



General Membership Meeting Minutes September 30, 2021

1. Attendance
 - a. PTO Board - Brian, Cathy, Laura, Jen, Anne, Dan, and Karen
 - b. [General Membership](#) -
 - i. Faculty - Colleen Harris, Stacy Levery, Allie Waite, Lori Balzano,
 - ii. Families - Cathy Manofsky, Ann-Marie Gnall, Jeffry Megher, Ethan Deitrich, Anne Marie Gnall, Brenna Raines, Christy Logue, Jeffrey Meighen, Nicole Desrochers, Katie Grier Noreiga, Cindy McCarthy, Erin Cady, Stephanie Fox
2. Introductions
3. [Draft Budget](#) presentation
 - a. Anne presented the budget to the Membership, reviewed our balance, and discussed a number of the items. Expenses are based on previous budgets.
 - i. Current balance is \$98,11.72. We propose keeping a balance of \$25,000 in reserve. We have \$42,000 available for capital purchases. The reserve amount is the result of money raised in previous years for other projects that did not come to fruition. Previous PTO's were also great fundraisers leading to a well funded PTO.
 - ii. Typo: Skate Zone not Sky Zone
 - iii. It is uncertain which events we and the school will be able to have due to COVID19 restrictions, including the Golf Tournament which raised a lot of money in the past;
 - iv. Added funding for Special Ed and Gifted and Talented programs as well as additional funding for clubs and programs
 - v. Non-academic items that were added included Unity Day tee shirts and possibly Field Day shirts, adding a 2nd Bus driver appreciation day this year
 - vi. Funding was also added for items that Mrs. Harris requested, including additional walkie talkies for teachers, and a printer.
 - b. Membership was made aware of our \$42,000 available for Capital Purchases

- i. Ideas for using it include: Shade for Kindergarten and back playgrounds, update school sign
- ii. Members were asked to think of additional ideas. None were given at that time but members were told to contact Brian at any time if they had ideas

4. Budget Comment Period

- a. Cathy Manofsky, former treasurer, questioned where the funding is for teacher appreciation week (last year they spent \$2,600 after company donations)
- b. Member asked about funding for 5th grade tee shirts
 - i. Mrs. Harris reported that the PTO doesn't usually cover the expenses of 5th grade shirts. She hopes there will be a 5th grade parents group separate from the school and the PTO to take on 5th grade events/issues this year

5. Vote

- a. No other questions or concerns were raised
- b. Motion was made to approve the budget. Motion was seconded by Cathy. Budget approved by unanimous vote.

6. Volunteer Opportunities - Cathy mentioned that we are still unsure what we will be able to offer due to Covid but discussed the current volunteer opportunities, including reviewing which clubs still need chairs

- a. The Play - hopeful but uncertain if we will be able to do it this year. We would need a volunteer to be the producer. Carrie Hayes has done it in the past and may be willing to do it again.
- b. Book Fair - Will be held outside on the basketball court this year.
 - i. Will need a lot of volunteers this year
- c. Holiday Shoppe - this is an annual favorite usually held in Nov but we aren't sure if we will be able to have it this year
- d. Gator Gallop - It was noted that kids really enjoy this and it's an activity that is held outside.
 - i. This is usually a fundraiser which may not be allowed due to covid. It could be done as an activity instead and linked to the Spring running club
 - ii. Kelly Shamah Has done it in the past and would be willing assist in training a new chair
- e. 5th Grade Activities
 - i. Tee shirt and gift (picture frame or clock in the past) are usually NOT paid for by the PTO.
 - ii. Cathy Manofsky is talking to teachers to set up a committee separate from PTO and school to oversee 5th grade activities
- f. Action Item: Cathy will discuss Spanish club and Martial Arts program with Mike Schnieder
- g. No Geography Bee or School store this yr

- h. Assembly Committee - needs a chair. Will need to think outside the box since only allowed to gather in small groups but this could be great for the students
 - i. Science Fair and Talent Show may need to be held virtually.
 - j. Cathy Manofsky offered to chair the Talent Show
 - k. Ann-Marie Gnall offered to be an art helper, 2nd grade yearbook rep, and to lead Gator Gear. **Action Item: Jen will contact her to discuss Gator Gear**
 - l. Jeffrey Meghan - offered to be the Kindergarten yearbook rep
 - m. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Cathy through www.despto.org/volunteer
 - n. Cathy reiterated that you don't have to be a chair to help. Most opportunities need volunteers in addition to the chair
7. Principal's Report - Mrs. Harris reported that the year was off to a good start, aside from some difficulty due to the bus driver shortage.
- a. AACPS has asked that schools hold large group events/activities virtually at least through November (including PTO meetings) but are encouraging small after school clubs
 - b. Students will be doing a lot of testing in the upcoming weeks
 - c. The school had an earthquake and a tornado drill so far this year
8. Open Floor
- a. Member suggested the Board hold some fingerprinting nights to get more volunteers fingerprinted and able to chaperone events. There was a shortage of fingerprinted adults able to attend the recent Water Safety program for the 5th graders because current 5th graders did not have any events requiring fingerprinting last year due to Covid and lack of advanced notice this year. Could be held outdoors. Fingerprint background checks are good for as long as the adult has children in AACPS. **ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Harris to look into setting this up.**
 - b. Mrs. Levery mentioned that another way to get fingerprinted was to be an AACPS employee. We still need substitute teachers and mid-day monitors (11-2:45, doesn't have to be everyday) Contact Mrs. Levery if interested.
9. Upcoming Meeting in November - November 8th at 7:30
10. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned by Brian Ulrich
11. After Membership meeting business
- a. Roy Brady is a school custodian but does not have a favorites form on file
 - b. Budget Surplus
 - i. It was decided that a survey should be sent to membership detailing current ideas for spending the surplus and asking membership to rank

items in order of interest. Also to include space for members to make their own suggestions

1. Anne will get quotes for the playground shade structures and will coordinate walk throughs through Amy and Mrs Harris. Brian mentioned he will send her information that he has.
 - a. If Membership agrees that shade for the Kindergarten and back playgrounds are priority, the goal will be to have them built over the winter and ready for the spring