

Virginia Run Elementary



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PTA General Meeting February 11, 2016

Call to Order: Robin Osterhout, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Attendance: Ernest Barreto, Mary McLean, Melinda Soltys, Kim Beamon, Sergio Torres, Lori Ulirich, Jacqueline Gay, Touj Simon, Patti Tutalo, Erica Milner, Lisa Liskey, Jason Collinsworth, Kari Lowery, Colleen Dunn, Meg Ramey, Lisa Hart, Robin Osterhout, Amy Roundtree, Jeffrey James and Laraine Edwards.

Jeffrey James presented on Child Safety & Internet Security.

- He began with some general reminders: Set all settings on-line to the highest security setting. Don't be friends with people on-line that you do not know and talk to in real life or haven't seen in 20 years. No one would allow a stranger to come up and start talking to their child in a restaurant or public place, why do we allow this on-line (chat rooms or gaming systems).
- The KIK messaging app was discussed and has been in the news lately related to child abductions. It is one of the most dangerous as anyone can make a fake name and set up a profile. Because it is Canadian owned, US law enforcement cannot easily get information and data when this app is used in a predatory way.
- Parents should have passwords and access to all apps their children are using. All devices should be kept in the parents room at night, not in the kitchen or other place where the child can sneak down and gain access to it in the middle of the night. Home computers should be in a common area for easier monitoring.
- Only use screen names (not real names) when gaming
- Call the police if your child is missing immediately! In stranger abduction cases the child is usually dead within 3 hours so do not wait to call police. Remind kids to scream, fight and yell if a stranger tries to take them. Role play scenarios to help them prepare and handle scary situations just like you practice what they should do if there is a fire or other emergency.
- List of codes kids use when they text (such as CTPIR – Can't Talk Parents in Room) can be googled to help parents monitor what kids are really saying when they text.
- Manage settings for google, youtube so that they can't access inappropriate content.

Minutes: December 7, 2015 membership minutes were approved. Motion made by Robin and seconded by Jacqueline Gay. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Principal Update: Mrs. Edwards discussed:

- FCPS budget shortfall and the amount of advocacy going on to fully fund FCPS. The last nine years have seen cuts and schools are now seeing impacts on being able to hire teachers as well as having to consider cuts in curriculum.
- The upcoming March Primary has raised some concerns about security at schools due to the large amount of voters and access to the school during the school day. Schools will open 2 hours late on Tuesday March 1st. As added security the Library will be set-up for voting vs the lobby so that voters can enter through the doors at the entrance of the school instead of walking into the school. A KIT will go out to parents to explain.
- The teachers are back on track after the unexpected snow days.
- The school board voted to keep the start to after Labor Day in 2016-2017 school year but will look at a pre-Labor Day start for 2017-2018.

Treasurer's Report:

- Kari was in the process of updating the treasurer software with January/February transactions. Her report will be available tomorrow to anyone at the meeting that would like a copy and a copy will be e-mailed to the board.

Vice President Committee Chairs Reports:

- **Amy Roundtree, VP of Education** reported that all Spring Before/After school programs are now open for registration. The KidCreator Music program is full but a second session will open soon. Science Quest had a committee meeting on February 4th. Four teams of students have signed up so far and a last registration form went home this week. Lisa Hart asked about how many we expected to attend Science Quest so she could plan concessions for 6th Grade to sell. We anticipate about 100. Regarding the Lego Robotics offering Nancy Spinar was planning for this Spring, Amy reported that due to lack of parent volunteers she will hold off until next Fall.
- **Robin Osterhout reporting for Johannah Evans, VP of Social** reports that February 5th was the teacher soup and salad which went very well. Variety Show will be on Sunday, February 21 from 3p-5p at CVHS. Tickets will go on sale to performers starting on Saturday, February 13th with any open seats being released to all VRES parents and students the following week. Movie Night is tomorrow night at 6:30p.
- **Robin Osterhout reporting for Christi Brubaker, VP of Fundraising** reports that the Barnes & Noble gift cards from the December fundraiser have been given to all teachers. \$456 was raised at the McDonalds Spirit Night in January. There is not a restaurant night scheduled for February or March as the 6th Grade celebration committee is planning one for February and with Spring Break in March it is a short month. Box tops are being collected this month to be turned in for the March deadline. Original Artwork is being collected from the art teachers and will come home to parents with order forms in the next two weeks.

Robin Osterhout, PTA President reminded everyone of that the current board is finishing their 2 year terms and cannot serve again in their current positions per our by-laws. She will be looking for a nominating committee chair. Nominations for board positions will be in April with voting in June. Anyone interested in a board position should feel free to put their name forward.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 7th at 7pm and Barb Castro will be our featured speaker presenting on STEAM .

Meeting Adjourned: 8:23 PM