

Thoreau PTA Meeting

September 26, 2011, 9:00 am

Thoreau Lecture Hall

Meeting was called to order by Jill Hecht, President. August 2011 minutes were read and approved.

President Report: Passed around Board List for corrections. Thoreau PTA will not provide a forum for school board candidates as other venues are scheduled. A link to all candidates has been created on TMS website. The Fairfax League of Women Voters and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs is sponsoring a forum for eight at-large candidates on Sunday, October 2 on the Fairfax Public Access Channel 10 at 6:30 pm.

The film "Race to Nowhere" has a local showing (where?) on September 29.

VA PTA proposed legislative items were distributed among those in attendance to tally their vote.

The "Reflections" program will not be held this year as no volunteer has come forward.

Treasurer's Report

Check request forms and Receipt Voucher forms are on the Thoreau PTA website under PTA Business.

This year we are separating the deposit & check writing responsibilities to improve our financial controls. Elisse Brunori (ebrunori@verizon.net) will be our Depositor. When you have checks or cash to deposit please complete the Receipt Voucher form, ask the school office to put the deposit in the "safe" room, and Elisse will stop by on Fridays to bring the deposit(s) to the bank. It would also be helpful to send Elisse an email when you leave a deposit so she knows it is there.

Tax-exempt certificates are available for shopping purposes; however, payment must usually be made on a Thoreau check or credit card. We may pursue obtaining a BJ's credit card.

A copy of the Monthly Treasurer's report is attached.

The PTA budget was approved by parents at BTSN. Votes tallied by PTA secretary. 260 approved. 2 disapproved.

Committee reports:

Community Service – co-chairs are Barbara Holmes and Jennifer Condon. Shannon reported that there will be monthly collections (e.g. food, clothing) and that participation is much higher when these events are posted on TMS website. Dates are posted for Food For Others activity.

Directory – Kathleen Lynn has obtained student information from school office. We have no opt-outs at this time and anticipate a mid-October delivery at the latest.

Girls on Track – moved to Spring timeframe when volunteers are available.

Hospitality – co-chairs are Lynne Turner, Amy Vernon, and Brandi Brummer. We surprised the teachers with Smoothies the morning after Back to School Night. Very well received. Halloween candy for October and a pie bake in November are on the calendar.

Landscape - Chair Joanne Burke is planning landscape days on October 6, 20 and November 10. The PTA is planting an Organic Community Garden and beautifying in the front of the building. A Vienna Eagle Scout candidate's project is to build taller boxes around trees on Thoreau's property

Parent Education Programs – Nancy Sochar is planning the seminars again this year. First event is on October 4 at 9 am. Assistant Principals Erin Lenart and Mike Parker, and Director of Student Services Christa Warden will present "Middle School Must-Knows".

School Store – We had our biggest sales day EVER with \$180 in sales! Support our store! Patty will explore spirit wear – PJ pants and T-shirts, magnets and lanyards.

School Liaison to Madison – Homecoming is October 1. 2000 advanced placement exams were taken during 2010-2011. Parent Education seminar "Homework Help" will be held on October 16.

7th Grade Dinner – on November 16. Co-chairs are Vickie Jenkins and Michele Rhoades.

Volunteers – Maggie Bergin has collected volunteer forms and has shared information with committee chairs. No additional volunteers are needed for the School Store. We need more volunteers for the health clinic as well as on Picture Days – October 11 – 12.

Web site – A link to *Thoreau Matters* is on the website. Deadline for material is one-week before the 1st and 15th of the month.

Welcome Committee – Debbie Tossi is chairing this committee that will focus on families who move in after the school year has begun. Appropriate topics for discussion between Debbie and the parents were discussed.

Principal's Report –

Assistant Principal Erin Lenart announced on-going discussions regarding use of cell phones during lunch for text messages only. Registration of 8th graders' SMART phones will be on October 17.

3-hour early release day is October 20.

Counselor conferences may be scheduled any time

Back-to-school-Night had a great turn-out despite change of date and an earlier start time. Many parents like the earlier start time.

After-school programs started week of September 19.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 27 – Fairfax County Council to discuss possible video surveillance in high schools. 7pm

Oct. 4 – Middle School Must-Knows 9am

Oct. 5 – Safe Routes to School contest for Cunningham Park, Vienna Elementary, and Wolf Trap schools

Submitted by Mary Ann Ressin.

Attendees: Kathleen Lynn, Barbara Mackie Franklin, Debbie Tosi, Kim Ziegel Bauer, Erin Lenart, Christa Warden, Shannon Davies, Kelly Henderson Hagen, Jill Hecht, Charisse Parnd, Patty Shields, Maggie Bergin, JJ Johnson Head, Mary Ann Ressin