

Franklin Sherman PTA Meeting Minutes: September 17, 2008

Opening

PTA President Cynthia Alksne called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Minutes

A motion was made by Lynn Starr and seconded by Lisa Vogt to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2008 PTA meeting. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

President's Announcements – Cynthia Alksne

- A new parent's coffee will be held at Lisa and John Vogt's house on September 25th from 10:00 am to 12:00pm.
- The 6th grade Hemlock trip will be held on October 16th-17th.
- The Cabi clothes show will be held at Lisa Vogt's house on October 16th, from 9:30am-1:00pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm. A portion of the sales will be donated to Franklin Sherman.
- The Marine Corps Marathon is on October 25th.
- Literacy Night for (K-3) will be held on October 23rd. Very important meeting and all teachers will be there.
- Jump Rope for heart will be held on October 27th. We need volunteers and if interested should contact Kelly Treibitz.
- They are considering Franklin Sherman ES to be a GT school. The meeting time is to be determined.
- The Barnes and Noble fundraiser will be held on December 4th through the 7th.

Thank-you - Cynthia Alksne thanked the following people for all their hard work:

Ellen Stork for chairing Back to School Boxes.

Colleen Canovas for distributing the Back to School boxes.

Melissa Sporn for the Ice Cream Social.

Heather Covington and Laurie Buchanan for the Sally Foster fundraiser.

Kelly Treibitz and Jen Herzberg for the Back to School Breakfast for Franklin Sherman staff.

Audit – Lynn Starr

Lynn Starr, Tram Grohowski, and Eric Simpson conducted an audit of the PTA's finances and Treasurer's books for the period of August 1, 2007 through July 30, 2008. Lynn Starr noted that everything was in perfect order and commended PTA Treasurer Katie Maness.

A motion was made by Cynthia Alksne and seconded by Leslie Kerman to approve the audit. The motion was carried and the audit was approved.

Membership/Fundraising – Lisa Vogt

Lisa Vogt stated we are off to a great start. As to date we have raised \$15,717.00 with a goal of \$25,000. We have 175 families and 34 teachers so far that have joined the PTA.

Other fundraising ideas were presented such as an Artworks program. Michelle Sandler is heading up the Recycling of Toners and is looking into profits that are made by recycling toners.

Financial Literacy Project - Sophia Bruner

Chain Bridge Bank has partnered with Franklin Sherman ES to teach students about financial literacy. Students will be allowed to set up saving accounts and the bank is generously offering a 5% per annum interest on the first \$2500 for one year. Siblings, who do not attend Franklin Sherman, will not be eligible for this generous interest rate. The bank will be set up in the cafeteria and K-6 grades can open accounts and make deposits in the bank twice a month. Third through sixth graders can work in the school bank as tellers and managers. Field trips for 1st-6th grades are planned for the Bureau of Printing and Engraving so students can learn about the making of money. Later in the year, there will be a second field trip where students learn about where money is earned, and finally, these students will go to Chain Bridge Banks for a field trip to learn where money is saved.

Jennifer Wheat and Heather Schoeppe from Chain Bridge Bank came to the PTA meeting and were available to answer questions and set up student accounts.

It was also mentioned that other businesses in the community such as, McLean Hardware, pair up with Franklin Sherman for our students to get a hands on feel of how businesses are run. Another idea was to contact Dan Montgomery, who is revitalizing downtown McLean and obtain suggestions from him on which businesses would be interested in working with Franklin Sherman.

Volunteer with Excel Experience

Christina Wick has volunteered to head up the Franklin Sherman's school directory.

2008-2009 Budget

The budget was reviewed and discussed in detail. Copies of the budget, including a future spending wish list and a detailed account of all funds spent as start-up costs were given to each person in attendance. Highlights of the proposed budget were discussed, including:

Classroom materials - \$8500 – reimbursement for teachers

Language Arts - \$5000

Technology in School - \$27,028 (smartboards, media carts, classroom printers, and microphones)

Media Enrichment – \$5000 - books and media for classrooms

Cultural Arts - \$6500

Field Trips - \$5500 (but more may be needed because of rising fuel costs and school-wide field trips)

Total Expenses - \$100,897

A motion was made by Michelle Sandler and seconded by Melissa Sporn to approve the budget. The motion was carried and the budget was approved.

Following the initial budget discussion, Michelle Sandler suggested we also buy more printers for classrooms as not every classroom teacher has a networked printer. Ms. Brownley discussed how helpful printers were in classrooms, an opinion echoed by Mrs. Wilson. A suggestion was made that we reduce the amount of PTA carryover funds, traditionally at \$15,000 to \$10,000 and use those funds to buy more printers. Cynthia Alksne explained that the PTA no longer needed such a high carryover because of the changes in the gift card program.

A motion was made by Michelle Sandler and seconded by Jennifer Weaver, to reduce the carryover by \$5,000, putting \$4,800 for six more classroom printers and \$140 for microphones for laptops. The motion carried.

Principal's Corner – Dr. Vicki Duling

Dr. Duling expressed concerns that our FCPS school operating budget has been cut by 40% and invited everyone to attend the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to voice their opinions regarding the budget on October 29th.

The Advanced Academic Opportunities meeting will be held at McLean High School on October 2nd from 7:30-9:00pm. No registration is required and is open to the public.

Dr. Duling is reading a book titled, Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?, to all students. The book is about encouraging children to help one another and how to cope with bullies.

Dr. Duling thanked the faculty for all their hard work and great dedication to Franklin Sherman.

The librarian, Ms. Nicole Choiniere-Kroeker, stated that there will be an information session for library volunteers on September 23rd at 11:30am and one at 3:00pm.

Adjournment

Cynthia Alksne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Leslie Kerman seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Zane
Recording Secretary