

October 5th, 2020 Louise Archer Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

Call to Order at 8:03pm

Melanie Meren Hunter Mill

District Representative to the School Board:

- Melanie has a 5th and 2nd grader at Wolf Trap Elementary.
- Has a background in early childhood education and has been advocating for our young ones
- In August, the superintendent presented a plan for certain cohorts to return to school, which starts with those at most risk for being left behind.
- Watching other Counties, like Loudoun and other states, but Loudoun has 100,000 less students and newer buildings with better air quality systems.
- FCPS was 2 months ahead of the state in collecting and presenting metrics.
- She was also annoyed that the Superintendent's message in September didn't include K-2. Very complex and not a quick path to it.
- Agrees that this is not the right time for the TJ meeting, but they have certain legal and financial requirements as a Board.
- Has not personally been looking at data from private schools because it isn't "apples to apples" and budgetary situations are so different.
- High school sports: She is the school board liaison for the FCPS sports and has been very active to see what can be done. Has been talking to different people and has met with Madison coaches, parents, & head of athletics to brainstorm. Has spoken to our state senator who circulated a letter to get support for VHSL to green light. VHSL is state wide with many different parameters but they provide our insurance.

- She will have a meeting later this week to discuss the path to green.
- It is still unclear/unknown whether parents will be surveyed about staying virtual or choosing hybrid. October 15th the next phase of the plan will be submitted to the public. Regarding TJ, agrees that this has been rushed. Thinks we need to be much more thoughtful and obtain more community involvement.
- The superintendents of Loudoun, Arlington, and FCPS have all been in communication. Arlington has 26,000 students which is the number that we have on free/reduced lunches alone. They are sharing best practices and best ideas, but we are very different sizes so there are different needs.
- When the plan came out for a full school day, she thought it seemed like a long day online. Due to different student needs and availability of staff, there needed to be a full day. She asked about shortening the day, and it wasn't dismissed and is a suggestion being kicked around.
- It is hard to green-light hyper-local solutions, i.e. Madison pyramid only.
- Won't make conjectures about likelihood about returning to school. Critical to manage expectations. We all want to get kids back.
- For the October Board meeting, expect a plan for how K-2 students will be brought back in November.
- The division does not seem to be releasing a timeline. Appears that they want to wait and see as the plan rolls out slowly. But will share as soon as she knows.
- New state dashboard just released and hoping that helps with confidence in tracking.
- The intention was there to place a teacher based on parent virtual or hybrid requests, but they reached a point where numbers didn't match up. There has been an 8000% increase in last year for those seeking ADA requests. The division is looking at assigning

kids to other classes and possibly other schools. She is asking that parents be re-surveyed because things have changed. It is very complex and there are lots of moving parts.

- Has advocated that teachers not be tasked with doing hybrid and virtual learning concurrently because it requires different teaching styles.

Principal's Report:

- In almost daily meetings to provide feedback on how things look in our school so that decisions can be made as a County.
- Huge thank you for all that parents are doing at home!
- I have a freshman and a senior so I know the challenges that exist.
- Hoping that you obtained additional information from each grade level at Back to School Night.
- If you continue to have questions, please reach out to your teacher.
- Our teachers are training to try to connect and engage the kids even further.
- The first phase of students: the enhanced autism program and those in a non-categorical program will be the first to return, which is a handful of students.
- We are working through how classrooms will look and our facility/staffing so that we are ready when we can move forward.
- Thank you for all you are doing to support our teachers and our school!
- Jennifer Condra: Thank you all so much for supporting your children at home! Universal Screener (I Ready) is a requirement as a County. K requires just reading and Grades 1-6 Reading and Math. It identifies gaps in learning and identifies where weaknesses lie. The difficulty level is computer adaptive and

becomes harder as they get more questions correct. The results will come in the mail around the beginning of November. It is just one piece of data, so please keep that in mind when you see the scores. If in grades 3-6 and score above 40th percentile, they won't take it again. It can be up to 3 times per year depending on grade level and how they score. No update yet on SOLs, but there is a window set towards the end of the school year.

- We do have staffing challenges in our school and pyramid. We are aware that families may want to adjust their prior decision and that may dramatically change our numbers. Concurrent teaching (teaching online and in person at the same time) may need to be an option.
- We have had 1 pre-construction/pre-planning design meeting, which is typical for the construction phase we are in.
- The desire to follow a teacher might be a factor for a family to decide to stay virtual or change to hybrid.
- We are asking for decisions to be made and options to move forward. We work very closely in Madison pyramid to come up with solutions/ideas that we can propose.

Treasurer's Report:

- Membership and donations received through end-Sep is \$6,893, of which about \$1K are dues and rest are donations; we are below are membership/donation income from last year
- Fundraisers income is \$2,754, of which \$2K is LA 5K and rest are proceeds from last year. So far about 20 adults and 20 kids signed up for LA5K.
- No community events yet; the \$17 was expense from faculty volleyball game last year
- Student programs income of \$2800 is MathCounts (received about another \$800 last week)

- Student programs cost of \$1,573 was winter soccer program from last year (does not include \$450 MathCounts registration to be paid this week)
- Student programs cost \$2,628 includes Azzara fund for school supplies and Homework Club from last year
- Total income is not too far off from where we were at last year if you adjust for student programs
- School support includes \$1500 in Peardeck licensing and rest are teacher classroom funds
- PTA admin fees include insurance, Zoom, and paypal fees
- Cash balance is \$48K

New Business:

- Kristin nominated Lynde Herzbach as our new Secretary. Seconded by Regan Morgan. We will vote on her nomination at the next PTA meeting.

President's Report & Program

Announcements

- **Membership**
 - Gina: We have 102 members total. 10 cheerleaders. 32 couples and 18 individuals. Please encourage everyone you know to join.
- **LA5K**
 - 10/24
 - Virtual this year
 - Register to run. There will be T-shirts.
 - You can be a cheerleader with your name on the shirt, but sign-up before 10/8.

- Encourage neighbors and all come out that day to run.
#LA5K
- Look for more information in the Sunbeam
- **Reflections**
 - Lisa: It is a national PTA sponsored art competition. Find out about it on the PTA website. This year's theme is "I matter because..."
 - All virtual this year and the page is set-up for online submissions.
 - Please email us with any submission questions
 - Deadline is 10/14. Please encourage your kids to enter.
- **Mini Grants**
 - Sarah: \$12K budget. We solicit our staff and ask them to submit requests for classroom supplies, apps, devices, anything from stools to books.
 - What is needed and how can we help out as parents and a PTA? If anyone is interested, please email Sarah with ideas and if you would like to be on the committee.
- **Walk to School Day**
 - This Wednesday is International Walk to School Day, so please walk by the school before virtual learning starts or during lunch break.
 - Supposed to be beautiful weather. Stay tuned for information about a possible food drive.
- **Spirit Wear**
 - We've already had \$1600 in sales which is only about \$100 shy of how we did last year in sales due to the pandemic.

- Everyone will hear about the monthly coupons from our vendor via Facebook and other social media outlets.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm