



Marshall Road Elementary PTA Minutes

January 23, 2017 6:45pm

MRES Library

Attendees: Urvi Desai (Vice President), Anna Moore (Vice President), Andrea Kramer (Treasurer), Jen Harlow (Secretary), Kavibhushan Nawthale, Swati Nawthale, Stephanie Rorrer, Shirley Gayle Sinclair, Kara Reynolds, Mandy Winkelman, Amanda DuFrayne, Catharine Andricos, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Lisa Dauernheim, Christina Burns, Yesenia Argueta, Olga Hernandez, Jen Wissinger, Missy Dixon, Mara Gecan, Joey Ma, Graeme Jennison, Kenneth Wong, Karen Vukson, Makenzie Kraus, Jennifer Heiges

I. Call Meeting to Order – Vice President, Urvi Desai, called the meeting to order at 6:54pm

II. President's Report- Urvi thanked everyone for coming. Cindy was tied up with making sandwiches with Girl Scouts, and many volunteers. Urvi wanted to make folks aware of these items:

Nomination Committee – contact Cindy @ president@marshallroadpta.org if you are interested on being on this committee to nominate board members for next year.

- a. PTA Board Positions – looking to fill all positions. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the person holding that role today to find out more.

vp@marshallroadpta.org, vicepresident@marshallroadpta.org, treasurer@marshallroadpta.org, secretary@marshallroadpta.org

- b. A-Z Directory Point of Contact – Online directory. In the fall, once FCPS info is finalized, we send info to parents to review, then send that info to the company we work with to make it look nice and distribute electronically.
- c. School Supplies Liaison – Starts in January for getting supplies by mid August. Work with EPI. Handle advertising, putting up signs, flyers in Tuesday folders, etc. You coordinate with vendor delivery of supplies about a week before school starts. Volunteers come help organize and distribute kits on day that works for you. Contact Anna Moore if interested in doing this @ vp@marshallroadpta.org
- d. Runathon Chairs – Mona Kamel was a great volunteer this past year for getting sponsorships and contributions. Thanks for all your time that you put into this! What she found was that businesses had already set aside funds for other contributions and were unable to support the runathon come late summer/early fall. She suggested we need to start asking businesses sooner as in late spring/early summer. Please feel free to contact Anna and Urvi who were the runathon chairs this past year. We are hoping for new, creative ideas to make this another successful event in 2017.

III. November Minutes – Approval: Jennifer Harlow asked that the November 2016 Minutes be approved. Attending PTA members had no objections and November Minutes stand as written and will be recorded accordingly.

IV. Treasurer Report– Andrea Kramer – There was a hectic November/December. The runathon amount of \$25,355.31 is very close to the final amount raised. Truly appreciate everyone’s help with this event. Under student programs, we have not paid for fitness warriors payroll for the fall yet. There were minor expenditures in November. Many larger expenses are still upcoming like field trips. Budget will be entered and posted online.

V. Principal’s Report-Jennifer Heiges- Thanks for coming tonight. The big item for tonight will be Ms. Wissinger and Ms. Kraus presenting Project-Based Learning (PBL). We have done a lot of research on this, as has the entire Madison pyramid. Teachers are aiming to try one per quarter. This will be discussed in further detail below.

Things to follow in the county – read about the proposed budget. We are still drastically behind with compensation and teacher shortages. Write letters to your board of supervisors – they need to hear from you. People move to Fairfax County for the good schools, at some point the cuts will be felt. There is a board of supervisors meeting on 1/24 @ 3pm when they take comments from the public.

Happy to see a service project going on tonight – kids making sandwiches while we’re having a meeting. We try to do something at one PTA meeting during the school year. If you have any ideas for future service events, please let us know.

VI. Committee Chair Reports

- a. School Play - Urvi Desai – auditions for Mulan Jr. for 5th and 6th graders. More info online. If interested in tech crew, go to room 209. Rehearsals every day from 7:30-9am. Registration fee is \$100 – which goes very far, for supplies, materials, etc. We know there are some problems with the hosting website to register – don’t let this stop you from trying out.
- b. International Night – Jen Harlow for Mona Kamel – Will be held February 17th from 6:30-8:30. If you are interested in participating please contact internationalnight@marshallroadpta.org
Ways to participate – cultural display, parade of nations, talent show and volunteer! The CARE club will be selling water bottles to raise money to benefit a non-profit organization.
- c. Enrichment – there are major problems with the hosting website. It was hacked. It’s getting better, but users may still have problems. Normally you would need to fill out an enrollment form for MRES and then fill out another form for the vendor. Right now linked directly to the vendor.
- d. Dr. Seuss Night/Read Across America – Graeme Jennison – will be held March 2nd from 6-7pm. Teachers are the stars! They will read their favorite Dr. Seuss book. This is Graeme’s 4th year doing this and is looking for a replacement chair. If interested, please let Graeme know.

VII. Project Based Learning (PBL) – Ms. Kraus and Ms. Wissinger

Entire Madison pyramid is doing this, researching and learning about it. Need to raise problem solvers. Fits well with FCPS’ Portrait of a Graduate as it hits almost all the components. There is not one correct answer or product. There is collaboration and communication happening between one another. It is goal directed. PBL keeps students engaged with teacher’s guidance. It’s authentic and real world. There is a lot of choice which makes it more engaging. There is a driving question from which you create a need to know list: who, what, how will it look, where will I get my research. Students are excited about PBL. A parent asked what’s the process to refine

this – there is instant feedback from students. A teacher would like to see PBL being used in different disciplinary areas such as math, social studies and language arts. Kids are learning because they're engaged with PBL. Feedback is a huge part of becoming better at PBL. As a teacher, there is an element in PBL where you pose something to kids and don't know what the end product looks like. Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco met with the school principals in the Town of Vienna. They discussed PBL and the mayor will be taking a look at the problems Vienna is facing. She will be getting back to the principals for them to determine what grade would help solve the problem. We will hopefully hear from her in a month or so with some real-life problems. This is very cool, as they're real life problems being solved by students in our community.

VIII. New Business – N/A

IX. Meeting Adjourned at 7:54pm.

X. Next PTA Meeting is on March 6 from 9:15-10:15 following Pastries for Parents (8:45-9:15am)

PTA Board Contacts:

Cindy Iwan-president@marshallroadpta.org
Anna Moore-vp@marshallroadpta.org
Urvi Desai-vicepresident@marshallroadpta.org
Andrea Kramer-treasurer@marshallroadpta.org
Jennifer Harlow -secretary@marshallroadpta.org

Checklist:

- JOIN the PTA! <http://marshallroadpta.org/join>
- DONATE to Friends of Marshall Road! <http://marshallroadpta.org/direct-donations>
- SIGN UP for ENews! <http://marshallroadpta.org/news/subscribe-to-enews/>
- LIKE us on Facebook: MRES PTA



TOGETHER MAY WE
GIVE OUR CHILDREN
*roots to grow, and
wings to fly*