



**Fort Washington Elementary School PTA Minutes
General Membership Meeting
January 11, 2017**

PTA First VP Jenny Shapiro called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. A quorum was established.

PSSA Report, Kim Minor, Director of Elementary Education, Gifted Education and Federal Programs

- Scores from the Keystones and PSSA are only one indicator of student achievement. Scores for FWES can be viewed at: <http://www.paschoolperformance.org>.
- The school's "achievement" scores are lower than desired. One problem is the need to improve "growth" scores for students.
- The school district has implemented important initiatives including adopting new mathematics and reading programs. There are plans to explore additional options to improve the educational program.
- The district is engaged in studies of the gifted and intervention programs at all schools and create more of a commonality among the four elementary schools.
- The district is also planning to use Star Assessments as a valuable teaching tool for teachers. More information can be found at: <http://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-star-assessments/>

Principal's Report, Shawn McAleer

- Thanked the PTA for the Teacher Appreciation Lunch and Dr. Giovanis for serving as Interim Principal and helping him with the transition.
- He will be meeting with each staff member to help him plan and to evaluation.
- Wants to continue the warm, safe environment of FWES.
- Plans additional recognition program to offer more opportunity for students to get positive recognition.

Teacher/Staff Liasons, Mrs. Michaels, Mrs. Regan, Mrs. Einhorn

- Mrs. Regan said she is very happy that Mr. McAleer has been chosen as the new Principal. Thanked the PTA for the lunch and for the mindfulness program. She added how much her children enjoy Mrs. O'Malley and the mindfulness sessions.
- Mrs. Michaels took mindfulness for educators over the summer. Mrs. Einhorn plans to apply for a grant for the mindfulness program next year. The large dry erase board set up in the hall with daily mindfulness messages and questions has been very popular with students.

School Board Report, Mark Sirota and Sara Rothman

- Sean McAleer was approved as the new FWES Principal after an intensive interview process.

- It is budget season and the board voted to keep the tax increase at 2.5% and not opt to take exception for more.
- Upcoming Board and Committee meetings are listed on the district calendar on the website.

Business Meeting:

- A motion was made and approved for the PTA to spend \$6,000 to fund the continuation of the mindfulness program through spring. Mindfulness Instructor Jacqui O'Malley gave a brief introduction to mindfulness and its benefits.
- December minutes were unanimously approved.
- PTA Treasurer Sherri Gregg gave her report (follows).
- The new PTA Nominating Committee was announced and includes Julie Clark, Maureen Ryan and Christina Sunday.

Announcements and Committees:

- "Mad Science" assembly scheduled for January 13th.
- The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service activities will be held January 16th at 10AM at the high school. All are welcome to come and enjoy the entertainment and to participate in many different service projects.
- The Annual Cup Stacking Competition is January 20th at the high school. Maple Glen and FWES will compete together as Red Team vs. Blue Team.
- After School Activities Registration is open. They will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from January 31st to March 9th.
- Family Bingo Night is February 10th, doors open at 6:15PM.

Thank You:

- Judy Yoon and Ashley Frearson for Cradles to Crayons
- Julia Watt and Sherri Gregg for Spirit Wear

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th, at 7pm, in the library.

PTA 1st VP Jenny Shapiro thanked all for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by Mia Payne, on January 24, 2017.

Treasurer's Report
January 11, 2017

Deposits:

Barnes & Noble Night	\$ 416.41
PTA Membership	5.00
Pretzels	25.00
Dine & Earn MaGerk's	271.00
Box Tops	1444.40
Donation for Garden Project	100.00
Total:	\$ 2257.81

Checks Written:

Mad Science Assembly	\$ 720.00
Philly Pretzel	296.00
PA Sales Tax	397.77
Total:	\$ 1413.77