

MEETING MINUTES

Maury Elementary PTA, 600 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22301

Date / time March 9, 2020 @ 6:21 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Jodi Diehl, President | ~13 Attendees

President's Report – Jodi Zand

- Maury PTA President Jodi Zand welcomed attendees. She thanked everyone who helped with the Gala. We hit a record with close to \$50,000, and expenses will be lower than normal. There was great food and the PTA ExCom recognized Stephanie Kirby for her efforts in organizing
- The 4th grade talent show was fantastic and included a Frozen mash up by teachers and 13 student acts. We exceeded budget and this will help fund the Jonestown trip.
- Health and wellness workshop will be coming up this month at Patrick Henry on March 28.
- Anyone interested in being on the PTA executive team should let us know. Zand went through the various positions on the ExCom.
- Dates: Family Fun night is at Charles Houston on March 28. Yearbook ads are due March 20; Scholastic book fair is in March.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Powell provided a State of Maury report:
 - With regards to overall benchmarking data and reporting, TAG 6 Math is up six points up over the district average. There has been steady growth in this score over the past few years. Kids are getting to new instruction. Reading 5 Ls are at 100% proficiency, with the district being around 40%. Maury does have fewer students. Reading Grade 3 has been a challenge in the past, but we are 19% above ACPS averages. There has been good Tier 1 instruction in classrooms. Civic track is utilizing the creation of videos to help learning. This video was sent to ACPS commutations and may be used in other schools.
 - Watch DOGS participation has doubled and we average one a week. This is a great resource for the kids, and volunteers are a great social resource for this school. We do need to find a new coordinator for next year.
 - We had Mad Science experiments come into class and the kids really enjoyed it. It's hard to keep second graders attention and they were excited during the program. Question on whether we can get Mr. R again. He was splitting time with Lyles Crouch and he went there full time. Our needs are math now for K-5. It may switch back next year. We did get a request for a full-time psychologist which will greatly benefit students. We need to be strategic with field trips and class visits/presentations to promote science and promote STEM among all classes.
 - Author visits has been great for 3rd and 4th graders and students were interested in writing and the importance of classroom work. We appreciate PTA's support for this. Hooray for Books will do an author visit as well.

- The spelling bee doubled in participation and there was great excitement with the kids and we have good momentum for the future. This helps kids to learn speaking before a crowd and how to present themselves.

Looking to instructional plans for next year, during the last two years we have moved away from complete compartmentalization for students with disabilities. Our numbers are changing as is the demographic, with the number of students with disabilities declining in the newer classes. We may be able to go back to compartmentalization with fewer students, with different teachers teaching specific topics. K-2 will likely stay the same and overall numbers expected to stay the same around 395. Every class will have three homerooms. K-prep is still on for 4 days prior to school starting.

- K-5 teachers in general haven't done assessments of kids using a running record. This helps to measure students' progress through classes. We are phasing this back into the teachers' programs. Reading instructional teachers will do first and last quarter assessments and teachers the middle two, and training will be provided. Students will start moving to different teachers for specific topic instruction.
- Regarding human resources, we have reclassified two positions to be reading instructional coaches, which goes beyond a specialist. They will help with model lessons for teachers and interventions. We are hiring a K-2 and 3-5 teachers. We need to hire for Ms. Arnold's library position, and hope to do interviews before spring break. Overall teachers are staying through to next year at this time. We are going to teacher fairs as well.
- Looking to facilities and projects, the last phase of HVAC will start over spring break and summer. Flooring in certain areas will get replaced with lower maintenance floors. We may have some possible window replacements along cafeteria and kindergarten wings. We want the style to stay consistent.
- Ms. Kerdizack made it to a finalist for ACPS teacher of the year and we are very proud of her. She has been doing an awesome job.
- Members thanked Mr. Powell for his dedication to the school.
- ACPS School Board report – the 2020/2021 budget process is underway. A virtual meeting on the corona virus will be held Thursday from 8:00 – 9:00. On March 26 there will be a meeting on the TC Williams expansion. The board is looking at educational approach and space considerations as well.
- There was a question on if the federal government closes due to corona virus, would school close. No, ACPS will have own decision. If school does close, plans underway to help with food. Mr. Powell said the district is meeting on a daily basis with health officials and nurses. Surrounding districts are putting in contingency plans if schools shut down for 2-3 weeks and ACPS is looking into this as well. Communications will likely be sent out on school by school basis and sent out via other avenues. There has been enhanced cleaning of "high hit" areas. ACPS is taking this very seriously, and focusing on facts not fear. Email Mr. Powell if there are questions.

Secretary's Report – Tom Schulz

- Schulz noted that minutes from the February 10, 2020 PTA meeting were sent out via e-mail, and asked if there were any changes or edits. None were offered. Motion to approve the minutes:

- Approved on a Zand/Schofield motion.

President-Elect Report – Fran Boller

- Fran noted that staff appreciation lunch will be held next week and March 23 is dine-out at Haute Dog.

Treasurers Report – Theresa Schofield

- Schofield reported that we have done well from a budget standpoint and the Gala will definitely help with revenue.

New Business & Discussion

- No new business.

Next PTA Meeting

April 13, 2020, 6:15 PM, Maury Cafeteria

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.