

Marshall Road Elementary



everychild.one voice.®

Marshall Road Elementary PTA Minutes
November 1, 2017 @ 7pm
MRES Cafeteria

Attendees: Anna Moore (President), Andrea Kramer (Vice President), Amanda DuFrayne (Vice President), Laura Parker (Treasurer), Helen Lee (Secretary), Jennifer Heiges, Denise Gargano, Rebecca Hamilton, Missy Dixon, Missy Walsh, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Yesenia Argueta, Laura Jairam

- I. Call Meeting to Order – President, Anna Moore, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
- II. President’s Report – Anna thanked everyone for attending.
 - A. Thank you to book fair volunteers (Denise, Olga, and everyone who helped with the Book Fair). It takes a lot of volunteers to make it a success!
 - B. STEAM Night – Thank you to everyone who filled in last-minute volunteer spots, including lots of student volunteers. Over 550 people came to our STEAM night, so it was really successful. Please email anyone on the board with any feedback on our events so we can keep notes for future reference.
- III. October Meeting Minutes - Helen made a motion to approve the October 2017 meetings. Motion was seconded, attending PTA members voted, and the stated Motion was accepted.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Laura distributed a budget update report printed from the new MoneyMinder digital database. She noted that the Book Fair did very well and enrichment programs are rolling along. The account balances at the bottom of the third page appear to reflect a large surplus in funds, but she noted that we have several bills to pay (e.g., Scholastic for the book fair inventory sold). The treasurer's report will be posted online after today's meeting.
- V. Program Reports
 - A. Book Fair (Denise Gargano) – We made \$18,400 in Scholastic book sales. Thanks to all volunteers again! Teachers had lots of good feedback - they liked wish lists and the emphasis placed more on books rather than posters and other paraphernalia. Finally, during the All 4 Books Drive, we raised \$1500 in coins, which will be used to buy books for needy children, and 6th grade won the party. Get ready for 4/18-4/20 spring book fair!
 - B. Thanksgiving Teacher Lunch (Andrea Kramer) - Monday of Thanksgiving week, November 20. The Administration does all the sides. We are looking for families to contribute dessert or turkey (and we take cash donations as well!). The Signup Genius went out for this in the November volunteer opportunities email.

- C. Food Drive (Anna Moore) - Runs Wednesday through Friday of next week. A flyer went home in the Tuesday Folder with a list of items needed. Fifth and sixth graders will do most of the heavy lifting, moving food, counting, but we would like to have some adults help with this as well. It will only take 30 minutes to 1 hour each morning after drop off. All the donations will go to Food for Others.
- D. Garden (Laura Jairam) – Fall cleanup project is postponed to this Sunday at 12-2pm, due to last Sunday's weather. We'll clean around flagpole then. Hope to see you there!

- VI. Runathon Update (Elizabeth Terry-Humen) – If you have anything at home you want to donate, please bring it to the front office. Ms. Koshuta in the front office will gather all stuff delivered there. The back of the Runathon shirt is filled with sponsors! Some people plan to dress up as superheroes, so you are welcome to do so as well.

Please come out and run with us and show support! REMINDER that Runathon is on a Federal Holiday, November 10. Thank you to everyone in the school helping out with this event!

Two big days are coming up: this Friday (Pledge sheets go home) and next Friday (Runathon). 100% of the pledges go to support the school.

- VII. Principal's Report - Principal Heiges says thank you to Missy Dixon and Tanya McClelland for their help in leading the Book Fair event. STEAM Night was fun and a success. Thanks to those helping with Runathon preparations. A funny video is going out this Friday promoting the Runathon.

Teachers are trying to get parents in the classroom twice a year for some type of sharing event. We are shifting from having a very structured event to an "open window" type of event that makes it more flexible for parents to stop by when they can and to make parents' visits more organic. Principal Heiges is happy to take any comments (good or bad) on this, as this is a new initiative

Finally, thanks in advance for donating to the Teacher Thanksgiving Lunch. They really, really appreciate it!

- VIII. Special Presentation (Tony Shivers, VP of Advocacy, Fairfax County Council PTA) – Anna introduced Tony and noted that the PTA is primarily an advocacy organization.

Tony reminded everyone to vote next Tuesday. He thanked Anna for inviting him and thanked the PTA for raising money and supporting our school. The FCCPTA represents over 170 units (45,000 members). The National PTA has an initiative called "PTA Proud" with the goal of highlighting why people are involved in their PTA and how schools benefit from the PTA. He congratulated MRES PTA for winning the National PTA grant for the STEAM night last month. He noted that the council was setting up a permanent STEM committee to help units set up STEM-related nights and to help other schools replicate successful STEM nights (like the one at MRES).

He gave a broad overview of what's going on in the PTA world at the council, state, and national level:

- Council: The council level wants to be a more proactive organization to

represent local interests (e.g., present local interests before the Fairfax County school board or supervisors). The budget process starts with the Superintendent's (Dr. Brabrand) proposal in mid-January. Dr. Brabrand will present his budget in March to the County Board of Supervisors. The County Executive releases the county budget in March too.

-Mark your calendars for FCCPTA Advocacy Day on December 4 (6-9pm) to be held at the Gatehouse Administration Center in Falls Church. All 10 County Board of Supervisors will be there, including our County Supervisor (Katherine Hudgens). There will be moderated panel discussions about educational priorities, the budget for 2018, discussion on budget process in general, and breakout sessions with Catherine Hudgens and Patricia Hynes in more intimate settings. This is a free event and you can register through social media platforms for FCCPTA. You can see how county level decisions impact your school

-State: VAPTA has its own Advocacy Day (1/27-28 in Richmond area); 1/29: Day at General Assembly where PTA members can talk to their state delegates/senators to discuss what's happening at your school.

-National: The National PTA's Advocacy Day will be in March 2018, when you can take your story to Capitol Hill and present it to our national representatives

He also discussed other opportunities to meet Dr. Brabrand at a series of community conversations/open forums. The next one is on 11/8. There are 4 more of these opportunities left through the end of the calendar year. There are also advocacy calls that PTA members may join in on, during which you can hear about what is happening at the local, state, and national levels. The next call is on 11/6.

He opened the meeting up to questions:

-Amanda DuFrayne asked what efforts already exist in the FCCPTA advocacy plan. Tony mentioned the following: to stop FCPS cuts; to collect stories from parents and teachers about difficulties faced due to cuts (e.g., when no substitute teachers are available) and share these stories with other units; and to encourage collaboration among schools.

-Missy Walsh asked whether Tony knew of any PTAs that have moved to online meetings. Tony responded that membership engagement issues were widespread and common. Some PTAs leverage social media platforms to engage with members, and FCCPTA encourages use of technology including opening up meetings online (so additional members can tune in to the in-person meetings). He suggested that we attend another school's PTA meeting and to invite another school's PTA to attend our meeting to see if there are more economies of scale we can achieve.

- IX. New Business – no new business discussed
- X. Meeting Adjourned by Anna at 7:59pm.
- XI. Next PTA Meeting with Service Activity for Kids is on January 10, 2018 @ 7pm.

Parents and Teachers Please...

- 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

PTA Board Contacts

Anna Moore (president@marshallroadpta.org)

Andrea Kramer (vp@marshallroadpta.org)

Amanda DuFrayne (vicepresident@marshallroadpta.org)

Laura Parker (treasurer@marshallroadpta.org)

Helen Lee (secretary@marshallroadpta.org)