

Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Start Time: 6:05 – End Time 7:05pm

Executive Committee Attendees:

David Whiting – President; Aparna Vemuru – Vice President of Community Affairs;
Heather Aboy – Recording Secretary; Dan Lupo – Treasurer; Sudha Mony –
Communications Secretary; Jayashree Ramani – Financial Secretary

32 Members in attendance

1. Presentation of certificate to the PTA Volunteer of the Month for September, Mrs. Jesleen Papneja
2. Request for volunteers to help the school nurse regarding for Health Room Screenings October 7th and 8th for hearing and vision testing. Need for volunteers each morning and afternoon.
3. Comments from Chess Chair
 - a. Chess tournament being hosted at Floris on Saturday, September 26th
 - b. This is an open chess tournament to anyone in the school community
 - c. Currently 60 registrations but can accommodate 100+ players
 - d. Register on PT Board
4. Comments from the instructors of the THiNK Online Writing Seminar – Mr. Samuel Hsiang and Ms. Grace Huang
 - a. THiNK is an online writing seminar hosted by TJ High School students as community service, and therefore is no cost to participants
 - b. It is an 8 week online writing workshop. There will be 4 writing assignments that will be reviewed and feedback provided by an editor
 - c. There are lessons every 2 weeks with reading assignments
 - d. This is for students grade 4-6
 - e. For more information contact thinkwriters@gmail.com
5. Comments from the Friends of Floris Chair – Mrs. Raman Malhotra
 - a. All money raised from FOF goes directly to Floris student enrichment.
 - b. Our goal this year is \$30,000; with \$25,000 going to the PTA, and \$5,000 to the Principals fund benefit the school
 - c. As of 9/22/15 have raised almost \$19,000
6. Comments from Spirit Wear Chair- Ms. Wanda Brown
 - a. As of 9/22/15 have sold 54 pieces of spirit wear. Goal is to sell 200 items.
 - b. Last day to order spirit wear was 9/26, this was extended to 9/30 to hopefully increase sales
 - c. Many items run small – so size up.
 - d. Spirit Ball is Friday, November 13th

7. Special Guest Speaker, Mr. Ted Velkoff, at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board
 - a. Fairfax county is approaching 190,000 students – the 9th largest county in the United States, with a growth rate of about 2,000 students a year for the last 10 years
 - b. Currently the county is facing a \$72M shortfall for next year, assuming a 3% increase and estimates of available state funding
 - c. All supervisors care about eh schools – but don't have many tools to raise more money other than to raise property tax
 - d. 88-90% of the funding goes to compensation – so that is why class sizes or no teacher raises are often a target to funding shortages, but we are asking the community and board to make cuts elsewhere
 - e. Question from the audience: Why do we not see more cuts at the administration level?
 - i. Over the last 10 years there have been significant cuts, and the fear is if cut much further it will fall apart.
 - ii. There was an efficiency study done that said the school system is about as efficient as possible. The few recommendations for improvement that were made were implemented
 - f. The proposed budget is presented to the Board in January. Once approved by the board it becomes the advertised budget. The county then approves how much money from the state and county the school system will receive, and this sets the budget
 - g. In early March the county puts forward the advertised tax rates, at this point we will know if there is any new revenue
 - h. For every dollar that is raised in Fairfax county, 79% of it stays in Richmond and goes elsewhere. The local composite index helps make education equitable across VA, based on the ability of the locality to pay. Therefore, Fairfax pays significantly more than we get back.
8. Principals Statement
 - a. SOL Testing is going very well. Current pass rate is about 95%, one of the highest if not the highest in the County.
 - b. Floris student's success is a direct reflection of the parent involvement and motivated staff.
9. Projectors
 - a. Thank you for the welcome back breakfast, it was much appreciated by the teachers and staff
 - b. Thank you to the volunteers who helped stuff the back-to-school packets
 - c. Thank you to the PTA for the teacher start-up checks
 - d. Thank you for the projectors that are loved by the teachers, students, and parents
 - e. We started the year with 686 students enrolled. This included 38 new students from the Discovery Square housing area
 - f. We have 2 very large grade levels; with grades 4 and 6 having about 30

students in each class. To address this we added a new Kindergarten teacher, as well as IAs for grades 4 and 6.

10. Approval of Minutes

- a. Wanda Brown made the motion to approve the minutes from 6/9/2015; Divya Reddy seconded; all were in favor.

11. Budget and Finance – Mr. Dan Lupo

- a. PTA Treasurer presented the 2015-2016 PTA Proposed Budget. The budget assumes \$23,000 in revenue from FOF. The budget is based on actuals of expenses over the last several years. This year's proposed budget is a balanced budget.
- b. Last year the budget required a small savings draw of ~\$1,600, not to including the withdraw to fund the projectors.
- c. Currently there is about \$22-24K in reserve, with our goal being about one year of operating funds in reserve.
- d. 2014-2015 Audit Report – All money was accounted for.
- e. Wanda Brown motioned to approved the budget, financials, and audit report. Jessica Peristere seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor of approval.

12. By-laws Revision

- a. The VA PTA recommends that the By-laws be reviewed and revised every few years
- b. Highlights of the changes included:
 - i. Streamlining the Board responsibilities and moving the details to the standing rules to easy any administrative changes
 - ii. President and the Board have the ability to manage and direct committees
 - iii. Added a 2 year term limit for committee chairs
 - iv. Eliminated 2 year term limit for Board Members
 - v. Changed fiscal year to align with the transition of the board
 - vi. Board may transition in May OR June
 - vii. Raman Malhotra motioned to approve the By-laws. Wanda Brown seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor of approval.

13. Emergency Preparedness – Mr. Dave Gerstner

- a. If a visiting parent/volunteer is in the building during a drill or true emergency event (Fire, Lockdown, Tornado, etc.) please proceed with the rest of your child's class, follow directions, and do not remain in the building unattended

14. Next meeting will be October 15th; the meeting will be followed by a Westfield Pyramid Math Info Night/Workshop