

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thoreau Middle School
Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Meeting Called to Order: 7:06 p.m.
Conducting: Jane Miscavage

In attendance: Principal Hood, Jane Miscavage, Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn, Amy Masters, Lisa Tep and Corinne Bowen

Principal's Report – Principal Hood

The school has received questions about all of the snow days. Instead of the previous requirement of 180 days school, the full-day elementary school switch allowed the county to now require 990 instructional hours. This allows for 11 snow days, even when counting late start days and is more flexible for the county.

Mr. Hood has been meeting with furniture providers to figure out what furniture we want for the future, being in the unique position of setting up new classrooms as part of the renovation. YouTube has videos on the “Flexible Learning Environment” that is a basis for many of the things the school is hoping to do.

In preparation for the brick paver fundraiser, where bricks will be sold and engraved, to be placed in the new courtyard, Stephanie Bollini, one of the Tech Ed teachers, will be working with students to create plans on Auto Cad Drawing for a design that could go in the center of the bricks. The construction team needs to do the sidewalks to make sure that they are ADA compliant, but they have agreed to put in a filler material in the designated area until we are ready to lay the pavers and bricks. Brick prices are being compared now and it seems like the companies outside of Virginia are cheaper.

With the increased number of construction workers parking in the parking lot, there have been some minor problems with people violating the parking rules. Hopefully the snow melting will help. Warnings will be placed on cars who park where they shouldn't, letting them know that they will be towed if they don't have a FCPS pass (which can be obtained in the front office). Towing will happen for repeat offenders.

The Rising 7th Grade Day was last week and it went great. There were four different stops to give the kids information about Thoreau and middle school in general, as well as tables where current students told them about after school opportunities. Later this week is AAP Parent Night.

The Writing SOL's have been moved to next week due to the snow days.

Everyone seems really excited about the upcoming Thoreau/Kilmer Hoops Game. Thoreau t-shirts will be sold so that the students can do a “blue out” with the design being adapted from student art work. Game tickets and shirts can be bought on-line. Mr. Hood and Mr. James (Kilmer's Principal) will emcee the night.

Treasurer's Report

We are in a good spot financially. Membership and no-fuss fundraisers were pushed early in the year and we made nearly \$ 20,000.00 just with those two things. It was approved by motion that we add

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some line items to the report to be able to track specific areas of the upcoming fundraising. Those items, as well as some older ones, can be removed from next year's budget.

There is a little bit of unspent money in a parent education fund and it was approved by motion that \$ 2,000.00 of that be freed up to defray costs that volunteers may need to make to push publicity for the Campus Campaign, in particular the Silent Auction.

The Hospitality Committee made a donation to the American Heart Association in behalf of the teachers for the month of February, as well as taping lollipops to all of the lockers. March is "make your own trail mix" for the teachers, so the committee will be requesting donations.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, we are hoping to give VISA gift cards to the staff, along with the events done by the Hospitality Committee. Navy Federal has agreed to waive the fees associated with the gift cards and families will be able to donate online to raise money to buy the cards.

The February PTA Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

The PTA Bylaws were approved and will be sent to the state.

April 28th will be our PTA election for next year. Jane and Corinne will stay on in their current positions. Monica Cramer will take over as Treasurer. We will need a V.P. to replace Anne-Stuart and it would be best if they could be a 7th grade parent since the other three officers will leave after next year.

Other Committee positions we need to fill are Rebate/Rewards, Landscaping, and Directory. We are hoping to start the Reflections program again. We will reach out to the feeder elementary schools to look for someone who currently runs the program at their schools.

The Campus Campaign is being unrolled this week with letters going to the families, a convenient crowd-funding effort for rising 7th grade families, a newspaper article on "why Thoreau's PTA would attempt such an ambitious fundraising goal in these hard budget times", the brick fundraiser and the silent auction, which will hopefully make a lot of money. Two employees at Ernst & Young are each putting in \$ 5,000.00 grants, so hopefully that generosity will make it easier to approach other businesses. The fact that no one else has attempted to create "a school of the future" like this, will hopefully create momentum.

Our next PTA Meeting will be on April 29th in conjunction with the parent program on Social Media Savvy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.