

Margaret Beeks PTO Minutes
General Meeting, October 10, 2012, 6 PM

Attendance: Jenny Lo, Carla Slebodnick, Lisa Maloney, April Peacock, Rhonda Burch, Bill Sembello, Lisa Belden, Yvonne Clark, Carly Weber, Micah Mefford Stephen Sutphin, Julene Rice, Holly McFall, Lauren Ermann, Laura Oler, and Faith Taylor

- I. Call to Order at 6 PM
- II. Approval of Minutes September 2012: approved.
- III. Principal Report
 - a. Thanks to Jeanne, Nancy, and all the other organizers for a spectacular 50th Birthday Celebration. Alumni, former teachers, school board, and superintendent were all delighted.
 - b. Welcome for the new 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Stewart. PTO voted to give Ms. Stewart the teacher stipend.
 - c. Parent-teacher conferences are still taking place. Parents who can't schedule conferences during the "conference week" are encouraged to schedule at another time.
 - d. Beginning Thurs, Oct 18, Mr. Mefford will be out for 3.5 weeks on paternity leave. Administrators from Falling Branch and Kipps will be substituting.
 - e. "Give Me Five": this program is being implemented in Lynchburg. The program designed to increase parent involvement in kid's education by asking for "5"—e.g, spend 5 minutes talking with your kids about school each day, volunteer 5 hrs at the school, donate \$5, attend 5 school events, etc. Steve Sutphin and Mr. Sembello will explore further.
 - f. Girl Scout "Gold Award" project. Jamie Wiggert and Carolyn Taylor will be establishing a "Reading Garden" in the corner outside the library (where the cluster of picnic tables used to be). The girl scouts are working on raising \$500 in grants/donations. A troop of younger girl scouts will provide labor. The time scale for completion is approximately 1 month.
- IV. Teacher Representative Report
 - a. Teachers are looking forward to Oct 15 Teacher Appreciation Brunch!
 - b. The YMCA after school program will continue this year. Some VT classes are getting involved, so the future looks promising.
- V. Treasurer Report
 - a. September Income=\$2779.96: PTO Dues=\$50; Kroger cards =\$854.25; Donations \$10; VT Football \$1865, Interest Income \$0.71.
 - b. September Expenses=\$3378.47: 3rd-5th grade planners =\$1272; Teacher stipend for supplies (\$26.5 teachers @ \$50/teacher)=\$1325; Principal Discretionary=\$31.47; Beeks 50th Birthday preparations=\$750.
 - c. Kroger Cards: Only 3 new Kroger Card users since last Spring--need to get more new parents involved! In addition, we only have about 25 regular users. Suggestions to increase usage include (1) teachers to advertise in their weekly newsletters, (2) selling cards at Kroger, (3) providing a "free" card with PTO membership dues (in future years), (4) holding a raffle.
- VI. President's Report
 - a. Summary of Presidents Meeting with Superintendent Blackburn on September 13:
 - 2012-2013 Budget: New bus routes saving \$70K. 40 positions cut.
 - Enrollment up at elementary and secondary level, but not more than expected.

- District Initiatives:
 1. Commit to Graduate
 2. Student achievement
 3. More visible appreciation of teachers and staff
 4. Superintendent Blackburn visiting/touring each school
 5. Achieving “20th century classrooms” (technology investments)
 6. Increase cultural and ethnic diversity
- Budget: MCPS is expecting further budget cuts for the 2013-2014 school year. The primary focus of the money that is available will be teaching. Items “on the table” for review include: busing, redistricting, alternative scheduling, school consolidation, grade level reconfiguration, and outsourcing services (e.g. custodial, food services, nursing, transportation).
- How parents can help:
 1. Stay informed and share accurate information. MCPS and the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors have already started a dialogue about next years budget. MCPS has launched a website to help provide the most up-to-date information (<http://www.mcps.org/budgetupdate/>)
 2. Exercise right to vote, call/email/write local and state representatives, and attend local school board and county supervisor meetings.
- The non-profit *Montgomery County Education Foundation* was recently established to help provide money for local education programs.
- Ownership of school properties that are no longer used is being transferred to Montgomery County for sale. Proceeds from any sales will go toward offsetting the school/county budget woes.

VII. Open Issues

- a. 2012-13 Committee Chair Needs: Spring Fling/Summer Kickoff—contact Jenny Lo (jlombepo@gmail.com) for more information.
- b. Committee Updates:
 - *Fundraising*: Ms. Rasnake will NOT hold a fundraiser this year. Michelle Vann will organize a Spring Fundraiser with Wolfgang Chocolates.
 - *Teacher Appreciation*: Oct 15 Boo-tiful Brunch.
 - *Landscaping*: School marquee has new brickwork. New River Stone Masonry volunteered their services. PTO voted to reimburse Steve Sutphin for \$40 that he paid to cover fuel and supplies and to provide a \$50 honorarium.
 - *Reporter*: The marquee needs 20-25 new letters (\$1.40 each). Will revisit whether to purchase after seeing if existing letters can be repaired.
 - *School Photos*: Fall photo day was jumbled. In future, teachers will be asked to stay in classroom until they are called. In Spring, Yvonne will send a note home with packets announcing that part of the proceeds go to the school.
 - *Guest Author*: CeCe Bell will visit on Monday April 8.

VIII. New issues

- a. *In Memory*. Voted to send a sympathy card and \$100 Kroger gift card to the Werner family..
- b. *Adventure World*: Julene Rice asked about and will research holding a Beeks Night at Adventure World.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.