be interested in a speaker on vaping, let us know. (If there is any topic you're interested in, contact Jason and we can also use FCCPTA as a resource for finding speakers.)
    - There was a question from the audience on whether the CRES PTA is doing anything specifically with SEPTA? Not currently, but if anyone wants to volunteer, we can make a connection.
  
- Volunteer Led PTA Events - Child Safety Procedures:
  - The new board looked at what child protection procedures we have for volunteer led events by PTA for safety of children and safety of volunteers.
  - We sponsor some volunteer led clubs: running club, reflections workshop, Odyssey of the Mind ("OOTM"), spring carnival and other events throughout the year. (Here, we are drawing a distinction between county approved clubs and volunteer led clubs.)

- We have imposed new rules for PTA sponsored clubs: no one adult alone with a child. At least two non-related adults present. Adults should not have 1 to 1 communications with a child (text, etc.). Volunteer-led clubs will be putting this statement on their forms so people know and are aware. If not in compliance, PTA sponsorship can be pulled.
- The PTA has no concerns about any clubs now or in the past but feels these are best practices to put in place, in general.
- A question from the audience came about whether the county has a volunteer policy? We haven't seen anything. We discussed that Jason will bring the topic of volunteer checks up with the FCCPTA again.

### **2nd VP Report:**

- Kristin Fancher was recognized for her work on the PTA Staff Relations committee
- Sarah had orientation for room parents before the PTA meeting

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- We have had some unexpected windfalls.
- We are at 190 memberships! That is the most in 6 years! We also received a check from Safeway – a donation to schools, over \$2000. We haven't earmarked this money yet. In the prior iteration of the budget, we had to make a cut to library, and we'll discuss how to spend this money. We also had a good restaurant night fundraiser at Coal Fire Pizza.
- The PTA Exec. Board has approval to make a budget change of < \$300. Between the last approved budget and today, we had a request for a new line item for field day at \$100 which we approved. Ms. Dixon did a great job with field day and it was awesome. The kids had a great time.
- Lisa Baxter noted that someone mentioned to her that he didn't have time for the PTA, and she wanted to clarify when you join, you can join without committing to do anything further.

### **1st VP Report:**

- Fall festival - 10/23 now, rain date. Hopefully communication on the rain date was pushed out well. We had good turnout on the preorder for tickets.
- We were going to try to have the PTA's Donuts with a Loved One & the Veteran's Day Assembly on the same day, but it turned out that it was going to be too many people / not enough space to have both on the same day.
- 11/8 will be our Donuts with a Loved One with two sessions, a craft, and loved ones can go to class after. There will be a sign up genius for volunteers coming out.
- 11/11 – Veteran's day assembly in school. The Military youth connection committee is doing the activity. They are going to reach out to deployed service members and do a video presentation for students, and veterans come to the event. Information on this will go into the Tuesday folders. There will be a full schedule of events. They're going to have two 25 minute assemblies because gym can't hold the whole school at the same time. The same assembly will run twice. Simultaneously there will be something else in cafeteria for the other half, ending with the veteran's walk. There's also going to be a contest for the kids.

- In November there will be another restaurant night fundraiser at Chipotle (Burke Center Pkwy).
- Our Coal Fire fundraiser made \$360. It was great to see all the CRES families there.
- The PTA's Pumpkin Patch will run 10/28 to 10/31. Students can bring decorated pumpkins and there will be a display.

### **Committee Chairs Reports:**

- Spirit Wear (Jack Emerson)
  - Jack is interested in a winter spirit wear sale.
  - Spirit wear was a success this year, so far! Thank you to the Emerson family for outfitting us.
- Library (Anne Neumann)
  - Last year Anne organized a book donation. It was a success. She's not going to do it this year as she wants to wait a year for families to collect more inventory, but in the meantime, don't get rid of books. Next year she'll do it again synced up with Dr. Seuss week.
- Staff Relations
  - Lisa Baxter will take over as Kristin Fancher is moving. They did their first event together – the Grab n Go breakfast on 10/24. Everyone complimented the event. The next one is the Souper luncheon on 11/4, which is a teacher workday. There will be a sign up genius posted in Weekly Highlights next week. We need people to sign up for soups. Jennifer Hallman suggested coordinating with SACC liaison for SACC family drop off of food items.
- Box tops
  - There will be a table with a bin starting 10/21 outside the office to collect paper box tops.

### **Closing:**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.