

Franklin Sherman PTA Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2010

Opening

PTA President Michelle Sandler called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Minutes

A motion was made by Alisa Schultz and seconded by Michelle Carpenter to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2009 PTA meeting. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Budget/Fundraising/Treasurer Report – Michelle Sandler and Kelly Treibitz

- A review of income and expenses was reported by Kelly Treibitz.
- Kelly noted that upcoming fundraisers for the school are the March 20th, 2010 auction and original artworks.
- Michelle Sandler requested the landscaping budget line be increased by \$5,000 to cover costs for the new courtyard. This would increase the landscaping budget to \$30,000. Michelle noted that at the December 2, 2009 meeting the PTA voted and adopted that \$5,000 be taken out of the landscaping budget due to Fairfax County covering the costs of the new school sign and therefore the \$5,000 saved for that purpose was no longer needed. However, the \$5,000 is needed to cover unanticipated expenses for the new courtyard. Cynthia Alksne made a motion to return the \$5,000 to the landscaping budget line. Helen Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried and the budget was adopted.
- Jen Herzberg noted that it was not too late to buy a brick for the new courtyard. Bricks may be purchased at the website www.bricksrus.com. Orders will be placed when the minimum order amount of 25 bricks is met.
- Gina Lemley gave an update regarding the school auction that will be held on March 20, 2010 at the McLean Community Center. New this year is the Franklin Sherman Auction website at <http://auctions.readysetauction.com/franklinsherman/>. You will be able to see all of the auction activities such as viewing the auction catalog, donating items or services, become a sponsor or make cash donations. Gina is also looking for volunteers to help with this event. You can contact her if interested in helping or sign up at eventbrite.com.
- Kelly Treibitz presented guidelines for gift giving from the PTA to honor or recognize Franklin Sherman staff for various occasions such as weddings, births, and deaths in the family. Cynthia Alksne made a motion to adopt the proposed guidelines and Leslie Kerman seconded the motion. The motion carried and the guidelines were adopted.

Programming Update – Michelle Sandler

- International Night is February 19, 2010. Please contact Ann Geottman if interested in hosting a table at this event.
- The Fun Run and Rededication will be held on April 25, 2010. Jen Herzberg noted that there will be distinguished speakers at the rededication ceremony, former students and possibly

descendants of the Franklin Sherman family. Mr. Majette is working with students to sing and play the Franklin Sherman school song at the rededication. Following the rededication ceremony there will be a one mile fun run through the neighborhood. It was noted that Kazuma Kishimoto, a fifth grader in Ms. Smith's class, won the school contest for the fun run logo.

- Margie Richardson noted that the after school activities are up and running and there are a few slots open. She thanked everyone who used the on-line registration through the schools' website. Margie also stated that the Pulcinella Dinner Night was well attended and thanked Pulcinella for donating to the PTA part of the proceeds from all the families that attended. The PTA received \$400.00 from the event.

Membership- Kara Petrosinelli

Kara Petrosinelli stated that we are close to our goal of 100% in families joining the PTA. We are in need of 23 more families to join the PTA to make 100%. Kara noted that the school directory update will be coming out at the beginning of February.

There was a meeting hosted by Membership for Korean and Japanese speaking families that attend Franklin Sherman. They were given a tour of the school and provided with information relating to their questions and concerns about the school and our culture. They also expressed ideas to Membership that would make it easier for incoming new families.

President Update – Michelle Sandler

- Michelle presented an outline on how Your PTA works for Franklin Sherman. It lists the many ways the PTA helps Franklin Sherman.
- Michelle asked for volunteers to help out with three PTA committees. The first committee is the FCPS Budget Task Force. Leslie Kerman is the Chair and she is looking for volunteers to help assist her in voicing our concerns as parents over the dire Fairfax County school budget situation. The second committee is the By-laws Committee. Regina Zane is looking for someone to help her determine what paperwork needs to be done to add additional items to our PTA by-laws such as adding a President-Elect section and other items. Lastly, we need to fill the Nominating Committee with three people. The Nominating Committee is responsible for seeking out parents who are interested in serving on the PTA Executive Board.
- Michelle passed out note cards for parents to write something positive about their child's teacher, staff or events that happen at school.
- The Franklin Sherman PTA website now has a face book page.
- Michelle thanked all the people who are working on the Fun Run/Rededication, Kim Todd for taking on the project of school Historian, Helen Miller for the Panda Pause and Sayaka Kishimoto and Yoon Hee Lee for being the Japanese and Korean Ambassadors to our school.

Adjournment

Michelle Sandler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Kara Petrosinelli seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Principal Update – Dr. Vicki Duling

Dr. Duling thanked teachers, staff, and students for all their hard work in earning the 2010 Governor's Board of Education Excellence Award. Franklin Sherman is one of 32 schools to be recognized with this award in Fairfax County.

Dr. Duling thanked a number of people including the PTA Executive Board for their work, parents' efforts in completing the courtyard, all the hard work of the room parents and the \$30.00 Staples Reward Program that staff have used for various items and supplies.

Rose Krauss is working hard on transforming the Franklin Sherman website and the new website will soon be completed.

Dr. Duling welcomed Danielle Sikoryak to Franklin Sherman who is replacing Judy Gilchrist as a special education teacher. Dr. Duling also noted that Tammy Dozier is the new Franklin Sherman parent liaison. This position is being funded by a grant and not through Fairfax County and this grant can only be used as a parent liaison position. The parent liaison is responsible for building cooperative working relationships between the school and families from all backgrounds.

Dr. Duling noted that the renovation is wrapping up and with spare renovation funds a few additional items will be purchased for our school such as replacing cafeteria tables, benches to go outside, furniture to be utilized in the pod area and multipurpose room and small items like a new lectern and indoor flag stands for ceremonies in the cafeteria.

Dr. Duling distributed an outline of the 2010-11 proposed budget from Dr. Dale and explained her principal's perspective on possible impacts on Franklin Sherman. The budget situation is very dire and somber. Some examples of possible outcomes for Franklin Sherman include the elimination of the assistant principal job, FLES, Band and Strings, and the early intervention program. Other possible impacts are increases in class size and teacher reductions. These are just a few examples of how shocking the County's budget situation is. Leslie Kerman is Chair of the Fairfax County Public School Budget Task Force for Franklin Sherman. Leslie made a presentation asking parents to please assist her in outlining ways to prohibit this outcome. Budget hearings are planned for January 25th, 26th and 27th. Leslie asked that parents be an advocate for Franklin Sherman and send in your concerns on-line, write letters and speak at the hearings. It was mentioned that maybe a Franklin Sherman student could speak at the hearings as well.

Lastly, Dr. Duling and Ms. Choiniere gave a presentation on 21st Century Technology and how Franklin Sherman is adapting to the ever changing technological advances. Dr. Duling asked parents to please read, [The Global Achievement Gap](#), by Tony Wagner which discusses these advances and how it will

affect our children in the future. Dr. Duling will have a discussion on the introduction and first chapter of this book on her principal's blog beginning the week of February 8, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Zane

Recording Secretary

Upcoming Events:

January

- 20 Advanced Academic Placement Parent Information Night, 7 pm
- 22 Parent Principal Coffee, 10 am, Topic: FCPS Budget (*NEW!*)
- 27 Literacy Night for grades 3-6, 7 pm

February

- 2 Parent Education Evening with Ms. McKibben at Ellison/Atiyeh home, 7 pm
- 19 International Night (***Change in date – please note!***)

March

- 10 PTA Meeting (free babysitting as always!)
- 20 Auction

April

- 25 Fun Run/Rededication