

Mosby Woods ES PTA Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, September 18, 2019

6:30-7:30 pm, MWES Library

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm

2. Report from Administration and Staff
 - Dr. Aste introduced our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Joshua Redford who came from Hunters Woods ES. Our previous AP, Mr. Pikeman, moved to Greenbriar East ES.
 - MWES has 1,036 students currently enrolled, which is down from last year
 - Both Back to School Nights went very well, both with great turnouts
 - This year MWES has a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) Lab for all students. Ms. Peyton Avery is the teacher
 - MWES also gained four new classrooms, known as “The Quad” for 5th grade classes—these four classrooms freed up space in the school for things like the new STEAM Lab
 - Other updates to the school include the carpet being removed from the second floor and replaced with new tile
 - Upcoming MWES community-building activities are BINGO Night on October 3rd and Family Literacy Night (currently aimed at Kindergarten) on October 10th
 - The PTA was able to give the MWES \$12,000 last year; \$8,000 has been spent so far:
 - \$1,500 on supplies/materials for the new STEAM Lab (materials include things like Keva Planks, new technology and hands-on materials, microscopes, etc.)
 - Document cameras
 - iPads (mostly for K-2)
 - laptops (for all grades)—we are working towards a 1:1 ratio of laptop/student
 - new lobby furniture
 - new playground equipment, i.e. a storage container for basketballs/rubber balls
 - aiming to still purchase stencils and paint to decorate the blacktop
 - \$3,000 in classroom libraries
 - plans for how the rest of the money will be spent TBA later

3. Presidents’ Report
 - Explanation of PTA: it is a group made up of parent (and teacher) volunteers who support the school/staff/students via fundraising and who also organize community-building activities such as BINGO Night and Spring Fling. The biggest fundraising vehicle for the MWES PTA is the check-writing campaign, the goal of which for this year is \$10,000. Currently the check-writing campaign has raised over \$5,800 so far, and will run until November 15th.

- The PTA’s biggest expense is usually paying for school assemblies and for field trip transportation. Just behind those is after school programs.
- There is a need for more parent volunteers—the most help is need for the After School Enrichment Activities Committee. The After School program has dropped off a bit this year and has been limited to the 6 most-popular classes due to a lack of volunteers. Help with up-front coordination per class is needed. Essentially each program would have one parent coordinator, requiring an hour or two per week, plus being present on the first day of the class. It is 6-10 weeks per program
- The Staff Appreciation Committee also needs more volunteers. Options include helping let in vendors and escorting them where they need to go, setting up snacks, creating the Giving Tree, baking, providing/picking up food. The help provided from volunteers drives what we are able to do for the teachers
- This year MWES is also offering six after school language programs: Spanish, French, Arabic, and Korean
- How to sign up for the PTA Newsletter: go to the FCPS Website and click on “News You Choose”, then choose Mosby Woods PTA
- A sheet listing all volunteer options and their coordinators was provided to attendees
- **Blake Lane Site Update** (given by Dillon Ginley, who formed saveblakelane.org)
 - Capacity issues at local elementary schools in our immediate area have driven the need for a new elementary school in our area. In 2017, Fairfax County voters voted for a bond approving funding for a new elementary school on Blake Lane.
 - People in the neighborhoods bordering the proposed site complained to local politicians and the county and FCPS has now backed down on its plans to build the new school. FCPS is now looking at just redistricting our area to save money, so voices who want the Blake Lane ES Site to move forward need to be heard
 - All of the elementary schools in the Oakton pyramid are over-capacity—MWES is approximately 130% over-capacity, when not counting the modular as classrooms, as FCPS does (MWES is 109% over-capacity when including the modulars)
 - The issue became politicized over the last couple years, which has made this a more complicated issue
 - There are other alternatives being proposed (i.e. Circle Towers and an old commercial space in Oakton)
 - Next Steps: speaking with School Board/County Supervisor candidates, speaking with Dalia Palchik (the Providence District representative on the Fairfax County School Board, now running for Providence District Supervisor), speaking with our elected officials, uniting with the PTAs at the other local elementary schools affected by this overcrowding, speaking at FCPS Board Meetings

4. Budget Review

- The preliminary budget for this year was provided. The proposed budget for this year will be read to vote on by the next PTA meeting on October 15th. It has to be voted in by the PTA.

5. FCPS Parent Resource Center Presentation by Valrie Eisele

- The FCPS Parent Resource Center (PRC) offers free, confidential support of students for parents and teachers
- It has great resources for families of children with special needs or are currently receiving special education services
- The Parent Resource Center can coach parents on how to get more information from their child's teacher on how their child is performing in school and how the teacher/school can better meet the child's needs
- The PRC helps parents build confidence and communication skills to speak with teachers/staff
- The PRC has a lending library on parenting/school topics. These resources can be delivered straight to the school for parents to pick up. There are also books for kids, scripts for parents, and over-the-phone consultations are available as well.
- The PRC also collects information/resources from local community organizations
- The PRC provides workshops for parents with experts in various fields. The workshops are posted on YouTube to viewed at any time
- To participate in a workshop, a parent must register a month in advance—most have long waiting lists
- The PRC also provides tutor lists. The tutors are current FCPS teachers who offer private tutoring services. There are currently about 200 tutors county-wide.
- The PRC is available for all FCPS families, and therefore all materials are translated into the eight standard languages of FCPS
- The PRC is open Monday-Friday, from 8am-4pm
- The PRC is currently trying to help launch book clubs in FCPS schools via the PTAs

6. New Business

- No new business