

Board Members Present: Katelyn Montgomery, Kathleen Webb, Jennifer Dell'Orto, Allison Romero, Kristie Wilson, Janelle Raikes, Hale Brickhouse, Roxanne Shurtliff

Administration Present: Shane Wolfe, Barbara Gist, Rachel Charlton

Aldrin Library 7 pm

Katelyn Montgomery, President, called meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Quick introductions were made for all of the new parents here. Thank you for all of the new parents joining us!

Treasurer, Kathleen Webb

- Presentation of July Audit & Findings
 - Julie Garbini, Neeraj Nandurdikar and Melissa Morrison carried out the audit while Kathleen Webb and Katelyn Montgomery were present.
 - Extremely robust and helpful audit
 - Four things suggested by the team:
 - There are best practices already in place that are working well. These need to be documented therefore a draft of Best Practices was drafted by Katelyn Montgomery of what is currently being followed.
 - Make sixth grade basketball more clear for sixth grade fundraising in the books.
 - Do a formal bank reconciliation of all items.
 - Note Income and expenses for Robotics. Budget was \$0 for last year however team went to World's and had to fundraise in order to get to the competition. The fee per participant will be increased this year and the fees will be reflected in the budget.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Budget update is attached
 - The PTA puts on many events for the community. The purpose of most of those events is not to make money therefore the funds made from actual fundraisers offset some of the community events, operating expenses, school programs, teachers expenses, instructional support, etc..

Katelyn Montgomery, President

- Board opportunities for 2019-20 school year
 - There are many opportunities to get involved in the school.
- What would general membership like to see out of these PTA meetings?

A parent had suggestions that had been part of many other schools around the country:

 - Offer dinner (pizza) and baby sitting (high schoolers) so that more families can attend the meetings.

- Provide translators at meetings for better turnout. This increased turnout for meetings but did not necessarily create volunteers in the PTA however it did promote community within the school families
- The Herndon Pyramid has focused on the Positivity Project since last year. This year-as part of that initiative-#Other People Matter-this would definitely contribute to that. Please keep the ideas coming that would promote community and involvement across the Aldrin community.

Updates from Administration

Shane Wolfe, Principal

- Thank you for a successful walk and bike to school day today!
- CHATT program begins tomorrow-Barbara updated that there are 80 staff who volunteered and 60 children. No one has turned it down.
 - **Children and teachers talking.** Teachers identify children that would benefit from a mentor relationship. It is a relationship building opportunity. At the end of the year there is recognition for the program. The children continue with their mentors each year.
- Band of Brothers
 - This program started with 5th grade boys who would benefit from leadership opportunities with a male mentor and is now extended to 6th grade boys as well.
 - Mr. Woodring-fifth grade teacher runs this program and started it at the school.
 - It has been very successful and other schools have adopted this program based on the success here at Aldrin. Discipline in these children went down to zero incidences! Role model speakers visited and spoke at the meetings. They finished the year with a dinner at the Rotary Club.
- GIRLS program started
 - Theresa Reedy (STEAM) and Kat Hughes (3rd grade) run this program.
 - This program promotes leadership and self confidence among girls.
- The sixth grade SCA campaign was very successful. This campaign had the largest amount of participants to date.
- Communication plan
 - A new plan is being put in place by the administration in order for the administration to better understand the needs of the families as well as for the families to understand the needs of the school.
 - Administrators are taking turns riding the buses home with the kids!
 - Three Principal coffees are on the schedule for the school year at the school. These will take place at the school and there is a plan to also have them take place out in the community. These plans are ongoing. The following are the dates for the in house coffees:
 - Thursday Oct 25 9:45-10:45 am
 - Thursday Jan 17 3:00-4:00 pm
 - Wednesday May 1 9:45-10:45 am

- The summer reading program award was given today to a random winner from students who filled out their summer reading log. A Kindle HD was awarded to Selah H.
- International Night – students are speaking over the intercom during morning announcements in different languages to promote this event that will take place tomorrow. The students are loving it!
- Special Education teachers at all grade levels all looped up to the next grade with the students this year. This has been very beneficial. This allows the relationship to continue and enables the children to continue to learn to their potential. Two years is the maximum time that is beneficial as the kids do benefit from having a different teacher and therefore experience and adapt to different teaching styles.
- Green Program
 - SCA presidential candidates that did not get elected will be part of heading up the Green Program
 - This program started last year and was very successful. The cafeteria staff and volunteers were informed to help children either bring home or donate their unwrapped food to the program. Any perishable Janelle Raikes would collect the food at the end of each week of Stored the food
 - Over two months some of the items donated have included:
 - 813 milk
 - 476 cheese
 - 44 yogurts
 - 212 snack bags
 - 41 pieces of fresh fruit
 - 22 juices

Barbara Gist, Vice Principal

- Business Partners
 - Formal Agreements
 - Giant
 - Worldgate, LLC
 - Informal Agreements
 - Reston Orchestra
 - Reston Rotary Club
 - Chick Fil A
 - Financial Literacy Partner
 - Seeking a financial literacy partner now that Middleburg bank was bought out.
 - Engineering or Tech Partner
 - Seeking an engineering or tech partner to align with the STEAM focus at Aldrin
 - This would benefit Aldrin’s combined STEAM night and science fair
 - Enable the school to conduct technology career information sessions with the students
- Digital citizenship week is next week

- The goal of digital citizenship week is to teach students how to conduct themselves online and leave a responsible digital footprint
- There will be a theme for each day of the week
- Week of Code
 - The students will get to code for two hours over two weeks in grades 2-6
 - A sign up will go out advertising the week of code and asking for parent volunteers in the rooms during their children's class' time slot.

Rachel Charlton, Vice Principal

- PALS
 - 6th grade students apply and are paired up with the students from the enhanced autism class.
 - This is the third year Aldrin has participated in this. It has been very successful- the children love it both the mentors and the students from the EA classes.
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - Hale Brickhouse and Vanessa Cullers are co-chairing the committee.
 - Last year an Adapted Fitness class was added to the After School Programs and it was very successful.
 - International night ideas came from this committee as well.
 - The Committee will also be in charge of the Bulletin board again this year. The themes will rotate each month.

Updates from Grade Level Teacher Representatives

Linda Crittenden

- All teachers want to thank everyone for sending in school year forms in a prompt manner and volunteering for the various activities in the classroom and around the school. Teachers are looking forward to a great school year!

Updates from Board and Program VPs

VP, Membership and Volunteers, Jennifer Dell'Orto

- Aldrin has a lot of volunteer opportunities. Being involved with the PTA and the teachers' classrooms is a great way to learn about the school, get to know the staff and meet other families!

VP, Family Events, Allison Romero

- International Night will take place tomorrow
- Movie Night will take place Friday October 19th on the blacktop where the movie Ferdinand will be shown.
 - Baked goods are still needed for the 4th grade fundraiser that evening. Please see the sign up genius if you are a fourth grade parent and can participate.

- Basketball game was scheduled for April 26th however SLHS reached out to reschedule as they do not want to have two events at the school the same evening.
 - May 10th on the books right now
 - Two events took place on the evening of the basketball game last school year without a problem (there was a play scheduled the same evening).
 - Will reach out to them to see if they can do this again as April 26th is a better date for the school than May 10th which is the week of Staff Appreciation week.

VP, Student Programs, Kristie Wilson

- Math Olympiad chair is still needed. Mr. Woodring took over as the teacher sponsor and the two coaches are still available but the program still needs a parent(s) to coordinate the study groups.

Myth Busters – ask your Principals anything

- STEAM
 - Jackie Wheeler was part time last year and did such a great job creating the Aldrin STEAM curriculum she was promoted to FCPS central to replicate this program throughout the county.
 - Theresa Reedy took over this year. She is full time and the success last year of STEAM led it to be weekly instead of monthly.
 - This was able to happen since the French program was dropped as it was realized that French once a week was not successful.
 - Katie Freidman-chorus teacher- is the other instructor for STEAM as she is qualified as a grade level teacher. Therefore she is part time chorus and part time STEAM.
 - STEAM has gone from one part time teacher last year to 1.5 teachers this year and has therefore allowed the children to go to STEAM weekly as follows:
 - K and 1st : 30 min per week
 - 2ⁿ through 6th: 60 min per week
 - EA: 30 min per week
 - STEAM Curriculum covers Language Arts, Music, Science and Math. The curriculum comes from the central office.
 - Funds from the PTA allowed for an increase in technology in the STEAM room so there will be dedicated STEAM laptops.
- Why are there so many children choosing to go to Langston Hughes instead of Herndon Middle?
 - Only one student from Aldrin last year out of 21 that had the option went to Herndon Middle School
 - Starting with the school year 2017-2018-Langston Hughes became the default for registration for Level 4 county identified children and they would have to opt in to Herndon.
 - Most of the children for the 2017-2018 school year opted in for Herndon Middle School that year, however it was the opposite for the 2018-2019 school year. Why?
- Lunch

- How do we make lunch a better experience?
- Allergy committee last year had more inclusive tables in the middle instead of off to the sides.
- This year seats were assigned to all grades as was done in third grade last year since it was successful.
 - Different grades are doing different things with their assigned seating such as:
 - Grade 3 are assigned tables
 - Kindergarten teachers are eating with the children
 - Grade 5 has a free choice as a reward
 - Sixth grade made their own seating charts and if not successful the teachers will step in to change it.
 - Clarify expectations to host and hostesses so everyone understands the expectations.
 - Background music will be experimented with.
 - The lights will never be turned off and children will never be asked to be silent during lunch.
 - The administration is always open to ideas and suggestions.
 - Teacher teams are going to continue to stick with this for the near future as they figure out what works for their grade level.
- CogAt and IReady
 - This year there was an overlap with the IReady and CogAt window
 - Based on IReady results if scores under 39 or they are new to the FCPS system then they need to take the DRA
 - CogATs were scheduled to begin around 10 am on three consecutive days but they were administered later in the day-directly after lunch around 12 pm. This decision was made by the second grade team so as not to disrupt specials.
 - Due to the windows overlapping the administration decided to administer the iReady on the same days as the CogAt. In one of the second grade classrooms the children took the IReady in the morning of the same day the CogAt was administered. The other classes had the children take the IReady in the afternoon after the CogAt was administered. The IReady takes about 20-40 minutes, the CogAt about 35 minutes each day.
 - Assistant principals Rachel Charlton runs the IReady testing and Barbara Gist runs the CogAt.
 - The parents were not informed of the change in testing time or that the tests were doubled up on the same days.
 - The administration apologized for not informing the parents and will be more transparent going forward.
 - Nov 12-16th is the Naglieri window which is a timed test on the computer administered to the 1st grade

Amanda Phillips motioned to adjourn and Kathleen Webb seconded it.

Katelyn Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

PTA General I  utes 10.10.18

The Next General PTA Meeting is scheduled for November 28th, 7 pm in the Aldrin Library