

Virginia Run Elementary



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PTA General Meeting March 14, 2016

Call to Order: Robin Osterhout, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Attendance: Mary McLean, Kari Lowery, Robin Osterhout, Jason Skerker, Lauren Conner, Cynthia Lemke, Barb Castro, Troy Johnson, Christi Brubaker, Saria Muhgob, Laura Vagts, Amy Roundtree, Laraine Edwards, Shelley Teras

Barb Castro, STEAM teacher, gave a presentation on the background of STEAM and shared examples of projects that our kids have been working on. STEAM is STEM with an Art component added to it for this year. STEAM is designed to help students learn many skills including collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. Students sit in a different seat every week and work in groups with a goal-directed challenge. All grades work on the same project but have different restrictions. Two of the favorites are Saving Sam - manipulating a gummy worm using 2 paper clips and the catapult design challenge were offered to the parents to try out. It was very interesting and fun!

Minutes: February 11, 2016 membership minutes were approved. Motion made by Robin and seconded by Amy Roundtree. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Principal Update: Mrs. Edwards shared there is a staffing meeting in April; based on the number of kids in school will determine funding in our school. Currently the Board of Supervisors is going with the 4 cents real estate tax rate which translates to the same amount of money for the school system. Without additional funding for the school board it will be more challenging to meet the needs of the school population as well as teacher salaries keeping up with neighboring areas. This school year started off with 200 job openings for teachers in Fairfax County which is unprecedented.

Treasurer's Report: Robin made a motion to add a line item for Science Quest for \$500. Johannah seconded the motion and all approved. Additionally, Robin made a motion to increase the line item for mini-grants from \$3000 to \$3500. Christi seconded it and all approved. Kari made a motion to add a line item for the new Art class (held every other Wednesday morning by an art teacher) for \$750 as an 'in and out' to reflect the collection and disbursements of registration dues. Robin seconded the motion and all approved.

Vice President Committee Chairs Reports:

Amy Roundtree, VP of Education reports six clubs were started at the beginning of March. PE camp applications have a deadline of March 18. Science Quest was a success and there were 17 student teams. The Human Relations Committee is trying to start a new program in which kids' unopened dairy products will be stored in a newly purchased refrigerator to later be donated to WFCM. Parent volunteers are needed to transport the donation to WFCM since WFCM is only open for donations from 9-1 pm during school hours.

- **Johannah Evans, VP of Social** reports that movie night is re-scheduled (again) for May 6th. Volleyball game is scheduled for April 15th - Cub Run ES vs VRES at Westfields HS. Variety Show went well. There were 23 student acts and one faculty act. Since there were fewer acts, not all of the seats were sold. We were \$500 short to cover the cost of renting the theater for 2 nights. However, the event is not a fundraiser and we have the funds to cover it. Johannah reports she will step down as the VS chair. Teacher Appreciation week will be the first week of May. End of April is scheduled for Administration Week. Also, there will be a PTA "thank you" coffee/breakfast in June to thank all the parents who helped out with PTA events.
- **Christi Brubaker, VP of Fundraising** reports that she and her team collected and shipped all the Original Art orders. There is approximately \$1000 in profit. Ciros spirit night is coming up in April. On April 29 we'll host the 2nd annual Color Run event. Flyers are coming home soon. The website is vrescolorrn.org. \$1600 has been secured in sponsorships thus far. We will be trying an on-line auction this year. The money raised from the Color Run will go to technology improvements for the school

Robin Osterhout, PTA President reports our next membership meeting will be in April and we are looking for a new topic. Mr. Skerker will be the featured speaker in the May meeting to discuss SOL testing. Robin also reports we are in need of 3 people to form the nomination committee. Troy Johnson, Mary McLean, and Cynthia Lemke kindly volunteered for the committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 PM