

Kenmore Middle School PTA Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2018

Official meeting commenced at 7:02pm

Welcome – PTA President, Fran Cloe

Principal's Report –

Mr. McBride presented information on school transfer information,

- Currently 95/123 families that have requested a transfer to Kenmore for 2018/19 school year have been offered seats.
- Discussion regarding TJMS transfer rates were also discussed, including known reasons why neighborhood children might transfer to TJ. Would like to reduce the number of neighborhood kids transferring to TJ; open to suggestions on marketing the school to potential new students.
- Kenmore has the smallest enrollment of all middle schools in Arlington.
- If the school enrollment reaches 990, we will realize an increase in resources to accommodate the population.

Reviewed twitter feed highlights:

- Monet installation in the hallway; will soon be installing more large scale material in hallway to emphasize the arts at Kenmore
- Accreditation changes coming in VA. Kenmore will see benefits with the changes; there will be a better system of accountability and will not be exclusively test oriented.
- Discussion regarding gap groups and efforts to shore up English reading achievements
- Crossing Guard Appreciation Day (2/14/18). Thanks given to all Kenmore's crossing guards and special congratulations to Ms. Almaz Abebe, winner of the state of Virginia's, "Outstanding Crossing Guard of 2017-2018".
- Other highlights: "Love the Bus Week"; US Capitol Field Trip; GEMS Club; Alfred Street HBCU Festival; Summer Activities Fair; Solar Panel Installation; Wrestling results; Kennedy Center field trip/Alvin Ailey Dance. Twitter feed is found here: <https://twitter.com/APSKenmore>

Question from parent to Mr. McBride: Is Kenmore seeing an increase in fights this year? Mr. McBride responded: He doesn't believe there is an increase in fighting this year. Suspension data is kept in two databases, one available via the state to the public and one available only to members of the school system. He will present data at the next PTA meeting.

Old Business

- Motion to approve January Minutes. Approved.
- Science Fair luncheon, provided by the PTA, was a great success

New Business

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Tim Watson, reviewed our budget to date including expected income and future expenditures. We have spent \$7k out of \$24k budgeted but the balance of funds is expected to be spent with 2nd half commitments (ie: Graduation, Teacher Grants etc).

- Discussion took place regarding two new funding requests, one for an increase in teacher grant funding and one for funding CEC's 7th Grade End of Year event.
- Teacher grants increase: We currently have \$40k in teacher grant requests but only have \$14k in the budget. A request to increase the fund by \$1500 was made by the grants committee. Discussion took place regarding increasing revenue through membership and bringing awareness to parents on how PTA monies directly impact their children. Suggestions on increasing awareness included requesting teachers provide photos of the PTA funding in action and a recurring column in the Cougar News newsletter.
- 7th Grade End of Year event: discussion took place on the Community Engagement Committee's (CEC) request. All members are welcome to join and participate in the CEC. The request is to fund a fun fair activity for the 7th graders. CEC will provide more details about their plan at a future meeting.
- Motion was made to increase budget by \$2500 to accommodate new funding requests for 7th Grade End of Year Event (\$1K) and additional Teacher Grants (\$1500). The motion to vote on increased funding was approved and seconded. The PTA membership present at the meeting voted: 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.
- Budget request for PTA social was cancelled.

Upcoming PTA sponsored Events

- Bubble Soccer taking place on March 16. Kenmore v Ashlawn
- Silent Auction bidding takes place March 12-23. Kelly Alexis is leading the effort and needs help. Please contribute gift cards, services and basket items! This is the PTA's largest fundraiser of the year and we need the whole community to pitch in.

CCPTA

- APS will no longer tell children when their lunch account balance is negative, but instead will try to reach parents. Some people indicated that they didn't use MySchoolBucks because of the fee. However, the fee is only if you make on-line payments. One can still set up an account and receive low-balance notifications for free. It was suggested that this information be disseminated.
- There are new graduation requirements, starting with students who are in 8th grade this year. It will mean fewer SOL tests that must be passed for an Advanced Diploma.
- There will be shorter (but more) summer school classes offered for elementary students this year, giving more students the opportunity to participate in strengthening or enrichment classes.

Note to Parents, Members and rising 6th grade families: Please consider volunteering to fill a PTA office next year. Vacancies for 2018-19 will include: Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Faculty Game coordinator, School Supply coordinator, Kenmore Dines Out! Coordinator.

Meeting concluded at 8:02pm followed immediately by a presentation from counselor, Erin Gragen, "How Parents Can Support Friendships and Social Skills At Home?"