



Marshall Road Elementary PTA Minutes

March 6, 2017 9:15am

MRES Cafeteria

Attendees: Cindy Iwan (President), Urvi Desai (Vice President), Andrea Kramer (Treasurer), Jen Harlow (Secretary), Jennifer Heiges, Yesenia Argueta, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Jana Ferrel, Heather Palmer, Huang (Phoebe) Wang, Julie Rogers, Cat Mascovitz, Lara Brooks, Mary Curby, Beth Eachus, Missy Walsh, Tanya McClelland, Danielle Cook, Darcy Grissler, Amy Jones, Karla Toper-Nguyen, Mona Kamel, Olga Hernandez, Pegah Poorshaghghi, Ashwin Joshi

I. Call Meeting to Order – President, Cindy Iwan, called the meeting to order at 9:17am

II. President's Report- Cindy thanked everyone for coming. Thanked Pastries for Parents, John and Beth Dearing (who are finishing their service) and Jennifer Rosenberg (for volunteering as the new chair). Thanked Sharon Drumm for working on box tops, which we collected \$800 for the school. Thanked Tanya McClelland for the things she did to show our appreciation for the crossing guards and custodians. Thanks to Graeme Jennison for another successful Dr. Seuss night.

Cindy Iwan proposed Missy Dixon, Urvi Desai, and Jen Harlow to be on the Nominating Committee. Beth Eachus motioned to elect these individuals, motion was seconded by Missy Walsh. Cindy called the question, attending PTA members voted, and the stated Motion was passed.

- 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. Runathon Chairs – Mona Kamel was a great volunteer this past year for getting sponsorships and contributions. 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 (really in March). There are different aspects with regard to the runathon - sponsors, t-shirts, prizes, etc. If you are interested in any, please 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. January Minutes – Approval: Jennifer Harlow asked that the January 2017 Minutes be approved. Attending PTA members had no objections and January Minutes stand as written and will be recorded accordingly.

IV. Treasurer Report– Andrea Kramer – Well on track for fundraising for year. Self-sustaining programs are running along and some events are showing expenses now that they are now taking place. Nothing unusual to highlight at this time. Budget will be posted.

V. Principal's Report-Jennifer Heiges- Not going to spend too much time on the FCPS budget. Stay informed, know what's happening. Dr. Lockard is still trying to raise teacher salaries and fund universal screener.

Universal Screener is a technology-based student assessment system. It will eliminate a lot of separate assessing that Fairfax County currently conducts. It gives teachers a very comprehensive report on where your child is. There are a few pilot schools and they still must do the normal FCPS assessments but are also using the universal screener. Because of universal screener, FCPS is trying to increase the number of computers in schools.

Here at Marshall Road, we had a very soft roll-out of the positivity project. The county offered training and Ms. Gomes went. She did turn around training. While training isn't free, the resources are, which is great! #otherpeoplematter

The University of Michigan did research on the state of the union of children. There is a lack of independence and more anxiety in kids. The positivity project will help strengthen student relationships, from elementary to high school age, students (kids) will begin to see or learn that other people matter.

There are multiple activities for each character trait. MRES is about to send five more teachers to training. Principal Heiges had to sign an oath, and because she signed it, teachers can access the resources for the positivity project. MRES will start off full-fledged in the fall 2017.

Parent asked if there was a way to do something over summer break with kids to keep this going? Principal Heiges will take it back to the teachers, and once the additional five teachers go to training, she'll get back to us. She liked the idea very much.

Another parent asked if we the parents will get any information or research on this – and yes, the school will be sending out information. There is something called emotion quotient – they become good leaders and can manage multiple moving parts. This is very much tied into the positivity project.

This also marries nicely with Project Based Learning (PBL).

VI. Committee Chair Reports

- a. School Play - Urvi Desai – Rehearsals are going very well. Ms. Yazzy and Ms. Welsh are doing a tremendous job. There will be evening performances on both March 30th and 31st and there will be a performance during each of those days for just the students. Thanks to all the parents sewing and helping get your child to practice. We hope you'll come see the play even if you don't have a child in it. The kids are having a ton of fun.

On a separate note, if you have a child in 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade, they can be in the Wizard of Oz as a munchkin at James Madison High School. Permission slips are due by March 7th. The Wizard of Oz will be performed at Madison from April 27th-29th.

Lastly – Thoreau is performing Willy Wonka from April 20th -22nd Again, please go out and support a local performance.

- b. Book Fair- Olga Hernandez – Spring Book Fair is buy 1, get 1 free. The PTA doesn't make any money on this one. Only three days and coincide with Spring Family Fun Night. On April 18th will set up, begin by the afternoon of the 19th and run through Friday, April 21st. Will need volunteers. Still working on a theme.

- c. Spring Family Fun Night – Cindy Iwan – While book fair will be going on in the library, many other activities will be taking place such as: poetry reading in a coffee shop (will have coffee, hot chocolate), students can come dressed as their favorite character from a book. There will be jazz music lead by Ms. Welsh and students, Ms. Wissinger will have a parent reading tune up workshop and translator will assist Spanish-speaking families. Ms. Sterling will show parents resources online. Teacher Appreciation Week (TAW) will have postcards out for students and parents to write notes to non-home room teachers to use as currency to ‘purchase’ free food. It really will be a great night and come out to enjoy the fun!
- d. Teacher Appreciation Week- Danielle Cook – Will be the first week of May (May 1-5). Theme is Teachers Across America. The roadrunner will be taking a trip across the country.
Monday- will be road trip kick off, all things USA as the theme and going on a road trip
Tuesday- mid-west with cowboys, cowgirls, ranchers as the theme
Wednesday- east coast with amusement parks as the theme
Thursday- west coast with a surfing theme
Friday- southwest and coincidentally is Cinco de Mayo

There will be a daily event for teachers such as breakfast, lunch and/or snacks. Music will be playing in the hallway. Surprises in teacher’s mailbox each day. There will be funny signs up in teacher only areas and raffle prizes.

Trying to get student participation through non-monetary ways. Will be sending home general information and a roadrunner in a car, like a flat Stanley, that the student can take with them wherever they go over spring break and have a photo taken to have in the Roadrunner Report during TAW – make sure to send in photos. There will also be postcards, thanks for the memories – that students can thank any teacher homeroom and non-homeroom. The target at Spring Family Fun Night will be non-homeroom teacher.

There will be a sign-up genius being sent out to help with making mailboxes for teachers with shoeboxes for the postcards filled out by students.

Spirit week will occur during this week too, students and teachers can dress up each day. Information will be sent home before spring break.

TAW is asking for wishes around the US. If you have family or friends working at a school in another state, we’d love a short video of them just saying hi, happy teacher appreciation week. I’m here in city & state.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Danielle Cook.

VII. New Business –

- a. Beth Eachus – If you have a rising 7th grader, Thoreau is having meet and greets. Please come to one, it’s a great opportunity for your student!
- b. On March 30th, Madison will be presenting The Power and Peril of Social Media from 7-9pm. Feel free to come if you are interested. A short description is below taken from the school website:
Social Media has changed the way our teens experience every day. While there are vast advantages to be connected, social media and current technologies also expose enormous vulnerabilities. Learn the issues for parents and how to parent teens in a social media world. Topics to include: digital reputation, brain development, Geotagging/Geolocation, online predators, sexting and the use of

- social media in academics. Presented by Iris Beckwith, President, Connected4Safety.
- c. Marshall Road (the street) will be under construction in the near future. Currently going through purchasing, and should start in April or May. Will take about 90-120 days, however it could take longer depending on weather and other unknowns. You will only be able to drive on Marshall Road one way – towards Nutley. Communication will come out soon from the Town of Vienna. Will have complete sidewalks, three RRFBs – pedestrian beacons which are pedestrian activated. Narrower streets too.
 - d. Elizabeth Terry-Humen- After SOLs, if people were interested in doing one or two art smart activities in other grades, please contact Elizabeth. At the meeting, many hands went up – there is interest and volunteers.
 - e. Olga Hernandez- We'd like to send out a survey monkey to see how to better improve communications between teachers and parents. Was asked what the specific issue was – responded that she didn't know what is expected in a certain grade (2) – has asked teachers to communicate more. Would like to know what the weekly/monthly expectations are. To have a better idea of what is coming up. Cindy will follow up with Olga.
 - f. Colonial Day for 4th graders on March 10th. They need clear bottles and coffee or oatmeal/grits containers to make drums. If you have any, please send to the office and they will get them to the 4th grade team.
 - g. Consider purchasing new flags for international night.
 - h. In need of someone to take over bike train and maintaining the garden.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 10:18am.

IX. Next PTA Meeting is on April 3 from 9:30-10:30

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*