

Arnold Elementary PTA Board and Committee Meeting

May 13, 2015

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Arnold Elementary Media Center

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order / Welcome**
2. **Approval of February 25, 2015 Minutes**
3. **President's Report:**
 - a. Kerry Petz and Lisa Body attended both County Council budget hearings this month to testify on Arnold Elementary's behalf in support of design funding for a new school building. The Council will vote on the budget June 6. If approved, the design phase for the school will begin in September.
 - b. We are seeking a write-up in the Capital Gazette for our Meditation Garden because it has involved Maryland Master Gardeners.
 - c. New PTA by-laws were approved by the State and are good for three years.
 - d. SchoolKidz school supply orders are moving forward for the next school year, pending the receipt of final supply lists.
 - e. A Thanks-a-Latte was announced for Karen Cassidy who does a great job managing the PTA website and did all of the dedications for this year's yearbook.
 - f. Movie night is probably not happening this year because it was difficult to find a date and we are now nearly out of time.
 - g. The PTA Board was looking for one last person for the three-person audit committee to review the PTA financial documents over the summer, but received a volunteer during the meeting, so the audit committee is now able to proceed.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Available net cash as of May 13 was \$22,535.74.
 - b. Projected spending by the end of June is about \$8,000, to include expenses/reimbursements for the last Book Fair, SchoolKidz, PTA Insurance, Grand Friends Day, Green Team, Staff Appreciation, and Staff Development.
 - c. This will leave about \$14,000 to carry over into next year, which is about \$10,000 more than projected. As it appears we will get be moving into the design process for a new school, we are being careful to purchase/fund things that are not permanent and can be moved to the new school, so there have been fewer purchases.
 - d. All requests for reimbursement should be submitted by June 1 in order to be paid before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. A last call for disbursement requests will be sent out the last week of school.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **CAC:** We were better received at the recent budget hearings than in the past. It appears that the hard battles are over, but we won't know for sure until June if we will get design funding. The Superintendent's Advisory Council is seriously considering moving away from final exams in high school, instead spreading tests throughout the year. This affects AES because it will change a lot of early dismissal days for next year. There is still debate on school start times and cell tower placement.
 - b. **Grand Friends Day:** Grand Friends Day went well. They ate less than expected.

- c. **Labels for Education:** We have earned 20 new books but have not received them yet. Contrary to what we had heard, the Labels for Education program will continue – it is only the e-Labels program that is ending.
- d. **5th Grade Promotion:** Everything is on track. The 5th grade is donating a new podium to the school.
- e. **Teacher Appreciation:** The teachers want to thank the PTA for the lunch and goodies last week.
- f. **Wellness:** Attended the Wellness Council for the Board of Education and learned about a new interface on their website that is very helpful. Hero Boys is having a 5K race on May 31st and will be doing a companion program to Girls on the Run in the fall. Next year the committee wants to focus on staff wellness.
- g. **Yearbook:** The yearbook is done and ordered. This year the committee changed how we charged for dedications and it worked well.
- h. **Mother-Son Fun:** The event went very well - attended a Navy baseball game on a beautiful sunny day. May do an actual mother-son baseball game next year.

6. Principal's Report:

- a. Field day will be run a little differently this year with lower grades in the morning and upper grades in the afternoon. There will both indoor and outdoor activities.
- b. For our Wellness School of Distinction, we now have a meditation garden and a Wellness School bulletin board, and we received a golden apple for being a 2nd round Wellness School.
- c. The Spring Concert will be recorded, but we are having trouble distributing DVDs because we need permission to record and disseminate for every student in the video. We may need to have students include recording permission when they sign up for chorus and band.

7. New Business:

a. Elections:

- i. Nominated officers for the 2015-2016 school year were approved unanimously:
 - 1. President: Lisa Body
 - 2. Vice President: Kerry Petz
 - 3. Secretary: Megan Sar
 - 4. Treasurer: Kathryn Burroughs

b. Committee Chair Updates:

- i. New Committee Chairs for 2015-2016 include:
 - 1. Instructional Volunteers Committee: Dana Schuetter
 - 2. Giant/Safeway Committee: Beth Bobo
 - 3. Guest Artist: Kristine Kaske-Martin
 - 4. Amazon Smiles: Kristine Kaske-Martin
- ii. Committees still needing Chairs:
 - 1. Dad's Club
 - 2. Directory
 - 3. Spirit Wear
 - 4. Box Tops

8. Announcements:

- a. This was the last PTA meeting for the 2015-2016 school year.
- b. Upcoming Events:
 - i. Book Fair: May 18 – 22
 - ii. Field Day: May 29

9. Meeting Adjourned