

Arnold Elementary PTA General Meeting

November 20th, 2019

6:00pm

Arnold Elementary School

MINUTES

- I. Call to order/ Welcome at 6:10 pm
 - a. Introductions – all board members in attendance

- II. Meeting Minutes approved

- III. Officer reports
 - a. Bear with us. We are a new board in a new school. We also just shifted positions.
 - b. Bylaws are out of date. They should have been reviewed in 2018. Board will be going over current bylaws, and they will be made public at the next meeting.
 - c. Getting caught up on PTA memberships. An email will go out soon reviewing the signup process now that the school year is underway and parents aren't so overwhelmed.
 - d. Budget review
 1. Reports handed out regarding what we budgeted, what we spent and where
 2. Walk-a-thon was a success bringing in over \$18,000.
 3. Budget realignment will be in January.
 4. Question: When something has a negative number next to it, what does that mean? This was the amount spent for that particular event. For instance, this year we've spent over \$9,000. Report shows where the money has gone. For example, \$3000 went to class allotment (more than anticipated because we have so many new students and teachers. This will be covered in budget realignment.)
 5. Question: what is classroom allotment? Money that is given to teachers for their classrooms.

- IV. Principal/Staff report – Mrs. Kauffman and Mrs. Smith in attendance
 - a. Thank you to the PTA for everything, particularly allotment. Thank you for the recent staff appreciation breakfast and treats for the teachers.
 - b. Question: Is there a way of knowing how many teachers are members of the PTA? Mrs. Kauffman suggests that next year the PTA come to the first staff meeting. This will encourage them to join on the spot.
 - c. Question: How can we encourage more teachers to attend meetings? Mrs. Smith mentioned time and hours for the teachers. Extending an already long work day -

especially with families at home – is difficult for much of the staff. The teachers tend to use Mrs. Smith as a liaison. They also try to attend school events.

- d. Arts Integration in the works
 1. EEE is well underway
 2. Assembly next month: the “human beatbox” for K-5. He will work with 2nd and 4th grade in their classrooms, connecting their curriculum with his art.
 3. Later this year, 3rd and 5th will have the opportunity to do screen painting.
 4. We also have our Crayola grant for 5th grade
 5. Math night with Mathnasium probably in February
 6. Looking to bring back mobile science lab

V. Committee Reports

- a. Walk-a-thon – no new business.
- b. Fall Fest – no new business.
- c. Enrichment
 1. This was another learning curve with the new security requirement. Learning as we go.
 2. Survey feedback – main recommendation was smaller class size and more of an age differential. Separate K-2 and 3-5. Another concern was the price. Will negotiate with vendors for spring.
 3. There will be 8-10 courses in the spring. Likely February 24- April 1. **No sports because the fields will not be ready** with the exception of Girls on the Run and Hero Boys. We need two additional parents to come on to help with this.
 4. Question: What is Girls on the Run? Running for all levels. Beginners encouraged. It’s also a great source for inspiration and motivation.
 5. Emphasis on VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Arnold is unique because of these enrichment programs. We can’t run them without parent support.
- d. Holiday Breakfast – December 7th
 1. We can enter through the main entrance. Tables will block hallways because people are NOT allowed to roam the building for security reasons.
 2. Question: Could we invest in roping? Tables etc could be potential fire hazard. Mrs. Kauffman will look into the leftover building funds.
 3. WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS. Email went out this week with Signup Geniuses. Mrs. Smith will forward the signups to the teachers so they can volunteer, as well.
 4. Secret Shop - email went out this week explaining the shop. Gifts are arranged by person (mom, dad, sister, brother, etc) to help students choose gifts for their families. Middle schoolers are available to help students shop. Due to the popularity of last year, there is a wrapping station. Middle Schoolers will help with this, too. Boxes can be dropped off on Friday, December 6th. There is a box in the lobby for toy donations and wrapping paper donations. REALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS.
- e. Box tops – no news
- f. Mids for kids

1. There will be a new schedule for spring semester. Kids love having the midshipmen at the school. Arnold is unique in that we provide transportation to and from the Naval Academy.
2. Question: Which classrooms do they attend? Any teacher who requests one.
- g. Staff Appreciation – need volunteers. Contact Renee Sherwood.
- h. Unity Garden – no news
- i. Citizens Advisory – no news
- j. Arnold Cares – NEED VOLUNTEERS
 1. Question: What is Arnold Cares? It's an 'under the radar' program that benefits Arnold families. Committee works with Mrs. D. Smith to find out what certain families need. Contact Alice Bowman if interested.
- k. Snowflake Dance
 1. We have a date! February 28th, 2020. Snow date: March 6th, 2020.
 2. Also needs more volunteers.
- l. International Night
 1. Described as an "Arnold Epcot." The chairs who head the committee have children in fifth grade this year. They are specifically LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THE EVENT. This year they would learn the ropes.
 2. This is a special, unique event. Well attended and well received. Great learning experience for the kids and parents.
- m. Spring Fling – open the new ideas if parents have them
- n. Yearbook
 1. Volunteers needed
 2. Photographs needed. Send to Alice Bowman.
- o. 5th Grade Promotion – no news
- p. Website- Chairperson's son is in 5th grade. Need someone to take over next year.

VI. New Business

- a. BAE Committee – look for information on an upcoming meeting
- b. Security
 1. We would like to have a meeting where a representative from security speaks to the parents. We can hear concerns firsthand to better understand the issues. This will happen after the holidays.
- c. Traffic
 1. Question: Can bike riders and walkers be dismissed separately? There is only one way to walk, and the bike riders fly past the walkers. Mrs. Kauffman is open to the suggestion and will look into dismissing bike riders before walkers.
 2. The turn into the school is dangerous at Joyce Lane. This is unfortunately county property, not school property. There is only a stop sign going one way, which is dangerous for the crosswalk. It is also difficult for buses to turn from both directions. Mrs. Kauffman has already brought this up with transportation. The best thing we can do is contact them, as well.

- d. Parking Lot
 - 1. Parents are dropping their kids in the parking lot without actually parking their cars or using the drop-off lane.
 - 2. Mrs. Kauffman will address this in her Sunday message next week.

- VII. Old Business
- VIII. Announcements
 - 1. Next PTA meeting will be Tuesday, January 14th. Budget realignment. Call in option will be available again.

- IX. Motion to adjourn 7:14 pm