

Poplar Tree Elementary

PTA Meeting Minutes August 12, 2015

CALLED TO ORDER: 10:01

In attendance: Sharon Williams, Holly Walker, Chris Ferragamo, Heather Phillips, Heather Ellison, Karen Dunham, Kara Balzano, Allison Denenberg, Lisa Melchiori, Stacy Casey, Scott Thimons, Christine Myers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Review meeting minutes from May 13, 2015. Minutes were approved as written.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

STRATEGIC PLAN

In July, the School Board approved "Ignite: FCPS Strategic Plan 2015-20". The plan goals defined by the Board are:

- ✓ Students Success - We commit to reach, challenge, and prepare every student for success in school and life.
- ✓ Caring Culture - We commit to foster a responsive, caring, and inclusive culture where all feel valued, supported, and hopeful.
- ✓ Premier Workforce - We commit to invest in our employees, encourage innovation, and celebrate success.
- ✓ Resource Stewardship - We commit to champion the needs of our school communities and be responsible stewards of the public's investment.

To implement this theme locally, Poplar Tree Elementary will focus on "Igniting Our GPS for Students' Success". The GPS standing for:

- ✓ Goals
- ✓ Purposeful teaching and learning
- ✓ Strategic Plan for success

POPLAR TREE IN NUMBERS

Staffing and Students as of August 3, 2015

Grade	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Ave # Per Class
K	62	3	21
1	62	3 (awaiting final approval to open 3 rd class)	21
2	95	4	24

Grade	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Ave # Per Class
3 gen ed	68	3	23
3 aap	38	2	19
4 gen ed	57	2	28
4 aap	78	3	26
5	78	3	26
6	66	2	33

Total Students = 604, as follows:

General Education, Grades 1-6 - 372

Special Education, Level II - 54

AAP - 116

Kindergarten - 62

Additional Narrative Regarding Staffing: The staffing is good for next year. We may receive an Instructional Assistant (IA) for the two sixth grade classes. The average of 33 students per class is just over the cap of 32 for an IA. It is not high enough to warrant a third, 6th Grade class. The incoming AAP staff are all experienced and come from the AAP program. There are two new speech teachers for the 2015-16 school year.

SOL SCORES

Our SOL scores are up from last year and continue to be above the Department of Education's metric. Our pass rates are:

English - 91%

History - 97%

Math - 92%

Science - 94%

TECH TALK

See attached reports: "FY16 Poplar Tree Technology Upgrades (Phase I)" and "SIS Parent Account User's Guide"

A large percent of the Tier 1 items have been purchased.

Member question: "What happens to old computers?"

There are three categories of computers in the schools. Standard computers are those less than five years old. Limited computers are six to ten years old. They are still functional, but are not performing at the ideal level for classroom use. These Limited Computers are used within the

school in other ways, but not in the classroom. The last category is the Legacy Computers; these are greater than ten years old and are not functional for the classroom. The Legacy Computers are sent out of the school as they are replaced.

Member question: "How long will it take to mount the Smartboards?"

All work orders have been submitted to FCPS, but there is a backlog. There is no clear timeline for delivery.

SIS Parent Account - The Student Information System (SIS) will allow parents to see things like report cards, attendance information, and class schedules. All FCPS students in each family will be in one account. Blackboard will be tied to SIS (old system won't work.) New account set-up letters will be sent to families that haven't previously set up an account. See the attached User's Guide for additional information.

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, Holly Walker

This year is the 25th Anniversary of Poplar Tree Elementary School! School will be giving wristbands to the students and shirts for the staff. There are plans for a 25th anniversary-themed yearbook cover contest and a Panther News Show Special Broadcast. The PTA reported that they will also be tying the 25th anniversary theme into the Fall Festival.

Girls on the Run (GOTR) - GOTR needs a PTA volunteer to coach. There are teachers that are interested in helping but not being the coach. To be a coach, volunteers must go through training, a background check, and have had CPR training. In order to receive a coach registration discount, the coach needs to register by Aug 24th.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FUNDRAISING 2015-16

We will not have a Boosterthon this year. There will be a no fuss fundraiser for week leading up to fall festival with theme of 25th anniversary. There will be several spirit nights (four throughout year) at local establishments. Some location suggestions are: Sweet Frog, Chick Fil A, Jersey Mike's, Chipotle, and Tony's New York Pizza. Please contact Chris Ferragamo with any suggestions or contact information if you have a connection to a local restaurant.

NEW CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

There are several new before/after school clubs this year, including: Math, Science, First Lego League, and Yoga. We will also offer Scrabble and Mad Science. Additionally, the PTA is working with EC

Lawrence (a Fairfax County Park) to bring a Nature Club to Poplar Tree. New activities at PTES include Geography Bee and the WATCH Dogs group for dads.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

See attached list.

TREASURER'S REPORT

See attached

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT

An internal audit was completed August 4, 2015. The report is being finalized (draft attached) and will be submitted for a vote at the September PTA meeting

See attached - Allison reviewed Auditor Comments

STAFF APPRECIATION

The Staff Appreciation committee is planning the back to school breakfast for staff, to be held August 31, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

DONATION TO SCHOOL

In June, PTA Membership approved via an electronic vote, \$25,000 from fundraiser to be donated to school for technology.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair goal is to combine membership and directory in an easy to use, online form. The paper form will still be available. See attached drafts.

Directory updates or opt out deadline is September 28th. The goal is to publish the directory in October.

Virginia PTA membership dues increased \$.25 per member. For families in which both parents are members of the PTA, this results in an increase fee of \$.50 per family and a decrease in revenue to the PTA.

TEACHER GIFT MEMBERSHIP

A voice vote was held to gift PTA membership dues to teachers that join. Chris Ferragamo will add a line to the budget for October.

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)

PTES is bringing the WATCH DOGS program in for the 2015-16 school year. The primary goal is to get dads and granddads involved and visible to the students.

Holly Walker is "Top DOG", responsible for working with the teachers and volunteers to schedule the dads' time in the school.

The program starts with a kickoff meeting, likely to be held in October.

Dads volunteer their time, an entire day. Some companies will allow leave to allow for participation. The program will likely run from November through April.

The school is asking PTA to sponsor the program, \$365 for start-up plus the cost of the kick-off night (usually pizza and water/soda.) Chris Ferragamo will add to budget for vote at September meeting.

More information is available at www.fathers.com/watchdogs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindergarten picnic - August 18th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Grades 1-6 picnic - August 25th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Open House September 3rd 11:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

PTA Meeting - September 16th, 10:00 a.m.

Fall Festival - October 24th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned - 11:20 a.m.