

Virginia Run Elementary



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PTA General Meeting February 7, 2014

Call to Order: 9:40 AM by Lori Leventry, PTA President.

Attendance: Lori Leventry, Kim Beamon, Rebecca Brazier, Karen Mychalus, Angil Romitti, Christi Brubaker, Kari Lowery, Cynthia Lemke, Mindy Conway, Lisa Hart, Susan Patterson, Kristen Kerr, Laraine Edwards

Minutes: December 2013 minutes were approved. Motion by Susan Patterson and seconded by Lisa Hart. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

New Business:

- Lori Leventry reported that a Line Item and Funding for 6th grade celebration cannot be added to the PTA Budget. The PTA is not responsible for 6th grade celebration or to help fund this event. The PTA did allow the 6th grade to sell T-Shirts at the Variety Show this year but in the future this will not be allowed. The 6th grade celebration is a school function, and not PTA, so 6th grade parents will have to go through the VRES school for all fundraising for the 6th grade celebration.
- Lori Leventry explained that teacher mini-grants are awarded twice a year to help with teachers' needs. The PTA Executive Board along with Mrs. Edwards looks over the requests and the PTA Executive Board votes to approve requests.
- Current PTA Executive Board member positions are open along with several Committee chairs. Those interested in board positions should contact Rebecca Brazier. Information on open positions will be placed on the PTA website and emails sent out to VRES parents to inform them of these opportunities to get involved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Karen Mychalus is working on changing the receipt process to establish better protocols to handle the cash and checks coming in. This includes requesting a lock box where all funds are kept and better detail reports when funds are dropped off.

Vice President and Committee Chair Reports:

- Kim Beamon VP Education reported that the Directory was sent out. A question was raised by Cynthia Lemke to help save on the cost of the directory in the future would be to give parents the option if they want an emailed electronic version versus a hard copy. Pottery and Lego club have started with overwhelming support and excited kids. The winter session of Overtime Athletics is underway. Science Quest will be cancelled this year as no volunteers have stepped forward to run this event. As discussed in past meetings, and brought up again, is the idea to do a Science Fair instead of Science Quest. Zumba and Yoga will take place in March.

- Mindy Conway Chair of Culture Arts discussed that the PTA in conjunction with Mrs. Connolly the VRES librarian is excited to kick-off Uncle Slam's Reading Program on February 24. Students who read 4 books by mid-April will receive a free ticket to a Potomac Nationals game and a free kid's meal at Uncle Julio's restaurant.
- Susan Patterson VP of Social reported that Teacher Soup and Salad Luncheon will be February 24. They are in need of volunteers to help. Custodian Week is February 24-28 with a Luncheon on February 26. The Teacher Appreciation chair position is open and seeking a volunteer.
- Lori Leventry reported for Kelly Bobek VP Fundraising that the Box Tops collection is underway. So far, \$922.45 has been raised to date with the goal being \$3,000. Fliers are still being sent out to encourage parents to register online with participating stores (Giant, Target & Harris Teeters). Restaurant night was held on January 15 at McDonalds and this event raised \$370.00. Looking into Sweet Frog or Chipotle for our next Restaurant Night. The second round of Yearbook sales will start in March.
- Angil Romitti Co-Chair of Original Art discussed the fundraiser and that students are actively working on their art projects. A flier will be sent home February 26 to inform parents of this fundraiser, and the information will be posted as well on the PTA website as well as via an email. The students' Original Art will be sent home March 5th with the deadline to order set for March 12.
- VRES Principal Laraine Edwards reported on the Fairfax County School Board budget adopted for FY 2015. VRES could be negatively impacted by the loss of 2 teachers which will, in turn, increase class sizes. Our Math Resource teacher along with one (or maybe 2) office staff members may also be adversely impacted. Fairfax County has the lowest teacher salaries compared to surrounding counties. Teachers have not received a raise and their health insurance has gone up. There is also no funding for leadership education seminars. Important dates to let our voices be heard on the budget are at the March 4th County Board of Supervisors meeting. On April 8-10, the School Board presents the budget to the County Board of Supervisors at public hearings on the budget. Mindy Conway suggested sending out an email to inform parents of the FCPS Budget and how the cuts could harm VRES. Kim Beamon indicated she would send out an email to parents concerning the budget and important budget dates will be added to the PTA website.

Next General PTA Meeting:

- March 12, 2014 at 9:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:10 AM