

**Margaret Beeks PTO Minutes**  
General Meeting, December 5, 2012, 6 PM

**Attendance:** Jenny Lo, Carla Sledobnick, Lisa Belden, April Peacock, Yvonne Clark, Carly Weber, Steve Sutphin, Laura Oler, Faith Taylor, Meredith Keith, Monica Davis, Meredith Shealor, Micah Mefford

- I. Call to Order at 6 PM
- II. Approval of Minutes from November 2012 meeting
- III. Principal Report
  - a. MCPS class sizes: Our elementary classes are larger than the average class size in VA, but smaller than the national average.
  - b. VA “rigor standards” are changing. The state is following its own defined standards rather than the national standards.
  - c. Common Book Project—Beeks will proceed with the “One Book, One School” beginning in January. We will be read *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney. This book was chosen because (1) it is part of a series, so kids are more likely to continue with reading, (2) it has been used at other schools so there are plenty of resources available, and (3) the book content is directed to a broad range of kids.
- IV. Teacher Representative Report
  - a. *PTO targeted fundraiser:* Teachers are gathering information on bigger ticket items that could be used for targeted PTO fundraising goals. The teachers have divided into 2 groups (preK-2, 3-5) with Mrs. McGuigan and Mrs. Shelor heading the process.
  - b. *Playground Equipment:* Teachers filled out forms of what playground equipment they currently have. Carly Weber will tally. Steve Sutphin volunteered to pump up the balls. Basketball court needs chains instead of rope nets—the rope nets don’t stay on. Playground wants mentioned included a couple Frisbee golf nets and an adjustable basketball hoop for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade playground (Prices Fork has these—expensive \$1600 ea.)
  - c. *Snow Flake Board:* teachers like it!!
- V. Treasurer Report
  - a. November Income=\$685.47: PTO Dues=\$10; Donation \$100; Kroger cards =\$895.47.
  - b. November Expenses=\$703.39: Books for Breakfast=\$598.58; Principal Discretionary = \$79.81; School Improvements (Girl Scout Gold Award project of a reading garden) = \$25. Teacher Stipends =\$320 (Kroger Card for each Beeks staff member, 64x\$5ea)
- VI. President’s Report: Summary of PTO President’s meeting with Brenda Blackburn on Dec. 3.
  - a. MCPS budget:
    - Public forum was held on the school budget. Feedback from the meeting will be posted on the MCPS budget planning website (<http://www.mcps.org/budgetupdate/>).
    - The community is strongly encouraged to contact State and Federal representatives stressing the importance of increasing funding for public education.
    - Possible closure of HES, BES, or SMS in 2013-14 very unlikely because too many other changes are already occurring with opening of BHS and AHS.

- Teachers are being polled on whether they prefer “smaller classes with no raise” or “larger classes with a raise.” Increasing classes by an average of one student amounts to a 1.6% raise.
  - County budget is stalled by delays in the Federal and State budgets. Ms. Blackburn hopes to give preliminary 2013-14 budget recommendations in January.
- b. School board offices have moved to the new building.
  - c. BHS and AHS on target for construction budgets and schedule. AHS scheduled for July opening. BHS will open in 2 stages. The bid for AMS construction is being reopened (earlier bids considered too high).
  - d. Montgomery County Education Foundation is running a poetry contest and a benefit concert (as a fundraiser).
  - e. Examples of PTO activities other MCPS include: open houses with expositions of PE, art, etc. PTO sponsored breakfasts on SOL days, raising funds for an outdoor classroom
  - f. Examples of PTO fundraisers at other MCPS include: Breakfast with Santa, selling Kroger cards at ALL school events, Shelor Motor Mile program, silent auctions.

## VII. Open Issues

- a. Possible Adventure World Fundraiser: on hold.
- b. “Give Me 5” update:
  - Program Description: This program has been implemented in various locations (locally in Lynchburg, but originally in New Zealand). The program is designed to provide a positive atmosphere that will: (1) get parents more involved in the school, their children’s education, and their own education; (2) increase parent teacher communication; (3) increase school spirit. The program centers around the number “5” (e.g, 5 minutes talking with your children about school each day, volunteer 5 hrs/yr, donate \$5, 5 hrs additional education, attend 5 school events, etc. )
  - Program will be launched in January.
  - A logo has been designed.
  - Monthly family event will take place.
  - Need means of tallying participation—e.g. thumb prints.
  - Mr. Mefford put a volunteer form on the Beeks home page (<http://www.mcps.org/mbes/>). Possible volunteer opportunities include (but are not limited to) lunch duty, cleaning, landscaping, maintain playground equipment, teacher appreciation, contributing professional expertise.
  - A monthly “Give Me 5” Newsletter will be published.
- c. Safe routes to school: Phase 1, which is linker trail from 1<sup>st</sup> and main path to school property, will be completed next year. Phase 2 includes fencing and a path up the hill from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade playground. The path location is not ideal, but there are legal requirements for grading that limit the choices for where to put the path.
- d. Committee Updates:
  - Guest Author: Letter to request NBB grant is due in January.
  - Teacher Appreciation: Sylvia Bernard has replaced Cindy Hill as co-chair. Still need a few helpers for Dec 11 Teacher Appreciation event.
  - B4B: Giving away approx. 200 books/month. Made a BIG book purchase last month—books should carry B4B through most/all the year. People mentioned places where they can look for “high demand” used books—2<sup>nd</sup> Time Around, Once Upon a Child, YMCA, salebooks.com.

## VIII. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.