

MEETING MINUTES

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

Date | time October 7, 2019 @ 6:15 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Jodi Zand, President | ~22 Attendees

President's Report – Jodi Zand

- Maury PTA President Jodi Zand welcomed attendees. Three items of business were first dispensed with:
 - Amended Budget: Teresa Schofield said that the \$3,500 in expenses for the Fun Run included in the Maury PTA 2019/2020 budget were higher than the \$1,500 that will be needed. She proposed amending the PTA budget, and copies were available for attendees to review.
 - Motion to Approve the amended 2019-2020 Budget: Katie Moore, with a second by Fran Boller, approved on a unanimous voice vote
 - With a vacancy of the Vice President of Fundraising position, Krista Tongring was nominated to fill the position. No other candidates were offered.
 - On the vote to elect Krista Tongring as VP of Fundraising: approved on a unanimous voice vote
 - Finally, the minutes from the September 9, 2019 meeting of the Maury PTA were sent out to members the previous day. No edits or changes were suggested.
 - Motion to Approve the September 9, 2019 minutes of the Maury PTA: Teresa Schofield, with a second by Fran Boller, approved on a unanimous voice vote

Keynote Speaker

- Zand introduced the evening's Keynote Speaker, John Contreras, Safety & Security Coordinator for ACPS.
- Contreras provided overview of ALiCE training program used by ACPS –Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. He went through the components of the program and noted that steps are taken to disseminate program and strategies to different grade levels. Teachers receive four hours of training and they are given unique content that is more comprehensive than what students receive. For students, PreK classes gets four lessons, elementary classes receive six lessons, and four lessons are provided to secondary school students.
- Parents should have active mobile phone number available in the PowerSchool application to get alerts and status updates. Visitor badges are essential, and parents should talk with their children to let someone know if they see something unusual – “see something, say something”. This works, as 80 percent of incidences have been known by someone else prior to the event. Also, incidences are very rare. Mr. Powell has built relationships with Alexandria police that have detail in the neighborhood and they are familiar with the school building.
- Parents can stay informed through the ACPS Security & Management Twitter handle (@ACPS_Security). Regarding getting status updates from the PowerSchool program, it is good practice to check with school each year and ensure the correct information on file. Emergency contacts can be added as well. Messages will not have a lot of detail – school is on lockdown, police activity in the area, etc.

- In cases of evacuation, teachers have vests and personnel will control traffic in cases of evacuation, ensuring safety when walking students to assigned location. The safest, shortest routes are identified.
- More information will be provided on October 30, when the PTAC will host a Safety Forum at Minnie Howard. The PTA will send information out on the Forum.

School Board Update

- Zand introduced Michelle Reif, the Maury liaison on the School Board.
 - The Board held a high-profile vote on the High School project. The approved plan will keep one high school, with Minnie Howard to be rebuilt and certain programming/curriculum to be held there. Under the program there will be two years for design and two years build. The new Minnie Howard will be built on the current athletic fields and tennis courts.
 - The ACPS budget calendar was discussed. The budget process is a year-long effort, with the Fall focusing on capital needs, and the Spring on operating budgets. Some public hearings will be held on the budget, with a community forum scheduled for October 21 at TC Williams to introduce parents to the budget.
 - There are six School Board Advisory Committees and volunteer opportunities are available—special education, technical education, budget advisory, health & wellness, athletic hall of fame, and TAG.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Powell noted that tutoring and Baroody classes started this week and the first quarter is coming to an end. Student pictures will be held on Oct. 11. Multicultural night will be held on Oct. 23 while the Book Character parade will be held at 1:45 p.m. on Oct. 31.

President's Report – Jodi Zand

- Jodi Zand noted that a report of PTA activities was included in the agenda. Volunteers were needed for the Fall Festival and Multicultural Night. The Book Fair starts that week as well and it will be open until 6:00 on Multicultural Night. Volunteers were also needed for Multicultural night.

New Business & Discussion

- No report

Next PTA Meeting

November 11, 6:15 PM, Maury Cafeteria

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

