

Virginia Run Elementary



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PTA General Meeting November 14, 2014

Call to Order: Robin Osterhout, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

Attendance: Cynthia Lemke, Amy Hutt, Amy Roundtree, Kari Lowery, Robin Osterhout, Jason Skerker, Mindy Conway, Jacqueline Gay, Maria Cox-Leow, Mary Mclean, Shelley Teras

Two representatives from Fairfax County Safety and Security: Bill Chapman and Dee came to talk about the new Visitor Management System (VMS). Bill provided a history of security improvements in FC due to the increased need. The VMS can be customized for each school. Reports can be pulled and volunteer hours can be tracked with this new system. It will be the standardized system for FC schools. However, it is a layer of security. There will still be door security and the front office staff still monitors people entering the building. Although VRES does not have any cameras currently, it is the ultimate goal of the Safety and Security personnel to have inside and outside cameras in all FC schools.

The VMS checks sex offenders only through the nationwide registry. No other offenses will be checked (i.e. DUI) If there is a match in VMS (especially with a common name), the office staff will check the picture in the nationwide registry and clear the person not matching the photograph. We are encouraged to bring our ID to check in but there is a manual process if you forget.

Minutes: October 7, 2014 membership minutes were approved. Motion by Robin Osterhout and seconded by Kari Lowery. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

- Kari Lowery reports that the taxes are almost ready. The CPA has a question which should be addressed in the next week or so.

Vice President Committee Chairs Reports:

- **Christi Brubaker, VP of Fundraiser** Robin reported for Christi: the Fall Fundraiser was a huge success! The Holiday Shoppe is coming up on Dec 4th from 6-8pm. We need lots of volunteers to sell items, help the kids shop and wrap the purchases. Also we will be selling concessions this year – Chick Fil-A meals and sandwiches. Another big event coming up is the Barnes and Noble fundraiser on Dec 15th at the Fair Lakes location. We will receive a % of the sales on Monday, Dec 15th as well as a % for on-line purchases during the week. A couple of teachers will be coming to the event and face painting will be available.
- **Johannah Evans, VP of Social** reported the Bingo Night made \$653 (less expenses) and the Fall dance made \$1151 (less expenses). Johannah reminded us that the Variety Show is Feb 22nd so start kids should start planning their act if they are interested in participating in this event. The committee will meet again in Jan. Teacher Appreciation coffee is Tues, Nov 25th. March 6th is the volleyball game against Cub Run held at Westfield. Movie night is planned for Jan 9th. There will be a survey coming out listing movie choices.

- **Amy Roundtree, VP of Education** reported the 2nd session of Acting Out is being planned. Chess Club started with 8 members and meets in the morning. Only four kids signed up for FLEX so it was canceled. A 10 week spring session may be offered in hopes of drawing more interest. Russell Ramey has all the information for the directories and the project is progressing. Allison Palmer is looking into expanding the Lego Club to include a Minestorm group.
- **Other Business**
Robin explained the Teacher Grant program that's available at VR. There is \$1500 in the both the Fall and Spring in which grade level teachers (as a group) can apply for the grant for curriculum enhancements. The PTA approved three applications: one for STEM lab, math enhancement for the 5th grade teachers, professional development book set for Mr. Skerker's professional group.

Robin reminded us that yearbooks are on sale now either on-line or via a paper form.

The December membership meeting needs to be rescheduled to accommodate our guest speakers' schedules. Robin will advise us of the new date.

Ms. Edwards shared that the Teacher of the Year applications are open and the deadline is Jan 9, 2015. The application is all on-line and is a more streamlined process through FCPS website. Either an individual or group can nominate any teacher.

Mr. Skerker said they are trying to find ways to improve our school and the focus is on language arts and math. The information will be posted on the website.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:07 AM