

Kenmore PTA Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2014

Official Meeting Started at 7:05 pm

Review and Approve - PTA Meeting Minutes From November 2013 – Motion made to approval; all in favor. (No December 2013 meeting due to winter storm)

Principal's Report – Dr. Word

- Science week is this week. 8th and 7th Grade Science Fair is Wednesday, January 15 and a approximately 458 students will present 432 projects.
- The 6th grade science night is Thursday, January 16th.
- Basketball season has started
- Today Dr. Word and a few others were introduced to a program called NBC Learn with is a digital learning tool. APS and George Washington University are partnering together on this learning tool. NBC Learn are learning videos organized and approved by state standards. The faculty will be introduced to the learning took in February 2014.
- End of 2nd Quarter is January 17
- ACCESS testing has started today and will continue through the week. The testing is for ESHILT students and accesses speaking, listening and writing skills. Kenmore has a large number of students going through the tests. Federal Government requires ELL (English Language Learners) to track progress
- Kenmore held a transfer orientation today at the school – the orientation was well attended. There is a good upswing of out of boundary enrollment
- A big Thank You to the PTA for supporting the Science Fair - outside judges will receive lunch of pizza, sandwiches and Ethiopian food all because of the PTA's efforts.
- The production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* bring brought in close to \$1,000 in donations (approximately \$300 the first night; \$560 the second night).

Treasurer Report – Cathy Constantine

- Disbursed \$9,000 of the \$12,000 in grant money
- Checking and Savings accounts are good
- Silent Auction which is the school's biggest fundraiser will be end to of March
- Kenmore PTA is update on VA State dues, County dues. Taxes have been filed and the audit is complete

- Guia Ramos Wallace, PTA President requested that the PTA members vote on increasing the budget from \$500 to approximately \$1,900 for the Kenmore Directory. A motion was made to approve, all were in favor.

CCPTA – Chris Ditta

- Last meeting was Monday, January 13 – there was a presentation on e-Learning. There will be an event on February 5 free for education educators to hear more on e-learning, long-distance learning and digital learning.
- The on-line budget tool for Arlington County will be available next week for county residence to provide feedback on budget for next year's budget. The tool is similar to last year with enhancement such as a Spanish version. Tool is open for 3-weeks.

Newsletter – Rachel Naab

- The concern is a lot of effort being made to create the newsletter but very few are reading which is mostly due to not knowing that there is a school newsletter. Few ideas to increase awareness are 1) print only the 1st page of the newsletter with the table of contents and send home through backpack mail; 2) Send a stand-alone message announcing the release of the newsletter with a link to the newsletter; 3) Sending text message.
- It was discussed that there is no need to translate the newsletter in Spanish
- It was discussed Dr Word will look into a dedicated laptop with the InDesign software for Rachel to use to create newsletter so that she does not have to sit in a classroom to format.

Hispanic Committee – Janeth Valenzuela

- On January 25, the committee is holding a “Security for Teenage Safety” program to educate teens and parents of the dangers facing our teens in this day and age. They are considering opening up county-wide. Also in February the committee is hosting a movie on “Bullying”. The discussion was whether they could open county-wide and if so, they would like to sell popcorn and water and would it be OK to have in the Kenmore Theater vs. the Black Box theater. Dr Word agreed to make an exception to the rule as long as it was only water and popcorn. The money earned from the popcorn and water will go back to the Hispanic Committee.

8th Grade Activities Chair -

- Dr Word encouraged starting the process now to lock in the boat and the cost; looking into affordable transportation.

Fundraising

- Escrips / Grocery - still looking for a coordinator to handle. Some money is coming in from Target and grocery stores
- Silent Auction – Guia asked Connie Sherman-Pollard to follow up with Nina on the auction
- Kenmore-Gunston Faculty Basketball Game – Connie Sherman-Pollard will follow up with Mr Baugh
- Restaurant Nights – Guia will be organizing another Silver Diner night for Kenmore

Other Business – Notable Discussions

- Looking for a coordinator for school supplies – on-line ordering of school supplies so that parents do not have to shop for supplies prior to the school year starting.
- Discussion on how to improve PTA membership. PTA membership is very low and we need to think of ways to sign up more individuals/families. Suggestion 1) Send PTA membership forms the second week of school rather than in the 1st Day Packet. Dr Word said they may consider handling and paying for postage 2) Send out blitz messaging reminding parents to sign up for the PTA during “Back to School” night, 6th Grade Orientation and other events that draw a crowd.
- Also discussed how to get more parents involved in volunteer activities. One idea as to give “participation coupons” to parent for every time they showed up at a school event, signed up to volunteer or attended a PTA Meeting. The parents would then give the coupons they earned to the student so the student may have a chance to get invited to the “Cougar Lounge”. The idea would be potentially 10 coupons per event/or volunteer. Dr Word will talk it over with the team leaders about this idea. Another idea is so to maybe “segment” groups i.e band parents, dance parents, basketball parents and contact them as a group to get them involved or have them committee commit as a group to volunteering for an activity.
- Kenmore Directory - There was discussion on the real need of having a Kenmore hard-copy directory. Dr Word feels that the need for a hard-copy directory is satisfying only a hand full of parents but the larger population does not feel there is a need for one. The PTA meeting attendees generally agreed with Dr Word. The expense is not worth it - \$1,900. The directory will be printed this year however next year the committee will look into an on-line version, maybe a direct link from ParentVue, maybe using Blackboard etc.

**Multimodal Transportation & Student Safety Special Committee -
Jana Lynott**

- Jana serves on the committee which is made up of 15 voting members (parents, community member and 2 students). 5 non-voting members which are APS staff.
- Committee meets twice per month for the last year and will continue until June 2014.
- The public is allowed to come in at the beginning of each meeting and will have 3 minutes per person to express their concerns / suggestions.
- Their primary focus is:
 - Health and Safety Issues
 - On-time bus performance
 - Effective Traffic Management
 - Walking distance boundaries
 - Reviewing County Policy and Transportation Policy
- APS has hired a consulting group to do a transportation survey/study
- APS also has a grant to hire a Safe Route to School Coordinator. This is a one-year grant. This coordinator will come to schools and other venues to teach students/teachers/parents about safety rules et
- To get detail information on the committee's philosophy and focus along with notes from prior meetings you can go to <http://www.apsva.us/page/20993>
- To Yahoo Group is <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mmtsssc/info>
- To contact Jana - janalynottt@yahoo.com
- Kenmore is looking for interested parents to organize “safe routes to school” walking team, biking teams. Please contact Guia Ramos Wallace.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.