

**Poplar Tree Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2012**

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM by Elizabeth Zielinski.

Attendees: Mary Yee, Katherine Dunning, Hillary Raucheisen, Elizabeth Zielinski, Sharon S. Williams, Lori Barnes, Stephanie Carr, Rosette Farelo, Allison Denenberg, Sandy Jones, Christine Risi, Carolyn York, Lisa Melchiori, and Betsy Pettis.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from April 10, 2012 and July 24, 2012. The motion was approved.

Principal's Report

- This year, Poplar Tree has the second smallest population in Fairfax County - - under 600 students.
- There are 21 teachers on staff for this year, not including Kindergarten or Special Education. The teachers for each grade are as follows: Kindergarten – Melchiori, Carter, and Reynolds; First grade – Polandick (half), Francis, Shada and McGrath (a new addition to the staff); Second grade – Polandick (half), Sitter, Bauer and Wetherby; Third Grade – Gomez and Loudin (formerly Beverage); Fourth Grade – Arnberg (formerly Rowland), Matulis, Paska and Penley; Fifth Grade – Bennett, Whalen (formerly Klavon), McCarroll and Goffe; Sixth Grade – Meidlinger, LaCroix, McAdoo and Steinbach.
- A Math Resource Teacher, Jennifer Onder-Schneiders, has been hired to address the needs of a few remedial students and mostly those students performing slightly above their assigned math level. This new position will be funded partially with PTA funds.
- Open House is scheduled from 1 – 2pm on August 30th for all grades.
- Back to School Nights will be held on Tuesday, September 11th for the K – 3rd grade families and Thursday, September 13th for the 4th – 6th grade families. Parents are encouraged to meet in the cafeteria at 6:30pm to learn about the various PTA committees. Representatives from the local Scouting organizations are present, as well.
- PTA meetings will now occur either at 10AM or 7pm, still on Tuesdays. Please check the PTA website for dates and times of upcoming meetings.
- It is possible that the Paw Print will only be available online in the future. Discussion at the meeting revealed that it still seems apt to provide it in paper format to oldest/only children in Friday Folders in addition to its availability online.

President's Report

- There are still open positions for several PTA committees. They are: Spirit Wear, Newsletter, Language Arts liaison, Reflections and PTA County Council representative.
- Silent Auction has been moved to Carnival. Currently, there is no one slated to fill that committee spot. Thousands of dollars in revenue for the PTA will be lost if that position is not filled soon!
- Help will be needed for Back to School events such as putting together school supply packs and sitting at the membership table during Open House and Back to School Nights.
- The Kindergarten welcome picnic is scheduled for next week! Watermelon and bottled water will be provided by the PTA.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Alvarez is not present today. The budget is on hold while it is under review. The annual budget will be reviewed at the September meeting.

Committee Reports

Audit - Allison Denenberg reported that the audit went well. One small discrepancy will be discussed with the Treasurer upon her return.

Membership – Sandy Jones reported that she is working on an automated system from which to draw information for the Directory from the information already provided by parents for PTA Membership. Sharon Williams will discuss privacy issues with GBW Principal.

Spirit Wear – Elizabeth Zielinski and Kathy Erstling are working together to put in an order for items to have available at Open House. Please contact Elizabeth or Kathy ASAP with any ideas or requests for new items you would like to see offered at Poplar Tree.

Fall Fundraiser – Allison Denenberg stated that this Fall Fundraiser will again be No-Fuss. It will begin at Open House and continue through September 28th. She is looking into the possibility of extended donation opportunities to grandparents and other relatives. At the September meeting, a Kindle Fire will be raffled off to all families who have already participated. A thank you note for any donation will be generated by “pay4schoolstuffonline”.

Spelling Bee – Mary Yee reported that she and Maureen Aronhime are looking into running a Spelling Bee at Poplar Tree this year. Pam Gomez has agreed to

be the teacher proctoring the Bee. Mary also reported the projected costs associated with the Bee would be dependent upon whether a Geography or History Bee is also held at the school and whether the reception would include the Reflections winners, as no one has stepped forward to run Reflections. More details will be shared at the September meeting.

Announcements

The next meeting will be held at Poplar Tree Elementary on September 25th at 7PM. Room TBD, but possibly is the Language Arts room.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Yee

Recording Secretary