



PTA General Meeting Minutes 11.28.18

Board Members Present: Katelyn Montgomery, Kathleen Webb, Janelle Raikes, Kristie Wilson, Roxanne Shurtliff

Administration Present: Shane Wolfe, Barbara Gist

Staff Present: Theresa Reedy, Katherine Hughes, Amanda Lee, Katie Friedman, Ellen Keyser, Linda Crittenden, Eve Davies, Lesley Aschenbach

Aldrin Library 7 pm

Katelyn Montgomery welcomed everyone at 7:00 with our first FaceBook Live Meeting.

Presentation and Overview of STEAM Program, Theresa Reedy and Katie Friedman

- Steam education at Aldrin
 - There is not a formal current curriculum but Mrs. Reedy and Ms. Friedman have pulled things together to come up with a curriculum. Ms. Friedman is a music teacher at Aldrin who is also certified in class room education and Mrs. Reedy is a former 5th grade teacher who loves science and therefore this has been a natural transition.
- What is Steam?
 - Video was shown which will be linked. **Science Technology Engineering Arts Math**-it is a whole unit tying the different pieces in over time. The STEAM curriculum focuses on real world application.
 - Creativity-more opportunities for creativity to come into play. There is both Art and Music applied as well.
 - Learn by messing up! The children are encouraged to break whatever they do and will build again! This is bringing in the growth mindset piece and problem solving. It is important that the children learn that it is ok to mess up –we will learn in messing up.
 - Driving questions are asked which facilitates learning by exploring ideas.
 - Examples of projects are on Mrs. Reedy's twitter account. @Treedy999
- Currently working on researching using such databases like Pebble Go.
 - Example of real world: The Mars landing this week. The children saw last year when it was launched and amazed that it JUST landed this week.
- The Aldrin teachers have given input on how fruitful STEAM is and the valuable lessons they are bringing out of STEAM into their classrooms. One of the most important lessons is that perfection is not necessary.



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Treasurer, Kathleen Webb

Treasurer's Report

- Highlights
 - DCC campaign
 - To date, 84% of the yearly projection has been reached
 - Book Fair
 - Thanksgiving Lunch –we made \$800 profit less than we did last year. Overall this is not bad considering the school closing due to weather on the biggest sales day typically for the book fair. The luncheon was rescheduled for the next day and we did recover a lot of the sales however the traffic was not the same as parents had already planned to take Thursday off for the luncheon. Because of the decreased profit that is shared with the library-the Scholastic Bucks that are set aside for the library are down this year as well. Therefore, depending on the end of the year excess, the PTA will make a donation to the library so the library will still be able to purchase the needed books that are projected each year.
 - Robotics
 - Aldrin Buzz Bots have registered for 4 tournaments this year.
 - There will be an Expo this Saturday
 - Spirit Wear
 - To date, 85% of the yearly projection has been reached

Katelyn Montgomery, President

- PTA to School Funding Strategy
 - Enclosed handout
 - The PTA is developing a more strategic plan on how to spend excess PTA dollars over the next few years. The focus has been on technology for the past quite a few years. Ideas for excess spending were put out to the general membership in the spring of last school year. The idea of Wellness is what has repeatedly surfaced and will therefore be focused on however technology will always be a need for the school.
 - The PTA met with administrative team and has come up with an idea to level set technology needs over the next year. Could we get to a place where we can budget a certain amount of funds every year from a technology stand point.
 - Currently, we wait until books close or close to the time books close to determine spending. The PTA is proposing to set a donation amount back to the school of \$10K a year-starting in 2019-2020 for technology needs. The benefit of this is twofold. The administrative team would be able to better project their needs knowing the consistent amount ahead of time as well as plan years out as well. The excess funds on top of the \$10K each year would go to new and exciting fundraising ideas.
 - The idea is to develop a multi year wellness campaign. We have feedback from other schools about fun runs, etc.. that can bring in large amounts of donations that can go towards this



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campaign. This campaign among other things would raise money to replace the old section of the playground and newer water fountains with filters and water bottle dispensers among other wellness ideas.

- The idea would be to have this fun run perhaps in the fall and therefore can be more strategic with the spending.
- We have \$15K currently left over from the 2017-2018 year after the books were closed. A proposal is presented on power point slide presented (attached) as to how to disperse these funds based on collaboration with the administrative team.
 - Questions:
 - Can any of this excess funding go towards funding for the replacement of the picture of Buzz Aldrin in the foyer? Tom Shelley has been leading the research for this and has determined it will cost approximately \$7K to replace. This would be a digital mosaic of the picture made up of thousands of pictures.
 - ❖ A corporate sponsorship(s) for this instead of membership raising funds might be more appropriate. This does not have to be an either/or situation. Perhaps the PTA could donate some funds and corporate sponsorship could contribute the other? Or could the PTA budget at the end of the year decide to give some in order to do this? Also-could open up to all current staff and children to have their pictures in the mosaic and have a donation based opt in for any alumni or parents that would also like to participate in the mosaic?
 - Mr. Wolfe has talked to Christina Korp from Share Space Foundation and Aldrin Family Foundation and she would like to visit Aldrin and see the STEAM room and watch a classroom participate in an activity. The Mars map on the floor of the STEAM room was the first school to have this installed.
 - Vote on the \$15 K proposal for:
 - 5 Classroom projector replacements. ~\$4,975
 - Bulbs and parts are no longer available for repair. The older projectors lack the lumens for appropriate student viewing as they begin to burn out. Projector software no longer matches the upgraded computer specifications. (i.e. some teachers can't use the entire SMART board) School funds will be used to pay for the installation cost.
 - 15 Laptops ~\$5,925
 - Twelve will be used for the STEAM lab to replace the legacy Dell laptops. They are no longer eligible for repair or replacement by FCPS. Three will be added to the First Grade Cart to allow more student accessibility. Laptops are used for research and to meet Portrait of a Graduate 21st Century Skills. Laptops will be used for interactive activities through Google Classroom and Wixie to enrich classroom curriculum. Laptops will be used for technology integrated lessons and standards.
 - Trade books for the Non-Fiction Book Room: Grades K-5 ~\$2,000



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Trade Books are shared among grade levels to provide differentiated instruction to students on a specific topic. (i.e. math concepts, space, seasons, animals, magnets, habitats, etc...) FCPS provides a suggested list for each grade level and the expectation is that the procurement of the books comes from each school budget.

- Trade Books for the Classroom Libraries: Grades 1-3 ~\$2,000
Trade Books are sets of books that directly support the curriculum and are used by teachers for guided and independent reading.

- Vote on the above:

Kathleen Webb motions for the vote. Janelle Raikes seconded the vote.

We have a quorum (see attached sign in sheet)

Of the 19 people present who were PTA members, 18 voted yes, one did not vote at all.

Therefore the proposed spending passed.

Administration Updates

Shane Wolfe, Principal

- Thank you to all of the teachers who are here tonight.
- Teacher Representatives
 - Linda Crittenden (K-3) and Amanda Lee(4-6) are the teacher representatives for the PTA this year.
 - Kat Hughes and Ellen Keyser will be alternates.
- Thank you to STEAM for their earlier presentation. The school is excited to see this beneficial program grow over the coming years.
- FCPS Cares Award
 - Aldrin Cafeteria staff is the recent recipient of this award.
 - Monday the staff will have a breakfast celebration to applaud all the work that Kay and her crew has done. They are extremely hard working. They were nominated by an Aldrin teacher and Aldrin was given \$300 from FCPS to celebrate.
- Ask the principal anything
 - A parent had noticed that the PTA sends out a newsletter every Sunday evening which is great. Has Mr. Wolfe ever considered doing a newsletter or a video on the regular with admin communications as well as recognition out to deserving people or groups?
 - Mr. Wolfe responded that actually they have increased their communications this year. Over the past few weeks, Aldrin Administration team has started a Friday evening newsletter which comes through the FCPS platform News you choose. Any communication from Aldrin has "Aldrin" written in the subject line. Perhaps since this is new, parents are not receiving these in their inbox and need to adjust their settings so that these communications are not going to junk mail.



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Grade Level Updates

● Kindergarten-Ellen Keyser

- There is lots happening in kindergarten! Still went outside today despite the cold weather. Children bundled up while being mindful of children with asthma and other health issues that need to stay indoors.
- Learning about Squirrels and Non Fiction. Children are loving this unit!
- Communications to Parents of Kindergarteners
 - Table Talks-these points are being sent home to parents to suggest to parents to “ask me about...” in order to encourage discussion from their children about their day.
- December-will start their Five senses unit (and the sixth sense-sense of humor:)

● First Grade-Linda Crittenden

- Focusing on their current PBL. This PBL (Project Based Learning) is on if you could be an architect and design a house for your family. The children have loved this! It is a process bringing in the geometry units for a final blueprint of their house. This Friday they will have gallery walk with their blueprints inviting other classes to see their projects and be able to present them.
- Language arts-Non fiction unit. The kids are enjoying this. They need to read a text and retell it in a different way using text features. The first grade teachers can see a large improvement of their skills in the language arts portion of their Daily 5

● Second grade-Linda Crittenden

- Thanksgiving play was very nice. They are working hard with their Native American unit.

● Third grade-Katherine Hughes

- The children are working on their ladybug unit and writing as if they are an endangered species. They are writing a 3 paragraph essay incorporating necessary ideas in each of the paragraphs.
- In Social studies they are working on geography and civilizations. As in past years, they will focus on civilizations doing the holiday party. Each room will represent an ancient civilization and will have activities and food representing those civilizations.
- Math-finishing up fractions and will be continuing to work on adding, subtracting, estimation. The third grade team is lucky to have Jennifer Bullen on their team to incorporate creative and meaningful activities in order to learn the foundations of math. Please see Aldrin’s twitter page for activities. @AldrinEagles

● Fourth – Sixth Grade-Amanda Lee

- 4th grade
 - The Williamsburg field trip was awesome
 - They are continuing to learn about colonial life in social studies, ecosystems in Science and doing ecart testing.
- Fifth Grade



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- The children are working on their persuasive writing unit in Language Arts
- They are studying their oceans unit in science.
- Sixth grade-
 - Advanced math is multiplying fractions and mixed numbers and solving and graphing inequalities.
 - Language arts they are writing memoirs (in the past this was called personal narratives)
 - In science they are starting their weather unit
 - In social studies, they are studying the European explorers.

PTA Updates

President, Katelyn Montgomery

● **DCC and Membership**

Membership Metrics
(as of 11/28/2018)

	Membership	DCC	Total
Families and Singles	\$1,700.00	\$9,171.00	\$10,871.00
Teachers and Staff	\$500.00	\$90.00	\$590.00
Total	\$2,200.00	\$9,261.00	\$11,461.00

of Memberships

Families	108
Singles	8
Staff	50

Progress Toward Goal

Total Raise to Date	\$9,261.00
Fundraising Goal	\$11,000.00
% Toward Goal	84%

● **Fundraising**

- Original Works
 - \$3,600 raised this year
- Store incentives
 - need to register at Harris Teeter and Giant
 - Amazon smile.
 - \$5,300 was made on all store incentives last year
 - Box tops going to music program.
- Spirit Wear and Book Fair discussed above under Treasurer’s Report
- Silent Auction



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- looking for someone to shadow Kelly Haywood this year. Next year is her youngest child's last year and would like to turn this over while she is still here. With the new fundraising efforts, silent auction may not continue however a plan is not in place as of yet so we will continue looking until a plan is finalized.
- Dining for Dollars
 - 2018 Completed Events:
 - Cava - 10/3/18- Check received
 - Chick-Fil-A - 11/7/18 - Check received
 - 2018-2019 Upcoming Events:
 - Sweet Frog - 12/18/18 (to coincide with the Winter Concert)
 - Not Your Average Joe's - 1/16/19
 - Launch Trampoline - 1/25/19
- Partnerships:
 - Giant donated 2-\$50 gift cards to PTA. One was used at Family Movie Night the other will help defray another family event.
 - Aldrin is still looking at possible other partners such as a financial literacy partner as well as a tech partner
 - Annmarie Swope who works on Partnerships with Barbara Gist will not be here next year as her daughter is in sixth grade and is looking for someone to shadow her this year.
- **Family Events**
 - Bingo Night
 - Coming up on January 11
 - Actively seeking donations for prizes. There is a large red and white box in the office for families to place their donations.
 - Staff Appreciation Week planning meeting will take place in January.
 - Cookie bar was moved to February around Valentine's Day instead of close to the winter break.
- **Membership and Volunteers**
 - There is still \$3800 outstanding Teacher start up funds. Teachers please turn in your vouchers.
 - PTA directory is now live on PTBoard- please login to view and update your information.
 - Seeking PTA Board members
 - Will need a new board (all new members) next year as all members have been part of the board for two or more years or are leaving the school for the next school year.
 - Important to rotate members in order to have new ideas working from the Board. Also important to stagger members so all are not turning over at once.



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Kristie Wilson, VP Student programs

- ASP
 - The program is doing great
 - Winter session will begin registration on December 9 and program will run from January 7 through March 1.
 - Keyboarding will be offered over winter break.
 - Still actively looking for parent volunteers for both Math olympiad and word Masters .

Janelle Raikes, VP Communications

- PTBoard
 - Please sign up if you haven't done so yet.
- No Waste Program going on in the cafeteria since the end of last year. The Green Team which will be student run will be taking this over this year.
 - All unopened food that has been collected has been donated to the Embry Rucker shelter in Reston. In just two months:
 - 813 milk
 - 476 cheese sticks
 - 44 yogurts
 - 212 snack bags
 - 41 pieces of fresh fruit
 - 22 juices
 - Backpack program for Aldrin will have a donation drive at Giant this Sunday from 12-4 to make packages for families over Winter Break.

Facebook Live

- This was the first time we tried this in order to bring these meetings to people who are unable to be here. There were people who logged on to watch. No active questions were presented however a comment was made that Ms. Keyser was the bomb 😊 And we all agree wholeheartedly!!

Katelyn Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.