Kenmore Middle School PTA Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2021

**Meeting commenced at 7:07 pm.**

**In attendance:** The meeting was held via Zoom and there were approximately 60 participants.

**Welcome and Introductions** – Marianne Talbot (President) welcomed everyone to the first PTA meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. She introduced David McBride, Principal.

**Principal’s Report** – Mr. McBride stated how wonderful it has been to see the 939 students in on-campus learning. He thanked everyone who stepped up to support the students during the past year and indicated that the school year is off to a great start. The Administration team was introduced, and Mr. McBride indicated that parents should reach out to 1) Excel teacher; 2) Grade-level counselor; and 3) Grade-level Assistant Principal with any student issues/concerns. Mr. McBride stated that the staff is addressing some safety concerns along Carlin Springs Road. Students are reminded to cross only at crosswalks and, if biking, should maintain a slow speed on sidewalks. Staff is placed along Carlin Springs Road to assist. Mr. McBride reminded parents that Kenmore is a site for daily COVID testing and that “close contact” is defined by “3 feet or less for more than 15 minutes”. Approximately 125 students opted in for daily testing; 6th graders are being tested during 3rd period and 7th/8th graders during lunch. Kaitlin Bresnahan (Director of Counseling) introduced herself and stated the best way to reach the counselors is via email. The counseling department is creating a calming space at Kenmore where students can visit to take a break. More information is forthcoming regarding social-emotional learning plans.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Kathy Evans (Treasurer) reviewed the SY 2021-2022 PTA budget. She elaborated on the “no sweat fundraiser” explaining that it is an easy/efficient way to raise money (ie. check writing campaign). Kathy indicated plans to focus more on this type of fundraiser as she found much success in it at the Elementary School level. She stated that the 5k course might be certified by DC Road Runners which would make it a bigger draw for local runners. Runners could use the Kenmore 5k to qualify for other certified races. Parents are encouraged to contact the PTA if they would like to become involved with planning the race (Spring). Kathy stated that the online auction is typically the biggest fundraiser, and the PTA needs volunteers to manage the online event. The PTA will continue with “Kenmore Dines Out”, one night a month and receives a portion of all proceeds. The current budget does not reflect a line item for the Inclusion Assembly, however, Kathy stated that the budget can be approved and amended as needed when/if the item needs to be inserted. A motion was made to include a $50 donation to SEPTA (Arlington Special Education PTA). A unanimous vote in favor of the motion was obtained, and this line item will be added to the budget. Kathy motioned for approval of the budget. The motion was seconded, and all present voted to approve the SY 2021-2022 budget.

**Guest Speaker: Rhina Alvarado, Early Identification Program (EIP)/George Mason University (GMU)** – Ms. Alvarado described the EIP at GMU to families. She explained that the EIP program is in place to help 7th graders and first-generation families plan college pathways. The 7th grader can be nominated for the program by contacting their 7th grade counselor and asking for a nomination. This is a free, 5-year program that could result in a GMU scholarship opportunity. Ms. Alvarado progressed through the program herself and now serves as Associate Director of the EIP program. For more information contact: rascenci@gmu.edu; [www.eip.gmu.edu](http://www.eip.gmu.edu); 703-993-3120; eip@gmu.edu.

**Committee Reports** – Monica Bonzano (Spirit Wear): Monica announced that the link to purchase spirit wear is on the Kenmore website. The online store closes on October 1 so that merchandise can be delivered to Excel teachers by October 18. Monica advised that parents order a size up as the kids grow out of items quickly. She stated that KMS car magnets will be sold for $5 at school events. Any spirit wear questions can be addressed to bonzanom@hotmail.com. Mary Dallao (Outdoor Committee): Mary encouraged everyone to get involved. She announced that an Eagle Scout has built tables and benches for the students to use outside. Mary also stated that the proposed dates for the Kenmore 5k are either the weekend of April 23 or April 30. The event will be a 5k run/2 mile walk so that it is inclusive for everyone (of all abilities) to participate. The money raised will be used to benefit the health of all students. Any questions can be addressed to mdallao@hotmail.com. Claudia Cuellar Ramirez (Wednesday Parents Committee): Claudia announced that the committee is still not meeting in person, and she will keep everyone updated on the status of committee meetings. The group meets in Spanish and English translation is available. The committee is very active in assisting with Back-to-School night, Teacher Appreciation events, and 8th grade promotion. If you would like to be added to the group, please contact claudiaandhugo2@yahoo.com. Smitha Konduri (Grocery Cards/Amazon): Smitha announced that the Kenmore listserv links are up on the Kenmore website. Go to “PTA”, then “Get Connected!” to sign up. She also announced that the Harris Teeter and Amazon links are available. Go to “PTA”, then “Grocery Card Fundraising” to sign up.

**Other Business** – Marianne thanked everyone and reminded parents that there are still some open committee positions. She encouraged everyone to get involved and to join the PTA. Marianne opened the floor for any questions, there were no questions.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.**Submitted by:Jamie Pilot
Kenmore PTA Secretary
on October 4, 2021