

Board Members Present: Katelyn Montgomery, Janelle Raikes, Hale Brickhouse, Roxanne Shurtliff

Administration Present: Shane Wolfe, Rachel Charlton, Barbara Gist

Aldrin Cafeteria

Meeting called to order at 9:49 am by Katelyn Montgomery

Board Updates

Katelyn Montgomery, President

- Welcome to everyone! Since this was a small cozy group, everyone gathered around the two tables and started the meeting by introducing themselves.
- It is Principal Appreciation Week this week! Thank you to our three amazing principals for all you do for our school-we are thankful for you and we appreciate you.
- PTA Survey went live Sunday night through the newsletter.
 - Jenn Dell'Orto has worked very hard putting together the survey to the families at Aldrin.
 - This was put out in an attempt to figure out what people want from their PTA.
 - This survey is critical because it will drive the strategy of the PTA going forward and determine where funds and energy should be placed.
 - Please encourage people to take the short time to fill it out and let their voices be heard.

Treasurer's Report:

- Highlights:
 - Bingo night
 - Invested this year in the bingo cards since it was not possible to continue to borrow from Lake Anne.
 - It grossed \$ 3,000 and still managed a profit of \$875 with the investment of the new cards.
 - Thank you to all of the families for a fun and successful evening.
 - Sixth grade had a bake sale the evening of Bingo Night and although not a fundraiser made a profit.
 - With funds from teacher appreciation funds Aldrin hoodies were purchased for our custodial staff. We still have 6 more in stock and they will be put up on Aldrin's Pay4schoolstuff.com for sale.
 - There is still \$2900 remaining in teacher start up funds

- Original art works brought in \$3,617
- Before and after school programs have been really successful.
 - Only one program-Singing- had to be canceled due to not enough interest.

Administration Updates

Shane Wolfe, Principal

- Yesterday a long term sub was hired for when Katie Mahler, the counselor, goes out on maternity leave.
- Mandatory lock down drill yesterday went well.
- Currently working on teacher workload reduction. Find opportunities to give teachers more time back in their planning time.
- Communications
 - There has been an effort this year to make sure that parents are being better informed as to what is happening in their child's classroom. Each grade level team and teacher are using the approach that works best for their classroom and teaching style.
 - Friday evening Admin Communications will return this week.
 - Looking into programs for communications such as the Remind me app. This has been successful in other schools. Currently there is an issue with Verizon as of Jan 28th. Will need to wait to see how this plays out and if it will be beneficial to use.
- Apollo 50th anniversary
 - Christina Korp from the Aldrin Family Foundation was here for a meeting. Janelle Raikes and Tom Shelley were in attendance to discuss the replacement of the picture in the lobby. The plans is to replace the picture with a mosaic that forms the current picture. The mosaic would consist of pictures of current Aldrin children and staff. A fundraiser would be made for a fee to be determined to include pictures of Aldrin alumni and the community. The school is still pursuing a corporate sponsor for the majority of the cost. It will cost approximately \$12-15,000 for the project.

Rachel Charlton, Assistant Principal

- WETA testing is currently in progress for ESOL students. The teachers have finished with grades 1-6 and there are a few adapted WETA and a few kindergartners left to be assessed.
- Adaptive Bingo at Bingo night was a huge success.
- Sixth grade team has an idea to have some of the PALS be part of the sixth grade promotion ceremony.
- The student run Coffee cart has been very successful. The students go around to the teachers and takes and fulfill their orders. This has been a huge boost of confidence.

Barbara Gist, Assistant Principal

- SOLs
 - VDOE eliminated some of the SOLs a few years ago. In place of this, PBAs have been put in place of those. Third grade will do a PBA in Social Studies and Science, fifth grade will be doing a memoir writing PBA and sixth grade will work on a Westward Expansion PBA.
- Green team is up and running.
 - They have decided to focus on a big school wide recycling effort
 - The food collection in the cafeteria will be turned over to the SCA. Thank you Janelle for everything that you have done to get this started and running smoothly!

Upper Grade Updates

via communication from Amanda Lee, sixth grade teacher

- 3rd grade
 - Finishing up a multiplication and division unit. Students are learning to multiply a two-digit number by a one-digit number.
 - Writing letters to parents highlighting the important things that they learned during the second quarter.
 - In Science and the STEAM lab they are learning about the phases of the moon.
- 4th grade
 - Finishing up their weather and beyond unit in science and moving into learning about the solar system.
 - In Language Arts, they are starting a brand new unit on critical literacy which has student analysis text in a new way.
 - In Social Studies, they are starting their unit on the Revolutionary War which has some fun activities for them to learn about some of the unfair tax laws that lead to the war.
- 5th grade
 - In Math they are working hard on decimal computation using multiple strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals.
 - In Language Arts they are finishing up their nonfiction narrative unit where students are learning to read, analyze and write narrative non fiction.
 - In science, they are finishing their oceans unit.
- 6th grade
 - In Math they are working on ratios and connection to everyday situations. In advanced math they are beginning to explore functions and learning what they are and the different ways they can be represented.
 - In Language arts students are finishing their critical literacy unit. The next unit will be exploring poetry.

- In Science, they are working through their weather unit and are learning all about severe storms.
- In Social Studies students are learning all about Colonial America and the obstacles they faced.

Katelyn Montgomery, President
PTA Board updates

● **VP, Family Events, Allison Romero**

- Bingo
 - A big thank you to everyone for coming.
 - Also a thank you for Dr. Kim for sponsoring our prize round with a new chrome book.
- Cookie bar
 - sign up will be out next week. Be on the lookout! We need bakers and volunteers.
- 6th grade basketball game
 - May 10 is our confirmed date.
 - more information will be coming in the next few weeks.
 - We are in need of 6th grade parents to help out. They can email Allison directly if interested.

● **VP, Fundraising, Annmarie Swope**

- DCC
 - We are at 84% of our goal
 - still continuing to take donations
 - remind families to use their company matching program if they have one
- Spirit Wear
 - close to meeting the fundraising goal for the year
- Dining for Dollars
 - Will try something in addition to dining-fundraising through the Launch trampoline park on a Student Holiday
 - NYAJ-trying for a new date since the earlier January date did not work out
- New Silent auction ideas
 - Parent parking space for the year
 - Reserved seating at 6th grade promotion, concerts, etc...

● **VP Membership and Volunteers, Jenn Dell'Orto**

- Skate Night
 - February 9th

- Proceeds will be going to the backpack program
 - Please read through the safety FAQs that went home in the Thursday Recorder along with the order form.
 - o Silent auction
 - Kelly Haywood runs the silent auction and is looking for a shadow
 - Please let Jenn or Kelly know if you are able to help solicit donations for the auction.
 - o New board members are needed. Many of the board members will be turning over next year. If you are interested in learning more about any board position or chair position Jenn is happy to sit down with anyone and walk them through the responsibilities.

- **VP, Student Programs, Kristie Wilson**
 - o Girls on the Run
 - The **spring session is 10 weeks and runs from March 6-May 19**. The group meets Wednesdays and Fridays before school from 7:55 - 8:55 am in the Aldrin gym.
 - Registration for GOTR participants is open Jan 28-Feb 25.

 - o Robotics
 - The Aldrin BuzzBots were champions at last weekend's VEX IQ Robotic Tournament in Prince William County
 - They are hosting another event on Saturday February 2nd - We expect at least 18 teams from Northern VA schools to compete. We encourage students and teachers to visit our tournament in the cafeteria next Saturday anytime during the day (8 AM to 4 PM) to cheer on the kids.

 - o ASP
 - 12 sessions going on now ending first week of March for winter session
 - Over 170 sign ups with about \$1.5k profit and this is after two scholarships.
 - Spring ASP Registrations open around February 15th and will run for 8-10 weeks

- **PTA Meetings**
 - o Trying to add additional speakers to the rotation.
 - Vaping discussion was held at HHS as vaping is fast becoming a big problem in the middle schools and high schools in Fairfax County. The person who conducted that meeting will be coming to the PTA meeting in April.
 - Justine Klena, Principal of HMS, will speak at a meeting to give an introduction to HMS. There will also be a current 7th grade panel to talk to 6th grade parents. Facebook live was a success.

- **VP Advocacy, Hale Brickhouse**

- Science/STEAM fair
 - April 9th
- Hale attended the Fairfax County Council PTA meeting last night.
 - The budget is out and there is a \$3M deficit.
 - Monday starts the openings to sign up to be heard in front of the school board.
 - Teacher salaries need to be increased.
 - Will start conversation about possible boundary changes. There are over 7,000 open spots across the county. However, other schools are over capacity and need trailers in order to compensate for the overcrowding. Therefore there is talk about the necessity of boundary changes.
 - Digital media was also discussed at the FCPS PTA meeting.
 - how much screen time is good?
 - There is no one answer. Each family needs to decide what works for their family.
 - There was an excellent talk on NPR by Jordan Shapiro discussing this.
<https://www.npr.org/2019/01/15/679304393/forget-screen-time-rules-lean-in-to-parenting-your-wired-child>
- Spanish newsletter
 - We have started a monthly version of our newsletter in Spanish. We have 3 families signed up for it right now. Please spread the word to anyone who might find this useful.
- Exploring an alternative room for FFD for children who are stimuli sensitive. We are trying to consider all things.

Meeting was adjourned.