

Arnold Elementary PTA Board and Committee Meeting

September 23, 2014

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Arnold Elementary Media Center

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order / Welcome**
2. **Guests:** Patrick Armstrong, candidate for Anne Arundel County Council, spoke briefly regarding his support for the construction of a new Arnold Elementary school building and for public education generally. The PTA President noted that the PTA does not endorse Mr. Armstrong, but PTA meetings are open to the public. She also noted there is a candidate's forum coming up on October 1st in Cape St. Claire.
3. **Approval of May 2014 Minutes**
4. **President's Report:**
 - a. Refreshments for the meeting were provided by Emerson Homes, the builder for the nearby major housing construction project, as a sign of goodwill.
 - b. Only 29% of students are currently registered in the online student directory, so parents are urged to go to the link and input their contact information.
 - c. Update on school construction: We are not expecting funding to be approved in the upcoming fiscal year, but it is likely in the following year. There will be one year to complete the design and then construction would begin after that.
5. **Secretary's Report:**
 - a. Reminder to complete and submit PTA membership forms.
6. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. The Treasurer distributed and reviewed the proposed budget for 2014-2015, noting that if all proceeds as planned we will end the year with \$4,599 to carry through the summer and into next year. This includes a net deficit of \$6,522 when comparing income to expenses, partly attributed to PTA doing more activities but also due to a steady decline in donations and contributions. Additionally, the projected decline in overall contributions is because Safeway has stopped accepting credit cards as a way of providing contributions through eScrip.
 - b. Donations for the Walk-a-Thon are currently at only 30% of our goal, but usually most of those contributions come in during the last few days before the event, which is on October 1 this year. If donations don't reach \$8,900 as budgeted we will either need to further decrease spending or do another fundraiser, possibly in the spring.
 - i. Some members suggested the low donations are due to the bombardment of requests for money for all activities at the start of the year.
 - ii. One suggestion was to create a pledge form for kids to collect walk-a-thon pledges and make it a competition.

- iii. There was discussion regarding why we only do the one fundraiser and suggestions made for new ideas that don't require kids to go door-to door. Ideas included:
 - 1. Put a jar in the school for kids to drop their change into
 - 2. Do a spring silent auction either as a dinner event or online
 - 3. For next year make sure to put a PTA table up at Back-to-School night to collect memberships and donations, as well as at Kindergarten orientation.
- c. The PTA must determine how it will spend money for Capital Projects this year. The Principal suggested new classroom rugs and support for STEM week. PTA is currently planning to sponsor the planetarium for STEM week, which will take place the week before Thanksgiving.
- d. Following the budget discussion the proposed 2014-2015 budget was approved.
- e. The Treasurer reported that the audit was completed for 2013-2014 using a three-member audit committee.
- f. Current account balance is \$25,344. Enrichment instructors are scheduled to be paid.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. **Holiday Secret Shop:** Volunteer shoppers have started collecting items for the shop. PTA members were asked to watch for good deals under \$3 and if they find something go ahead and buy it and they will be reimbursed. Items will all cost \$1, \$2, or \$3, except some specialty items. There was a suggestion to have a wrapping station, possibly staffed by high school volunteers.
- b. Chairs are currently needed for Giant/Safeway Rewards, Campbell's Labels for Education, and Fifth Grade Promotion Committees.

8. Principal's Report:

- a. Regarding security of the school, AES is working with the two builders working on the nearby home construction projects to cover the cost of security cameras for the school. AES is low on the priority list for security cameras through the County because it is slated to be rebuilt within the next few years and cameras will be installed then.
- b. There is also going to be a security fence erected around the portable classroom so that you must go through the front door of the school to access it.

9. Announcements:

- a. Next PTA Meeting: **Wednesday, November 19 @ 6:00 pm**
- b. Upcoming Events:
 - i. Wednesday, October 1: Terrapin Trek Walkathon
 - ii. Tuesday, October 21 & Wednesday, October 22: Celebrate Calm Presentation
 - iii. Saturday, October 25: Fall Festival from 10 am to 1 pm
 - iv. Wednesday, November 19: STEM Night
 - v. November 17 – 21: STEM Week
 - vi. Saturday, December 7: Holiday Breakfast and Secret Shop

10. Meeting Adjourned