

Arnold Elementary PTA Board and Committee Meeting

May 19, 2014

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Arnold Elementary Teachers Lounge

MINUTES

1. Call to order

2. Welcome

3. Approval of March 2014 Minutes

4. President's Report:

- a. The County Council is voting on the County Executive's fiscal year 2015 budget in June. At this time it appears that it will *not* include design funding for a new Arnold Elementary School building. There are three schools needing design funding and we are priority number two on that list, although it seems unlikely that any of the three will receive design funding this year. We won't know anything for sure until after the County Council vote. At this time we probably can't expect to get the design funded until fiscal year 2017 or later.
- b. The PTA needs to discuss additional use of Capital Projects funding because the three laptops we ordered in January were returned after we learned the school is receiving 30 Chrome books from the Board of Education.
- c. The PTA sent out two surveys to teachers in April:
 - i. The first was to find out what teachers felt would be useful in the Nature Play Space currently under construction. A list of options were included and teachers were asked to rank them. The results will determine what materials will be made available in the space.
 - ii. The second survey was to get ideas for wants and needs to be funded by the PTA during the 2014-2015 school year. Some requests submitted include:
 1. Purchasing headphones for the computers and laptops
 2. Replacing the Music Department's 20-year-old cello
 3. Paying for online subscriptions for teacher planning resources

5. Treasurer's Report:

- a. The PTA's current account balance is \$17,844.
- b. Remaining activities for the year are the third book fair and fifth grade promotion.
- c. Some final expenses for the year include the new garden in front of the school, materials for the Nature Play Space, and possibly a final assembly.
- d. Reminder: All receipts for reimbursement must be submitted by June 1.
- e. Next year's PTA budget is being developed with input from Committee Chairs.
- f. It looks like there is a Treasurer's Assistant for next school year who will be willing to be a second set of eyes on PTA financials to go through reconciliation files and ask questions or make suggestions, but without having access to funds.
- g. An audit committee has been put together to review PTA financial documents.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. **Green Team:** The meditation garden has been completed and has been well received by the students and staff. The Nature Play Space area has been cleared out with two places to enter and exit. Next will be to purchase a container for nature items to be used in the space, such as microscopes, bug catchers, tweezers, etc. Expenses total about \$1,500, but part of that will be paid during the next school year.
- b. **School Supplies:** For the 2014-2015 school year, parents will be offered the opportunity to purchase supply packs through the PTA for their children's classrooms instead of purchasing everything individually. The supply lists are being finalized and then they will be available to pre-order online. The packs will be delivered before Sneak-a-Peek on August 21.
- c. **Grandfriend's Day:** Grandfriend's Day went very well except Dunkin Donuts was 40 minutes late delivering the coffee and there was a lot of coffee left over, which was taken to the nearby Senior Center. The only other problem was that Asbury was having an event the same day so parking was difficult.
- d. **Spirit Wear:** Spirit wear sold very well at Kindergarten orientation, which helped that fund to break even for the year. It will be available at Sneak-a-Peek as well.

7. Principal's Report:

- a. Field Day will be June 6.
- b. The Volunteer Luncheon will be Wednesday, May 28, from 11-12:30, as a thank you for all those who volunteered this year at the school, such as chaperoning field trips, serving as Guest Reader and Guest Artist, or helping with school events.
- c. The next Wellness Committee meeting will be June 11. It is time to renew the school's Wellness School of Distinction application.
- d. There are many more Kindergartners registered than usual for next year. Parents are urged to register early so staff can be hired if necessary.
- e. Final report cards will be mailed and will contain class assignments for next year.
- f. Sneak-a-Peek will be August 21 to start off the new school year. Teachers will be present for Sneak-a-Peek this year.

8. Old Business:

- a. The PTA video camera is now being stored in the Principal's office and is available for use. Plans are to record the Kindergarten performance and fifth grade graduation. Copies of the videos can be made for parents.

9. New Business:

- a. The PTA is purchasing a new outdoor floor mat for the front door that will show the AES logo. The fifth grade is purchasing new American, Maryland, and Arnold Elementary flags as its gift to the school.
- b. The PTA plans to distribute a survey to parents to determine what the priorities are for the use of PTA funds during the 2014-2015 school year. Although the thought is to move away from technology because that has been the focus for so long, the Principal thought a few more Chrome books would be nice to supplement the 30 from the Board of Education because next year every student in the County will have

a Cloud account and will be able to access their school work from the Chrome books and from home. These Cloud accounts will follow the student through the years and from school to school.

- c. There was a request from a teacher for a list of technology resources that are available to teachers, such as the Chrome books and the video camera, so that they can be more easily worked into the teachers' lesson plans.

10. Announcements:

- a. This was the last meeting of the year.

11. Meeting Adjourned