

Virginia Run Elementary



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**PTA General Meeting
May 12, 2015**

Call to Order: Robin Osterhout, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendees: Robin Osterhout, Amy Roundtree, Kari Lowery, Johannah Evans, Christi Brubaker, Natasha Magrath, Kelly Long, Christy Boyle, Greg Beach, Mark Konchar, Jeanette & Richard Wagner, Mindy Waltham-Sajdak, Mona Sparks, Jacqueline Gay, Troy Johnson, Mary Mclean, Marcia Pokrant, Jaime Bonano, Lynn Velardi, Frank Tutalo, Susan Van Buren, Jason Skerker, Laraine Edwards, Shelley Teras

Minutes: April 14, 2015 membership minutes were approved unanimously. Motion made by Robin and seconded by Christi.

New Business: Robin stated the PTA updated by-laws have been posted for 60 days on the website for review. Robin made a motion to pass the updated by-laws and Johannah seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve the updated by-laws.

Jeffrey James of the Secret Service, Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Jeanette Wagner, Fairfax County Police Detective with Child Exploitation Unit were the guest speakers.

The speakers shared some disturbing statistics and information about children who are approached on-line by sexual predators. It can happen to anyone and parents must be vigilant to protect their children from on-line predators. They suggested that all parents do the following with their children's devices:

Manage all settings to private

Make sure you know who your kids are friends with on-line

Keep computer in the common area of the house

Kids should only use their screen name and not their real name and must NEVER share personal information with anyone

Know who your kids follow

Know your children's passwords

Check settings on games and review games to make sure they aren't getting inappropriate messages

Never let your children have their device at night. It's best to keep their devices in your bedroom so you can hear if device go off indicating that your child receives messages late at night and

investigate! Officer Wagner had many examples of kids sneaking downstairs in the middle of the night to communicate on devices. Also they suggest we should never permit our kids to use applications such as KIK and Omegle. These are social apps in which users (potentially our kids) chat with strangers, and as we know, strangers are not always who they say they are.

Principal Update: Ms. Edwards reminded us of the link for parents to use to share information related to child placement for the next school year. We lost 2 teacher positions for next year and one position is on hold for now until final numbers are in. Ms. Edwards will share next month her estimation of the total number of students and the class sizes for the next year.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 PM