Kenmore Middle School PTA Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2022

**Meeting commenced at 7:10 pm.**

**In attendance:** The meeting was held via Zoom.

**Welcome and Call for Approval of Minutes** – Marianne Talbot (President) welcomed everyone and announced that because the minutes from the January 19, 2022, meeting have not been posted on the website, she could not call for their approval. Approval of those minutes will take place at the May 18, 2022, meeting.

**Principal’s Report** – Mr. McBride reported that while behavioral issues remain, the administration is seeing improvement in academics. He stated the 8th grade SOL has been administered and encouraged everyone to follow Kenmore on Twitter for highlights happening on campus. A review of a few recent highlights included: 7th grade students in the Kenmore Family and Consumer Science program won the 10th Annual Real Food for Kids Culinary Challenge; a Kenmore staff member won an APS All-Star Award; and the students have been involved in supporting the Ukraine refugees. There are traffic calming measures taking place on Carlin Springs Road and the 7-11 management has agreed they will not serve students before, during, and after school. The administration is reminding students to avoid bullying behavior and to be kind. These instances of bullying are being addressed with parents and Mr. McBride assured the communication is 2-way. He has been in touch with other APS Principals and will enact Positive Behavior Intervention. The administration is open to parent volunteers during the school day to be present and mitigate behavior, but these parent partners must be trained and cleared by APS. Mr. McBride announced that Ms. Knigge is out on maternity leave and Ms. MacDonald is replacing her until the end of the school year as the 7th grade Assistant Principal. The new art teacher has been hired to replace Mr. Wilson. A supervised soccer program is being offered after school. The Garden Day was a huge success, and an inclusion pep rally will be held soon. The ‘Your Voice Matters’ survey was given to students during Excel and everyone is encouraged to be honest when answering the survey questions. A Social Emotional Learning Screener will be given to students unless they opted out. Mr. McBride reported that approximately 940 students will be on campus for SY 2022-2023. He stated while COVID numbers are down, a stomach bug is infecting the school. Good hygiene reminders will continue to be reviewed with students.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Kathy Evans performed a 1st quarter review. In January the total income was $1,939.73, the bulk of this income was from “No Sweat” donations ($1,075) and the Arlington Forest Civic Association donated $600. The expenses for January included Teacher Grant checks, Staff Appreciation event reimbursements, and reimbursement to the Eagle Scout who built the benches at the school. Kathy reported that February was a light month with income totaling $105.45, the bulk of the income was proceeds from Amazon Smile. Expenses for February were $1320.92 (Teacher Grants and reimbursement for the Black History Month luncheon). March income totaled $7,657.70. A huge part of this income was based on 5k sponsorships ($4,460.71). Kathy thanked the 5k Committee for their hard work. She stated that the 5k sponsorships are making up for any deficit the PTA will face due to not holding the online auction this year.

Kathy reported that the Executive Committee, in order to provide better usage flexibility for already approved funds, voted on February 23, 2022, to rename the income budget line “On-line Auction” to “Fundraising” and the expense line “Auction/5k” to “Fundraising Expenses”. The budgeted amounts for the line items did not change. The name change is reflected in the approved budget document.

Kathy announced she will be stepping down as PTA Treasurer at the end of SY 2021-2022. The bylaws state a Nominating Committee must be formed/assigned as soon as possible as there needs to be at least 30 days to find and develop a slate of candidates so that the slate can be presented in May and a vote to approve in June.

**School Kits** – Shana Sandberg stated that the Executive Board decided that the PTA will not continue with the School Kit fundraiser for SY 2022-2023. She explained that very few families (10%) are taking advantage of ordering kits and that there is little profit made from this effort given the work it takes to organize. Ms. Joy stated that she should have all supply lists for SY 2022-2023 after Spring Break which will give families ample time to plan and purchase.

**PTA to PTSA** – Marianne announced that the Executive Committee voted to become a PTSA at their February 23, 2022, meeting. She explained that there is an option for student memberships, and this gives students a voice in the PTSA. Student members have the same benefits as their adult counterparts and those students who pay annual dues will be voting members. Those who do not pay can attend general meetings but cannot vote. The same benefit applies to parents and teachers. A student can be nominated or run for Vice President or Secretary but cannot be nominated or run for President or Treasurer. A motion was made and seconded and all approved that the Kenmore PTA will become a PTSA.

**Band Update** – Jay Pratte (Band Teacher) expressed his gratitude to the PTA for the ongoing support (uniforms/instruments) of the Kenmore band program. He reported that the program is growing to reflect the diversity in our school. He stated that 23 new band members joined in the 2nd semester. The PTA will provide support for the cookie dough fundraiser (distribution of dough) and will assist with Jazz night.

**Proposal for School Lunch Support by Volunteers** – Jamie Pilot read a statement provided by a fellow 7th grade parent, Tanya Saunders. In summary, Tanya’s daughter has been a victim of bullying at school and online this year. Her brave daughter gave a statement (in person) to the School Board at their March 24, 2022, meeting. Tanya has a vast professional background in health and mental wellness and is asking for the PTA’s support. She (with the help of volunteers) would like to create creative resources to support our students’ human needs of safety, satisfaction, and connection. She has spoken to Mr. Byrd in the Central Office and would like to create a system of volunteers with a willingness to support at school lunches. The intention is not to parent other children but a means to: gain awareness of lunch culture which has been communicated and described to her as aggressive verbally and physically; support the students with an environment of safety and support; and serve as an adult representing and offering accountability and mirroring of responsible behavior, a quality all parents would want to develop and grow in their children. She would like the PTA’s support in making this happen as soon as possible. Any parents interested should contact Jamie Pilot (swankpilot@comcast.net) and she will work with Tanya on next steps.

**Kenmore 5k Update** – Erika Alvarado spoke about the 5k Run/Walk event scheduled for Saturday, April 30 from 9-11am in Bluemont Park. She stated that the committee is making great progress on the event. All participants will be awarded a medal. Erika will be present during lunch periods so that those who wish to pay cash to register, can do so.

**Outdoor Classroom** – Erika Alvarado announced that the next Garden Day may be held a week before the Kenmore 5k. Details to come.

**Hospitality** – Claudia Cuellar reported that Teacher Appreciation Week is scheduled for May 2-6. More information will be sent after Spring Break and volunteers and supplies will be requested using the SignUpGenius platform.

**Community Engagement Event** – Marianne reported on behalf of Giovana Jenkins. The event is titled “An Event to Remember” and the hope is to draw students, parents, teachers, staff and the community to Bluemont Park picnic shelter on May 14, 2022. The event is to promote health, wellness, kindness, and community. There will be activities for all ages. A Kenmore PE teacher plays for the DC Divas and will be there with some of her teammates to engage with students. The Culinary Arts teacher will be there with her students preparing their award-winning dish “Quinoa Crust Quiche and Apple, Arugula, Walnut Salad” and representatives from Silver Diner and Wegmans will be in attendance.

**8th Grade Promotion** – Janeth Valenzuela reported that there is a plan for an in-person ceremony/reception to be held in June. She stated that details are still being discussed and 8th grade families will be updated as soon as final decisions are made. There is a plan to have the ceremony live streamed. Mr. McBride explained that there are 3 parts of promotion: 1) Promotion Ceremony, 2) Distribution of Promotion Certificates, and 3) Reception (cake, punch, pictures). The administration is currently seeking guidance on reestablishing the tradition of the 8th grade boat party. Mr. McBride mentioned that the Wednesday Hispanic Parents Group and Mr. Baugh are also involved in the planning process.
Marianne thanked everyone for their time and dedication to the PTA.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.**Submitted by:Jamie Pilot
Kenmore PTA Secretary
on April 5, 2022