

Arnold Elementary PTA Board and Committee Meeting

February 25, 2015

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Arnold Elementary Media Center

MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Welcome

2. Approval of December 3, 2014 Minutes

3. President's Report:

- a. Budget items:
 - i. Budgeted funds ideally need to be spent before the end of May so committees with funds still in their line items need to look at how they are going to get their money spent in that time frame.
 - ii. PTA is paying for new classroom rugs out of its Capital Projects funds. The remaining rugs have not yet been ordered, waiting for the threat of burst pipes to be over so they don't immediately get wet.
 - iii. We have had higher than usual revenue from Box Tops but less than usual from Safeway/Escrip due to changes in the program.
- b. We had a request for four Thanks-a-Lattes for the Midshipmen volunteers who chaperoned the Snowflake dance. We can tap into this resource more for volunteers if we can organize people to drive them back and forth.
- c. Thanks-a-Lattes also for those who helped with snow removal.
- d. County budget hearings are coming up May 6 and 11. We are not expecting money this year, but would like to maintain a presence so they don't forget about us.

4. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Available net cash as of February 22 was \$24,539. After the next few months of activities, we expect to end the year with \$4,599 in the bank.
- b. Current loss under Enrichment does not yet reflect Spring Enrichment income.
- c. The Snowflake Dance brought in more than expected.
- d. The Cultural Arts line items for Artist in Residence and Assemblies received \$1,800 in grant monies. We may do an additional assembly this year. We cannot automatically roll those funds over into next year because only the next Board and PTA has the authority to approve that budget.
- e. The Junior Library Guild subscription has been paid for the year.
- f. PTA will be paying \$4,800 toward field trip buses this spring.
- g. The PTA's charitable contribution registration has been successfully renewed.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. **Snowflake Dance:** The dance went very well, but there was some trouble with the photos. The prizes were good, the Midshipmen were a nice addition, and everyone had fun.
- b. **Mother-Son Fun:** Looking at a Navy baseball game later this spring.
- c. **Grand Friends Day:** Grand Friends Day is April 10, which is also an early release day. Contemplating a valet service for grandparents that day or using a golf cart “shuttle”.
- d. **Box Tops:** We have raised \$2,320 so far this year as a school, which is \$400 more than budgeted to date. Campbell’s Labels for Education program is being discontinued in June so all accumulated points need to be spent.
- e. **Enrichment:** Spring Enrichment is underway. It was scaled back to 9 classes because it has gotten to be too much work, but that dropped to 6 classes because of low enrollment.
- f. **5th Grade Promotion:** The committee is having monthly meetings, currently determining the 5th grade’s gift to the school and looking for 4th grade parents to help with the food so the 5th grade parents don’t have to be busy during the event. They would like to send all of the funds through the committee then cut a check to the PTA, but there needs to be further discussion about logistics and liability.
- g. **Green Team:** Did not receive their grant for a new vegetable garden so perhaps will talk to 5th Grade Promotion committee about having the 5th grade provide support as their gift to the school.
- h. **Yearbook:** Still looking for photos to be uploaded to Shutterfly. Books and dedications can currently be ordered online, but a flier will be going home.

6. Principal’s Report:

- a. The Principal announced the PARCC assessment dates for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades in March and May. A flier about the PARCC tests and the testing dates for each grade are being sent home with students. The tests have to be taken during different weeks because the 4th and 5th grades will take the tests online, split between the Chrome books and computer lab. Third grade will test with paper and pencils. The Principal emphasized that we want to empower kids to try their best but we don’t want to stress them out about the tests. We will not receive results of the tests until January 2016.
- b. Since there are no more 4th grade MSA tests to be used for placement in middle school, middle school placement will be based more heavily on teacher assessments and recommendations and county-level tests than previously.
- c. The Science Fair is April 8 and the school is looking for employees of local businesses to help judge since it can’t be parents. Judging will be the morning of April 8, with the open house that night.
- d. The Volunteer Luncheon will be April 27 for all school volunteers, hosted by the teachers and staff.
- e. Mr. Kovacs received more iPads and would like a charging cart to keep them in for the STEM lab. If PTA funds can’t be used then perhaps the PTA could help advertise his Donor’s Choose site to raise the money.
- f. The Principal’s Council has been meeting and very strongly support hosting a movie night. Lisa DeAngelo volunteered to coordinate.

7. New Business:

- a. Bylaws:** The PTA is required to submit its bylaws to the Maryland State PTA every three years, with or without revisions, and the general PTA membership must vote to approve them even if no revisions are made. We are due to submit new bylaws in 2015, so the Executive Committee reviewed the existing bylaws and distributed its proposed bylaws to the PTA membership for a 30-day review. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed bylaws. The motion passed.
- b. Elections:**
 - i.** The Secretary noted that the terms of the existing PTA Board expire at the end of this school year, so we are looking for nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and will need a Nomination Committee Chair to collect nominations for the election in May. Cornelia Wikar volunteered to be the Nomination Committee Chair.
 - ii.** The previous Board had set up a new, second Vice President position to split the duties for managing volunteers for extra-curricular activities and for in-class instructional programs, but the current Board proposed to instead go back to a single Vice President, who would manage extra-curricular volunteers, and create a committee for instructional program volunteers for which we will find a chair. After some discussion it was agreed this was the path to pursue.
- c. Financial Audit Committee:** The Treasurer requested three volunteers to review the PTA's financial files over the summer. No financial background is needed and it requires just a few hours of time.

8. Announcements:

- a. Next PTA Meeting: **May 13 @ 6:00 pm - PTA BOARD ELECTION**
- b. Upcoming Events:
 - i. Heroin Epidemic Town Hall with County Executive: March 25
 - ii. Science Fair Night: April 8
 - iii. Grand Friends Day: April 10
 - iv. Volunteer Appreciation Lunch: April 27
 - v. County Council Budget Hearing at North County High School: May 6
 - vi. County Council Budget Hearing at Annapolis High School: May 11

9. Meeting Adjourned