



PTA

Date of PTA Meeting: February 28, 2019

Location: Thoreau Middle School Library

Attendees:

Stacey Leimbach, Emily Korff, Debbie Gardner, Amanda Dixon, Andrea Kramer, Missy Dixon, Karyn Patino, Ravi Myneni, Monica Marini, Mimi Chou, Izina Smirnoff, Lisa Kelso, Samantha Rayburn, Angela Sahmi, Principal Azimi, Rebecca Aguilar

Meeting Notes:

Emily called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

Deborah Gardner presented the minutes from the January 16, 2019, PTA meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Andrea Kramer. Karyn Patino seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

President's Report – Emily Korff

Emily discussed that donations and memberships are on target with the projected budget.

Teacher Grants

There was also an open discussion about the teacher grants including why they exist and why the PTA is involved. Principal Azimi thanked the PTA for all of the support to the school and his appreciation for these teacher grants. This year we provided \$4,500 to teachers in our first rounds. This funded things like escape rooms, an aquarium, shelving units, etc. The grant committee has reviewed the second round of proposals and the committee requested an extra \$600 to cover most of the requests. There was a motion to move \$600 from our cultural arts budget by Emily Korff. It was approved by Lisa Kelso and seconded by Stacey Leimbach. The motion passed.

Nomination Committee

The PTA needs to fill several Board positions for the next school year as current officers complete their terms. The PTA is seeking members to serve on the Nominating Committee. The role of this committee is to reach out to adults in our community and determine who might be interested and able to serve as a Board member for the 2019-20 school year. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact our current PTA president, Emily Korff at president@thoreaupta.org. It would be great if the nominating committee consisted of parents from a variety of elementary schools, so far we have Karyn Patino - Flint Hill Elementary, and Missy Dixon – Marshall Rd. Elementary. We hope you can join this committee to expand our reach for candidates.

Committee Reports

- **7th Grade Family Dinner** – Jen Bacon

A reminder that the 7th Grade Family Dinner is coming up on Thursday, March 21st from 6pm – 8pm. This event was rescheduled due to an early snow closure back in November. Same details – dinner from Maggios Skorpis, a DJ, photo booth, and other fun activities. As a family event, parents join their children and siblings are welcome too! All tickets previously purchased when the dinner was slated for the fall remain in place and will be honored. Couldn't come in November, but would like to attend now? Great! Please purchase tickets on [pay4schoolstuff](#) (no tickets sold at the door)

With the change in date, Karyn Patino mentioned that the committee is looking for Spring decorations that could be used. There was a suggestion to talk with Gayle Schluetter and the hospitality committee for possible supplies. A signup genius will be going out looking for volunteers.

- **Crosstown Hoops** – Karyn Patino and Mike Paruti

This event is a basketball game for Thoreau vs. Kilmer will be held on Thursday, April 4th at Marshall HS at 7pm. We are looking for volunteers to help with selling tickets- \$5, t-shirts - \$10, spirit packs - \$5, etc.

- **Dining for Dollars** – Missy Dixon

Three upcoming events. Please remember to mention Thoreau at the register.

March 20 – MOD Pizza 5-9 pm

April 9 – Ledo's Pizza 4-9 pm

May 21 – Chipotle 5-9 pm

- **Thoreau Food Program**

In partnership with the PTA, Thoreau Student Services will be packaging and sending home weekend food bags for families in need. We are looking for donations of non-perishable food items as identified on [this](#) Amazon shopping list. For your convenience, these items may be ordered from Amazon and delivered directly to the school. Donations may also be purchased and dropped off in the Thoreau front office to the attention of Director of Student Services Rebecca Aguilar. Gift cards are also greatly appreciated.

- **Spelling Bee** – Eliza Morss

Congratulations to 8th grader Nathan Moldavsky, who will now compete in the Fairfax County Spelling Bee on March 17th. Looking for a new coordinator to take over the Spelling Bee next year.

Principal Report – Principal Azimi

Mr. Azimi thanked the PTA for our generous support and his appreciation for the teacher grants. The administration is looking forward to 2019-2020 as they anticipate the school growing past 1,300 students. Enrollment is currently at 1,217 students. With this growth, we will need to bring in new teachers to our community. If you know of anyone that would be a good fit for our school, please reach out to our administration.

There was also a brief discussion about vaping and the desire to have a speaker discuss this topic at our April PTA meeting. The PTA is tentatively trying to incorporate this into our PTA meeting on April 25th. More info to come.

Another topic that was briefly discussed was the news report of local middle school students sharing nude photographs. A reminder of the potential dangers of our digital world.

Student Services Report

Ms. Aguilar echoed the thank you to PTA. She shared that this is the first year that class registrations are being done electronically. These registrations help administration to project the hiring of any additional resources that will be needed to support the growing needs of our community.

Adjourn PTA Meeting

Emily adjourned the meeting at 10:48am.