

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thoreau Middle School

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

In Attendance: Principal Hood, Jane Miscavage, Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn, Kathy Rusinski, Seher Zaidi, Susannah Plante, Maryan Janali, Susan Monaco, Rich Ceynowa, Chris Jones, Mannanov D., Beth Eachus, Kathy Pesavento, Ann Ellis, Susana Constantinescu, S. A. Chowdhury, Barbara Rousseau, Joni Curtis, Anya Piazza, Luz Janeth Nunez, Mary Ann Rashid and Corinne Bowen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Conducting: Jane Miscavage

President's Report – Jane Miscavage

Tonight's PTA Agenda will be brief. The PTA has been super busy supporting different school departments. We assisted the drama department in setting up online ticketing, the pie fundraiser, mailings and calls for volunteers.

Our fundraising goals have called for an ambitious campaign to procure new furniture and technology for the renovation. The first ever Thoreau Auction is next Friday. Buy tickets online. A generous donor has given four tickets to this summer's Taylor Swift concert, so we are excited about that.

Principal's Report - Principal Hood

The administration is so appreciative of the work that the PTA and community are doing. It is very exciting to have new construction and the hope is to be able to outfit the school with new equipment instead of replacing it with the exact same things.

The new section of the school is nearing completion and there will be limited tours given on the auction night. June 15th the cafeteria will go offline as we prepare to redo the whole cafeteria. Only bag lunches will be served until the end-of-the-year.

Parent View is a new information system that will allow parents to see real-time grades for their students.

SOL Testing will take place next month and the Virginia Department of Education has now authorized an expedited retake process for students who did not pass. A certain number of SOL tests need to be passed to graduate from high school, so high school students have had focused remediation to help them retake/pass the required tests. Middle schoolers are now being offered the same kind of help if they are close to passing a test and would like the option to retake it.

Old Business

A motion was made by Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn and seconded by Kathy Rusinski that the February Minutes be passed. Voting was unanimous.

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New Business

Every Tuesday in May will be “Too Busy to Cook” dining out nights and a cash back Rebate Program push is being made to add to the Campus Campaign Fund.

In May, there will also be a large business push, with major donor meetings to solicit donations. If you have connections, contact Jane. In June, there will be a Razoo fund set up for direction donations.

The courtyard design has been selected and brick pavers will be sold.

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming with Breakfast (signup genius for donations), a Thank You lunch provided by Navy Federal Credit Union and enough money was donated by parents that each teacher/staff member will get a gift card.

The PTA Board for next year was presented:

President – Jane Miscavage

Vice President – Beth Eachus

Treasurer – Monica Cramer

Secretary – Corinne Bowen

Kathy Rusinski made a motion to approve the board. Barbara Rousseau seconded the motion and the slate was approved by unanimous vote of those in attendance.

A big thank you was given to Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn and Kathy Rusinski who will not be on the board next year, but have provided great service and leadership during their time serving on the current board.

The rest of the night was a program for parents given by Thoreau teacher Dan Ambrosio. The topic was Social Media Savvy and his presentation notes and links to helpful websites can be found online.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.