



## Marshall Road Elementary PTA Minutes

April 3, 2017 9:30am

### MRES Cafeteria

Attendees: Anna Moore (Vice President), Andrea Kramer (Treasurer), Jen Harlow (Secretary), Jennifer Heiges, Mary Curby, Missy Dixon, Amy Jones, Yesenia Argueta, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Karen Strug, Cait Thrasher, Pegah Poorshaghghi, Ashwin Joshi, Catherine Mascovitz, Lisa Kelso, Erin Williams, Nataliya Loffe, Gina Womack, Denise Gargano, September Schulthies, Beth Eachus, Laura Parker, Loginn Kapitan, Yelitza Luna, Danielle Cook, Stephanie Rorrer, Rihana Abdela, Beth Mertens, Charlotte Tyler, Elizabeth Honig of FCPS

I. Call Meeting to Order – Vice President, Anna Moore, called the meeting to order at 9:30am

II. President's Report- Andrea Kramer filling in for Cindy Iwan/Anna Moore. The current PTA Board is in the recruitment phase for the 2017-'18 PTA Board. Contact those who are currently on the board or even those from previous boards to find out more information. Today, our school is honoring Autism Awareness. There will be hands on activities for students to experience sensory sensitivity during recess along with information for reference. Bracelets will be sold for \$1. All proceeds will be donated to Autism Speaks.

- a. 2017-'18 Project Chairs- We are in need project and committee chairs. Please communicate with Cindy if interested.

III. March Minutes – Approval: Jennifer Harlow asked that the March 2017 Minutes be approved. Attending PTA members had no objections and March Minutes stand as written and will be recorded accordingly.

IV. Treasurer Report– Andrea Kramer – Although the runathon is the PTA's largest fundraiser, kudos and thanks to the families who seek and arrange with their companies for corporate matching grants as we've had some big ones come through recently! Thanks for Karen Strug for doing Dining for Dollars. We recently had a Dining for Dollars at Ledo Pizza and the school received \$500 just from Ledo alone! Budget will be entered into record.

V. Principal's Report-Jennifer Heiges- Mulan Jr. play, the kids did such an amazing job. Mrs. Heiges said it was the least stressful play to date. The kids were awesome! Thanks to all who helped!

VI. Internet Safety – Elizabeth Honig of the FCPS Office of Student Safety and Wellness Beth Mertens and Charlotte Tyler, who are MRES Counselors joined the meeting as well. Elizabeth is hoping that someone from their office will come back to talk with the fifth and sixth graders. This office deals with internet safety, cyber bullying, bullying, gangs, alcohol, and more. When talking about wellness of our students – it's all encompassing, not just nutrition.

#### 7 Main Topics

- a. Permanence – What goes online stays online – permanence on the internet
- b. Loss of Control – anything you post becomes out of students' control

- c. Sharing Too Much – Address, Phone #, Location, Schedule, Future Plans/Locations – any info specific to who or where you are
- d. Online Predators – People (creeps) seeking to find out more about kids. They are able to get in our children’s realm. Kids want to have as many friends as possible. These creeps will try to find out something vulnerable about the student to ‘get in’ with the kid.
- e. (Cyber)bullying – it’s illegal. Something schools deal with a lot. Class 1 misdemeanor. If a child is doing this, they get the charges, NOT the parents. Juvenile record can be used in future legal proceedings once they turn 18 even though it’s sealed.
- f. Sexting – Inappropriate messages. SAY NO! It’s not only dangerous but illegal. If you receive an inappropriate message, tell a trusted adult. It’s not right to be taking photos of privates. We have enough selfies, do not need them with shirts or pants off.
- g. Sex Trafficking & Kidnapping – This is a real threat. It’s happening in Fairfax County. While it may not be your child, it could be their friend or their friend’s friend or someone they know. Students are lured into this lifestyle, often when they are unhappy or having problems with parents, friends, or at school. In Fairfax County, police work with victims as young as 12. This does occur in our schools and we need students aware of this.

Apps – There are ways to hide information. Many apps have backdoors for secret ways to hide conversations, pictures, etc. We need to tell kids that they don’t need to keep secrets like this. How do I keep my kids safe? There is a product called Circle (partnered with Disney). You pair it with your wifi. It adds up the amount of time on an app and will cut off app once it reaches the limit, or blocks use during certain hours of the day or on specific devices. Can manage from anywhere – Pause, filter, time limits, etc.

Methods of Monitoring:

Uknowkids.com, Teensafe.com, NortonFamily.com

General source for good info: Common Sense Media

What can parents do? – Model good behavior, as a family determine appropriate technology usage in the home, parents = love

During Q&A, Elizabeth explained that parents should start talking to children as soon as their child starts using technology. It’s never too young to start talking to them.

What if a child gets a sexually explicit photo? Contact the police – they’ll want to track down where it came from. Block the phone # but don’t respond as that confirms your child’s number.

Cell phone monitoring can be very overwhelming to parents – this is hard work for parents!

At MRES, digital citizenship lessons begin in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and understanding cyberbullying lessons are taught in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## VII. Committee Chair Reports

- a. Nominating Committee- Missy Dixon- Currently, we do not have a slate of candidates to present. We need to give 30 days from the time of announcing candidates to the time we can vote. Anna Moore has stepped up for PTA Board President for next year. Contact Missy, Jen Harlow or Urvi Desai for more information. Have been in talks with some possible candidates. Hope to have candidates posted on the website by April 15<sup>th</sup>. If we can’t find people, things might dissolve. We are really in need of a Treasurer. The nominating form is on the website.
- b. Family Literacy Night – Andrea Kramer – Performance night to include jazz music, poetry readings. The book fair will be open late. There will be more information in the Tuesday folder, in Cindy’s President’s Letter.
- c. Book Fair- Gina Womack – Spring Book Fair is buy 1, get 1 free. Watch for the flyer with all the information in tomorrow’s Tuesday folder. On April 18<sup>th</sup> will set up, begin by the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> and run through Friday evening, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we will tear down on April 21st. Will need volunteers.

- d. Teacher Appreciation Week (TAW)- Danielle Cook – There will be a big letter in this week’s Tuesday folder. There are Sign Up Geniuses for breakfast, snack shop, to decorate. All the links are live on the TAW page of the PTA website. There is a bin in the school lobby to collect gently used magazines (from March and April) to set out for teachers during the week. Room parents will be receiving an e-mail with the live links AND they’ll be receiving another e-mail with regard to creating mailboxes (for the postcards).

VIII. New Business- Not entertained at this time

IX. Old Business- None at this time

X. Meeting Adjourned at 10:52am.

Next PTA Meeting is on May 16 from 7-8pm

**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-enevs/>
- LIKE us on Facebook: MRES PTA



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