

Minutes
September PTA Meeting
Friday, September 10th, 2021 at 9:30am
Mantua Cafeteria

I. Meeting called to order by Kristina Clarke at 9:34am

II. First order of business: Minutes from 8/26/21 approved

No questions about the minutes, motion to officially adopt.

Seconded by Jenn Ros

III. President's report: Kristina Clarke

PTA Meetings will be this same format moving forward. Every other month in person/virtual.

IV. Treasurer's report; Sophany Setliff

Budget was approved. We have been approved to purchase additional air purifiers, hoping to get those into the classrooms soon. Some numbers are missing from the current budget, just waiting on Member hub to update. Hopeful to add to fundraising dollars with more events.

V. Principal's Report: Linda Shannon

Update Outdoor lunch, working right now to create a schedule to allow for certain days with certain classes to have an outdoor lunch if they bring their own lunch. Starting with limited classes, they will be notified of which days they will be able to eat lunch outside. They will need to pack and bring their own lunch since they won't have access to the cafeteria. Working on hiring monitors in order to monitor outdoor lunch. Mantua can't ask parents to be a volunteer, so one way around is to have paid position and a schedule. Monitors are required to be vaccinated because it is a FCPS position.

Will take a little while to get people hired, but planning now, but might be able to do twice a week for a class. This should significantly lighten the number of kids eating lunch in the building. Outside will be spaced, but not required to have a seating chart. Will learn as we go.

Parent Volunteer in the school: Right now, they are not having volunteers work with kids. Parents are allowed to come in and help the teacher.

VI. Vice Principal's Report: Amy Alley, Richard Deixler, Nick Rousos

Amy Alley:

iReady email was just sent out. iReady is a screener - not a diagnostic test. General test to see if kids have any foundational gaps in reading and math. Then will have further testing if needed. When the window for the test for grades 1-3 goes until 10/29, 4-6 goes until 11/12.

Parents will get a letter home to see where you kids fall. Teachers also use to inform instruction in the classroom.

Question - So this is not for K?

Answer: Kindergarten is using PALS and their own math assessment. Small group reading and behavior rating scale for kindergarten. Those tests are sent home to parents. Testing window is a little later.

iReady's is also a computer-based test, The intention is to find where you belong - half the test you get right, and half you get wrong. Not usually test taking strategies. Gets harder the more questions you get right. Kids can get frustrated the higher the material gets.

Rich Deixler:

Trying to develop a plan to split up the lunch and have some eat outside. Working on numbers plan. Location will be the space on the strip of grass where the bus loop is, and the sidewalk. Need to figure out how many kids can fit. Hoping to have the plan finalized soon.

Nick Rousos:

Hiring people now that they will use for lunches are monitors. For those who emailed, or applied, I am making a request to hire. He will be working on a schedule 10:30-2:15pm is the estimated time for lunch monitors. Once we get that piece locked in, might also be other opportunities.
HR makes all hiring. You must get fingerprinted, and there are certain rights and responsibilities that come with that. FCPS HR works through all that.

Question - Are you still looking for more people to hire?

Answer: Yes, and as we fill capacity, we will look to add more as needed. They are hiring in a rolling format, so first to apply will be first to fill the jobs, etc.

Ms. Shannon -We are thinking 10-11 monitors for now

How do I apply?

FCPS.edu and click on job, search monitor, fill out the application

This information will also be published in newsletter, and posted on Facebook.

Mrs. Alley:

Today is also the last day for 5th and 6th graders to add or drop band/strings. We will be getting special face masks with slit for kids in band and covers for ends of instruments.

These are yearlong commitments.

Ms. Shannon-

Digital permission, please make sure you fill out

Back to school night 9/29 6:30-8:30 virtual

Did the moment of silence for 9/11 this morning, FCPS gave guidelines on things to be done in the school

Yom Kippur – FCPS recognized religious and cultural day, so no new content or assessments during that day, nothing new and fun that kids might be missed

VII.

Vice President of Programs: Jenn Ros

Programs are back!

Special newsletter will be coming out today at noon.

We still need volunteer to make all this work.

Raccoon Runners, Chat n Chew, Kids Care Club sign up will be at 8pm 9/14

Raccoon Runners will be limited to 40 people, unless they get more volunteers to help.

Chat n chew will meet in the library this year

Kids Care Club - still once a month (k-3) 4-6th meet on different days

Drama Club had their meeting, anyone who wants to register can, fall workshops and spring musical
Recording on last night's meeting is on schoolboy (previous zoom)- reach out to Lauren and Julie with questions.

Basketball is back -registration opens next Tuesday 9/14.

Reflections : Theme I will change the world by....deadline mid October

Parent education coordination working on things.

Take home reading hoping 2Q to start up.

Enrichment hoping to get started this fall, but if not, hopefully in the spring.

Enrichment scaled back -prob 2 classes.....start time in the afternoons might be an issue for contact tracing.....

Ms. Shannon - need to find out what contact tracing needs to be done for enrichment, might need seating charts

VIII.

VP of Fundraising/Membership:

Gretchen West

Great turnout \$3,400 revenue, and \$1,000 expenses. Profit of about \$2400.

It was huge, and we didn't have enough volunteers.

We need lots of volunteers - if you were there you saw the lines b/c we didn't have enough volunteers
Board has been taking notes on the event, please reach out if you have any notes on things, we can do to make it better. Email Gretchen with any feedback.

Run for Rocky 10/28

As of now, like previous years, running laps as usual. Considering if we need to spread out a little more - few classes at a time, etc. Run for Rocky committee, volunteers needed. Need to start planning for that.

New fundraiser - Read a thon, friendly competition, after book fair, prizes for kids hitting reading goals, prizes for classrooms, fundraiser, so flat donation, or dollar per minute....budget \$5,000 for that, maybe conservative. Teachers can encourage reading in the classroom. Will need volunteers for that.

Membership:

215 members now \$20 for families and \$10 for teachers - have a voice with admin, talk about concerns, creating a community where we can communicate. \$10 off programs (raccoon runners, chat n chew, kids give back) - can also get a free mask. Goal of 300 members, it is yearly thing, need to become a member each year - all money goes back to your kids.

IX. Volunteering Coordinator Sara Taylor and Jody Agnew

Find and recruit volunteers for classroom parents
All but 6 classrooms filled now. Tuesday folder and Room Parent jobs can be filled.

Tuesday Folder Volunteers can go into classrooms when no students are in the rooms, and Room Parent position can be done from home.

Need Run for Rocky Committee Volunteers, as well as other potential future events (book fair, etc)

Book Fair -

Trying to figure out book fair. Considering outdoor family event with food vendors or family picnic type event.

Open Positions :

Community : scarecrow, family picnic night,

Question : Is 6th grade going to frost to visit?

Answer: Not at this point. Usually happens in the spring.

Question : Some kids in high school have sent kids home and parents are frustrated because they kids have to stay home for so long.

Answer : We haven't had any at our school, but at other schools, some kids have been "paused". Some kids here have been paused because of exposure outside of the school. At this time, they just have to follow health department and FCPS guidelines on exposure.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30am.