

2024.09.05 Mary Lin PTA General Meeting

Co-Presidents – Stephanie Shumacher & Ann Cloud

Secretary – Danielle Gallo

Treasurer - Rachel Weinthal Frank

VP, Communications – Beryl Firestone

Co-VP, Education – Saskia Owoade-Bryant

Co-VP, Education - Michelle Kotheimer

Co-VP, Fundraising -Esther Lipmann

Co-VP, Fundraising – Stephanie Smith

Co-VP, Operations – Amy Wheeler

Co-VP, Operations – Laura Tanguturi

Co-VP, Parent Involvement – Sarah Perlin

Co-VP, Parent Involvement – Kristen Zarbock

Parliamentarian – Claire Oates

Principal – Denise Bringslid

Assistant Principal – Katie Zubrowski

AGENDA

Call to Order 5:47 pm

Approval of Minutes

Move: Morgan Clemente

Second: Michelle Kotheimer

Approved: Unanimous

- I. Welcome our new Principal and Assistant Principal. Denise and Katie introduced themselves and acknowledged Mary Lin staff members in attendance of this meeting. Ann gave a brief overview of the new Superintendent Dr. Bryan Johnson, Monday Sept. 16 at Virginia Highland Elementary (VHE) – school capacity listening discussion.
- II. Ann provided a HUGE thank you to the outgoing PTA board and noted those that stayed on for this year.
- III. Ann reviewed slides that introduced 2024/2025 PTA Board. Thank you to our yearbook team! We still need two additional volunteers to help: (1) Manage content (lead) = layout/design, photos, create planner of layout and content and (2) Yearbook Communication Lead – managing yearbook communications
- IV. Fun Run Kick-off (Matt Nolan from Activate to share about their organization, Dr. Bennett Walker to highlight the Lu Interactive Playground)
 - a. Only non-profit doing fundraising – last year we paid boosterthon \$30k.

- b. Ultimate goal is to get corporate goal of sponsoring clusters of schools or big goal = all of APS.
- c. They identified pain points for teachers and alleviated them
 - i. 100% of what is given stays at the school, used for PTA, teachers and classrooms
 - ii. Most fundraisers do individual toys and Activate doesn't do that, instead each class will know their total and will win fun things like hat day or extra recess and no one knows who raised the most money (it's anonymous). They also reward through affirmation time where kids will acknowledge their peers for what they like about them.
 - iii. There's no pledge per lap, only a flat pledge per donor.
 - iv. Parents – sign up, register, send requests to family
 - v. Hoping to meet or exceed \$70k goal (\$150/child)!
 - vi. Q&A:
 - 1. Q: does the donation end on 9/13? No, they leave the site up until next year so you can donate whenever but for reward counting they usually give through the weekend (9/15)
 - 2. Q: Link? www.gofundschoools.com/marylin
 - 3. Q: what will the event be like on Friday? Little tracks set up in the back field as large as the auditorium, first lap they'll skip, then they'll dance, then they'll do a train and then they'll run holding a friend's hand. They don't actually keep track of laps.
 - 4. Q: what time is it? PreK-1 9:00-9:45, 2-3 10:00-10:45, 4-5 11:00-11:45
- d. Ann provided a video of the Lu Interactive Playground that would be installed in the gym within the next few months so current 4th and 5th graders could enjoy this year. They have this at VHE and it's been very successful there. Coach Dee and Dr. Bennett Walker talked about it and how great it is with all subject matters accessible during PE. It's a 12'x19' screen. Coach D said what's most unique about it is that it is cross-curriculum. There's fitness, dance, music sound system, STEAM activities, Math games depending on age group/level, hygiene, Geography maps where you can do a puzzle, sight words. Teachers can also go in and make their own content and teachers can tap into content other teachers have made. They can create a game using sight words. It has a sports timer like a scoreboard and score keeper. Lights can be choreographed. Kids can choose teams by touching the ghost or icon of which team they want to be on (they can also vote). Trivia games can be played. It was be used during general assemblies like music night, teacher provides slides.
- e. Lu Q&A
 - i. Q: How much does it cost? \$35,000
 - ii. Q: Is there a subscription? Yes, it is \$1,200 per year but you don't have to do it.
 - iii. Q: If we're raising \$70,000 and this is \$35,000, where would the remaining funds go? We are going to cover a detailed budget later.

- iv. Q: how often will kids use the Lu? Daily during ASAP.
- v. Q: Do you think kids will get to use it during iKids or morning run? Yes for iKids for sure.
- vi. Q: what pain points exist with using technology in PE? I just wonder if we expose our kids to too much technology and it's the one class that is technology free? It's not technology free now, we use a smart board now for fire safety. Almost every day we use technology in PE, depending on what you're teaching sometimes more than others.
- vii. Q: What was the process for deciding this is what we want these funds to go to? It was presented to the foundation last year. Ann: we're going to review the budget and vote on it. Claire described how the voting process works and if we don't have a majority, we can approve the budget with this line item removed. But she wants to know the process for deciding this as a goal. Who decides on the goals? This came to the PTA from teachers last year and the board agreed to incorporate this as part of the budget this year. Dr. Bennett Walker: As the perspective from a classroom teacher, not everyone likes PE, so an alternative perspective is that this could encourage them to like PE and we cannot avoid technology.
- viii. Q: is there a social emotional aspect to using the Lu (learning)? A lot of teamwork problem solving. How is the connectivity across a group of people? How do we prevent it from being too much of an individual experience?
- ix. Q: is PE ever held outside? Not yet because they have recess outside so usually not enough space for PE and recess but we do not with the habitat.
- x. Q: maybe if this was framed as – this isn't replacing PE vs. enhancing it – but my actual question is are there going to be several options and we vote on what we think or is this the option. Ann – this is the option we have selected but it's not set in stone.

V. The PTA and the Foundation. Carolyn Noble shared an overview of the Foundation.

- a. Carolyn gave examples of foundation fundraising that went straight back to the school such as irrigation, the habitat, a more natural environment for play-based learning.
- b. First foundation meeting was yesterday (9/4/24) and they granted funds for math learning enhancements for first grade.

VI. Current PTA Activities: Ann provided an overview of PTA communications = rocket blast, website updates, yearbook.

- a. PTA fundraising involves school partner outreach and donations, dine outs, teacher raffles, shopping rewards.
- b. Community involvement does movie nights, bingo nights, school playdates, Linapalooza, spring rocket run, etc.

- c. Esther and Stephanie gave fundraising updates, called for company sponsorship opportunities, attend dine outs. Please support local business partners and you can easily give PTA money by downloading (and asking your friends and family to) boxtops app, link Kroger and Publix cards and it's just free money for the school and sign up for the PTA. Need Kidlandia bounce house volunteers. If you sign up to volunteer for two slots, you get a free fall fest t shirt and your kid can jump for free.
- d. Education (Michelle) – APS is really looking at Midtown cluster and high school overcrowding so that is one way the community can get involved.
- e. Amy Wheeler talked about operations – kicked off room parent meeting last week, lost and found, Teacher Appreciation Week will occur in early March, family donation drive, career day is in February.

VII. Budget Review and Approval – Ann led the discussion.

- a. Budget Review/Approval. Informal discussion regarding process for approving budget occurred. Some questions around how the PTA decides what projects to fund and also around introducing more technology/fear of overstimulation.
 - i. Move = Stephanie Smith
 - ii. Second = Alex Zubrowski
 - iii. Approved? Yes =26, No = 4
- b. Majority did approve so the 2024/25 PTA Budget will pass

ADJOURN 7:00 pm

Full attendee list follows. Highlighted names are not members of the PTA.

Tyler Lewis	Beryl Firestone	Rachel Caldes	Esther Lippman	Claire Oates
Natalie Heredia	Limrec Corn	Amanda Shipley	Melissa Heim Viox	Sandra Bonilla
Johan Harris	Becky Byram	Alex Zubrowski	Sarah Perlin	Diana Benton
Candace Salim	Thuyen Barton	Katie Zubrowski	Christine Bryan	Danielle Gallo
Jeannie Beckett	Erin Norwell	Carolyn Noble	April Graves	Dec Ryan
Matt Beckett	Ashley McGrath	Kamilyah Hardaway	Stephanie Smith	Patricia Derriw
Stephanie Bennett-Walker	Amy Wheeler	Amanda Maddox	Morgan Clemente	Laura Tanguturi
Michelle Kotheimer	Tiffany Ghen	Meeta Dama	Anna Pless Peel	Cathy Robinson
Ashley Altenburger	Zari Zandar			