

## Franklin Sherman PTA Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2009

### Opening:

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

### Minutes

A motion was made by Cynthia Alksne and seconded by Cindy Browning to approve the minutes from the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 PTA meeting. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

### President's Announcements – Cynthia Alksne

- Survey – Michelle Sandler gave an update regarding the recent school-wide survey, from the Office of Equity and Compliance of Fairfax County, concerning the school's atmosphere. Michelle was informed by Audra Sydnor, Cluster 1 Assistant Superintendent, that a meeting will take place at the school in less than two weeks to go over the results of the survey. The Office of Equity and Compliance will meet with the PTA board prior to the school-wide meeting.
- SOL – Dates are on the PTA calendar and the calendar is on the Franklin Sherman website.
- By-Laws – Katie Maness made a motion to approve the PTA Association By-Laws. Tiina Keder seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
- Next Year – Cynthia informed us that it is not too early to start thinking about filling and finding Chairperson's for next year's PTA Committees. Kelly Treibitz said she will be sending out a Yahoo with details and duties of assignments.
- Thank you's – Cynthia thanked Barbara Smith and Jayne Merritt for all their hard work on Teacher Appreciation Week. Tasso Flocos was thanked for providing a walking field trip for our students to the new green house under construction on Calder Street. Mr. Majette was thanked for a great job on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade play, *Sleeping Beauty*. Cynthia gave gifts to the PTA Board to thank them for all their help and she thanked all the people who helped her during the last two years of her Presidency. Michelle Sandler presented a gift to Cynthia for her work and dedication as President of the PTA. A luncheon will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> by the teachers in honor of all the volunteers at Franklin Sherman. Another luncheon will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> by Cynthia Alksne in honor of the volunteers at her home.
- Library Notes – Mrs. Choiniere-Kroeker thanked everyone for their hard work on the Book Fair. It raised \$4,000 for the school library. Mrs. Choiniere-Kroeker noted that she sees a circulation decrease with sixth graders. She would like to have more books in the library tailored to sixth graders. Mrs. Choiniere-Kroeker is going to send out a survey to receive feedback on what types of books families would like to see in the library for the sixth graders. Mrs. Choiniere-Kroeker stated that she will read all books that are purchased for the sixth graders.

### **Landscaping – Eric Simpson, Rene Simpson and Jen Herzberg**

Eric Simpson presented two proposals for Franklin Sherman's courtyard. The proposals are from Merrifield Garden Center and Wheat's Landscaping. The PTA has saved \$30,000 to pay for the courtyard improvements. Bricks will be used as pavers in the courtyard and families will be offered the opportunity to buy engraved bricks at \$50.00 each. Sixth grade families and alumni will be offered this option in the very near future. It will again be offered in September to the rest of the Franklin Sherman families and the community.

Parents were asked to vote on their preference of brick color for the pavers and also to vote on which proposal they preferred. Eric and Rene Simpson generously donated the cost of the Merrifield Garden Center proposal and Wheat's Landscaping donated their proposal.

### **Principal's Corner – Dr. Vicki Duling**

Dr. Duling noted that the renovation has made great progress and the landscaping will be completed this summer. The trailers will be removed and we will reclaim that area. The blacktop area will need to be repaired due to damage caused by the placement of the Quad.

A school improvement plan is underway to focus on how we teach writing to our students. A Committee made up of administrators, teachers, and parents will evaluate different writing programs to see which program best fits our school.

### **Writing Options – Mrs. McElroy**

Mrs. McElroy informed us that the School Improvement Plan Committee will be looking at different writing products teachers can use for their writing program. The Committee's objective is to find a program that has a good variety of writing subjects and that goes along with SOL. This writing program will begin in the Fall.

### **Budget – Katie Maness**

A thorough review of income and expenses was reported. An amendment was proposed to take out \$20,000 from current assets and carry that money forward to next year for future renovation projects to include courtyard improvements and a school sign. Lynn Starr made a motion to approve this amendment and it was seconded by Helen Miller. The motion carried and the amendment was passed.

## **Elections – Lynn Starr**

Prior to nominations Lynn Starr presented a gift to Cynthia Alksne for her work as PTA President for the past two years.

The following people were nominated for Franklin Sherman’s PTA Executive Board for the 2009-2010 school year.

Michelle Sandler – President

Kelly Treibitz – VP of Budget and Fundraising

Margie Richardson – VP of Programming

Kara Petrosinelli – Membership

Tiina Keder – Treasurer

Regina Zane – Recording Secretary

Alisa Schultz – Corresponding Secretary

Cynthia Alksne made a motion to vote on the new PTA Executive Board. Melissa Sporn seconded the motion and the motion passed.

## **Adjournment**

Cynthia Alksne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Katie Maness seconded the motion and the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Zane

Recording Secretary