

Kenmore PTA Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

Official Meeting started at 7:02pm

Welcome – Fran Cloe

- The meeting began with an ice breaker courtesy of the CEC committee, followed immediately by a presentation on Challenging Racism.

Challenging Racism – Leah Madaral and Wakefield parent and Course Attendee, Kate

- “Challenging Racism: *Learning How*” is an APS sponsored educational workshop series for parents, teachers and community members. Through reading, stories, activities and conversation, participants learn to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. The conversations that take place encourage a basic understanding of racism and bias.
- Program will start on October 23 and requires commitment to attend all 11 sessions, which take place bi-weekly. Time TBD but currently planned for 4-6:30pm at Kenmore.
- Register to attend at challengingracism.org. Classes accept only 16 students so sign up soon if you are interested in attending.
- All parents and teachers are encouraged to sign up for the classes. An interpreter can be provided for the 11 classes, however, the reading material that accompanies the class is only available in English.

Committee Reports:

- [Minutes from the last PTA meeting](#) were approved

Treasurer’s Report

- Net income thus far is \$9,505.93. This is driven by:
 - Income of \$11,519.28, driven mostly by Membership (\$5,021.98), Harris Teeter bonus from last year (\$2,000), 5k from last year (\$1,916.80), and T-shirt sales (\$1,355).
 - Expense of \$2,013.35, driven mostly by T-shirt expenses (\$1,287)
- Our cash position includes \$32,573.44 in the bank, \$3,361.98 at Paypal (membership), less \$1,352.61 in checks that haven’t posted, for a net cash position of \$34,582.80.
- We remain financially stable.

SpiritWear Report

- [Still taking spirit gear orders](#) until the end of the month. Check or money order preferred. If cash is only option, please reach out to Monica Armas-Bonzano directly.
- Looking into selling magnets in the near future.

5K FUNdraiser Report

- Fundraising goal: \$2,000. Currently 32 registrations in hand.
- Reminder that event takes place on November 4 at Bluemont Park. Student registration is \$10, Adult registration is \$25 and KMS Staff registration is free. [Registration is still open.](#)
- “Scholarships” are available for students needing financial assistance to participate. See Michelle Gillespie or any member of the PTA executive committee if you are interested in a scholarship
- This is an “out and back” race. Start/finish line is located at the far end of the baseball/softball fields. A map will be provided shortly.
- Volunteers are needed! Please contact Michelle Gillespie, or any member of the PTA Executive Team, if you can volunteer to help. We will need help with packet pickup (prior to the race), setting up and manning water stations and registering runners on the day of the race.
- Sign up by October 20 to get a t-shirt along with your registration.

Principal’s Report – David McBride

- Kenmore’s Halloween Concert takes place on 10/11 at 5pm

Community Engagement Committee (CEC) Report – Ryoko Reed

- Goal of the CEC is to create an inclusive school community to ensure that all students and families feel welcome, are engaged in the PTA, and are able to equally participate in PTA-sponsored activities
- The CEC supports, advises, and facilitates PTA activities to support inclusiveness
- To date, the CEC has accomplished the following: Founding of CEC in July; Monthly meetings; created PTA Meeting Ice Breaker Activities; created aPTA Inclusivity Checklist; developed PTA Meeting Topics with Teacher Presentations and developed a PTA Teacher Presentation Protocol.
- All are welcome to join this committee.

Hispanic Parents Committee – Janeth Valenzuela

- Fran Cloe reminded us that there is only one PTA, not two. There is no Hispanic PTA but there is a Hispanic Parents Committee. They host a monthly meeting (in Spanish), on the 4th Saturday of every month at 10am in the Kenmore Library. During the Hispanic Parents Committee meeting, speakers external to Kenmore will give presentations. A calendar of speakers will be posted shortly. Our Tuesday PTA meetings (in English), held at 7pm in the Library, will host speakers that are internal to the school and conduct PTA business. All parents are encouraged to attend BOTH meetings. Spanish/English interpreters will be at both meetings. A calendar of speakers will be posted shortly.
- Hispanic Heritage night is coming up on November 3rd, from 6pm-9pm in the Kenmore auditorium. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the music and performances!
- [Harvesting Our Dreams](#) is coming up on October 20. This is an APS wide event taking place at Kenmore. Details are available on the APS website.

DC United Report – Fran Cloe

- We have repeatedly had poor turnout for this fundraiser. In 2016 we sold only 13 tickets. To encourage more participation, we lowered the price to the event in 2017 but only sold

3 tickets this year and ended up losing money. We will not be sponsoring a DC United fundraiser in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A reduction in PTA dues was proposed at our first PTA meeting, as a means of encouraging more families to join the PTA. We will be voting on this proposal in our next meeting to allow a 30 day time period to pass.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Student Directory –
 - Discussion regarding the Student Directory took place. The Student Directory is freely available, online, to members of the PTA.
 - A message was brought to the PTA that the Directory should be free to all and not be tied to PTA membership. Rebuttal from the membership noted that the Directory itself is not free. It takes time (all volunteer) and money to put it together. By joining the PTA, the cost is offset and the resources can be spread further. Open for discussion at a future time.
 - Debate over Online v. Paper versions of the directory took place. If a paper version is created, we will need to cover the cost of printing and would pass that cost on to the consumer directly (eg: \$5/directory). No clear indication from membership in the room whether there was a strong preference for one over the other. A poll has been created on [the Kenmore Parents facebook page](#) to elicit feedback from the community.
- Parent/Teacher Social is being planned. Date TBD
- Newsletter Submission due date is this Friday. Send submissions to Rachel Naab. rnaab2000@yahoo.com
- Reviewed upcoming calendar of events
- Kenmore Middle School is participating in community service for Hurricane and Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico.
 - Sponsored by the Kenmore Check-In Program, Future Business Leaders of America, World Languages Dept and ACPD.
 - October 13th and October 27th, donation trucks will be parked at KMS Main Entrance.
 - Donation boxes will be placed on the first floor.
 - [List of items needed](#) is available on the KMS website.

Presentation: Growth Mindset – Dr. Michelle van Lare

- KMS 8th grade English teach Dr. Michelle van Lare presented information on Growth and Fixed mindsets based on author Carol Dweck's, "Growth Mindset". We started out discussing what "smart" means to different people which segued into Growth v. Fixed mindset definitions. Fixed mindsets are static and tend to focus on performance (eg: getting a good grade) while Growth mindsets are malleable/dynamic and focus on process and mastery (eg: working hard, not giving up). Both mindsets need to be utilized for students to live up to their highest potential. The entire KMS teaching staff is being

trained in understanding these mindsets and learning how to encourage students using different techniques and language, based on the mindset of the student at the time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30