

**Central Elementary School PTA
Minutes of the General / Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2018**

Attendance

Rachel Clark, Lindsey Flint, Tracy Gordon, Samantha Hoke, Gaye Johnson, Robin Parker, Carol Penney, Lindsay Perry, Katie Stinnett, Electra Wentz

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Gaye Johnson.

Minutes from the 11/15/17 PTA meeting were approved.

Principal's Report – Robin Parker

- After-school Enrichment Clubs are going well. About 260 students signed up to participate; last year, 190-200 students participated. Enrichment Club meetings missed due to “snow days” will not be made up. For the 2018-19 school year, we will consider offering this program during the fall instead of the winter.
- Students will travel to Lenfest Center to see a live performance of “James and the Giant Peach” on February 12 (K-2) and February 13 (grades 3-5).
- Central will host a “Thank You” reception for school volunteers on 2/13/18, 1:30 to 3 pm.
- The PTA has arranged for the Virginia Repertory Theatre to perform “Have You Filled a Bucket Today? The Musical!” at Central on 4/5/18, at 9 am for K-5 students. The PTA will cover the cost of \$895. This musical is based on Carol McCloud’s award-winning children’s books and focuses on the benefits of positive, thoughtful behavior. Most Central teachers have a copy of the book and there are additional copies available in Mrs. Parker’s office.
- SOL testing begins 4/23/18.

PTA Treasurer's Report – Katie Stinnett

- Katie provided a written report of expenses and income since our last meeting on 11/15/17.
- Our PTA bank account balance will be \$8900 after paying for the Enrichment Club snacks.

Communications – Tracy Gordon

- We currently have 186 PTA members – 142 parents and 44 faculty members.
- Our monthly newsletters are distributed the first Tuesday of each month; the next issue is scheduled for 2/6/18.
- The Central PTA Scholarship information has been shared in our January newsletter and on our PTA website.

Fundraising – Samantha Hoke

- Next fundraising event is “Parents’ Night Out,” hosted by American Freestyle Karate on 2/10/18. Parents can leave their children at the karate studio between 6:30 and midnight (extended hours for pre-Valentine’s night out). Discounted rate is \$15 per child and AFK will donate half of the proceeds to the PTA.
- We are investigating “family dine-out” events at area restaurants, including Pizza Hut and Sweet Frog. Let Samantha know if you have other restaurant ideas.
- Samantha has been in touch with Lex Lynx Mini Golf regarding a possible Central family night. They can accommodate 70 people at a time, and we can sell pizza, drinks, CES merchandise, etc. Waddell Elementary is holding an event there; we will try to obtain feedback from Waddell parents who participate.

Hospitality

- No committee update at this time.
- For parent-teacher conference night on 2/2/18, Central will provide a meal for teachers.

Reflections – presented by Gaye Johnson

- There were 9 participants representing Kindergarten (1), 2nd grade (4), 3rd grade (1), 4th grade (2) and 5th grade (1).
- Four first place entries were sent to VA PTA which will complete their judging in February.
- Reflections pieces and a photo of the participants are on display in the Central library window.
- We will recognize participants at the next student assembly on April 5 with certificates, ribbons and “High Five” pins.

Student Activities – Lindsey Flint

- Discussion centered around Family Fun Night on 4/6/18, including: location (inside or outside), time (5-7 or 5:30-7:30 pm), food sales, activities (i.e. face painting, prize walk, photos with the Central bear, bounce house, caricature portraits, balloons)
- Gaye will send details from fall 2016 family fun night to Lindsey and will assist Student Activities with planning spring 2018 event.
- The Valentine’s Day Social for grades 4-5 is 2/14/18 at 2 pm. Gaye will email sign-up list to PTA members and room parents to sign up to donate food and drinks.
- Gaye raised possibility of having Washington & Lee Jazz Ensemble perform for students in the spring. Mrs. Parker expressed concern that teachers don’t want to sacrifice more instructional time before SOL testing. Consider week of 5/21/18.

Volunteers – Electra Wentz

- We have plenty of volunteers for K-3 Valentine’s classroom parties, after sending home an additional request for help with parties.
- Electra will email head room parents instructions for coordinating parties, including policy that all food and drinks must be store-bought.
- Electra is coordinating 4 parties for classes that had no one volunteer to be head parent.

Beautification – Robin Parker and Rachel Clark

Robin Parker and Danielle Ryan met with Alice Waddell on 1/23/18 to discuss applying for a \$25K grant from Lowe’s for school beautification. Since this grant is project-based, we will need to include a blueprint and estimated costs with our application, which is due 5/11/18. We also need to address “community involvement” in our application. Ideas, recommendations and landscape architect contacts are welcome.

Some beautification ideas include:

- Providing several shade trees and smaller ornamental trees.
- Removing the junipers around bus loop and replacing with fencing.
- Filling in fenced-in garden area, with groundcover, butterfly garden, ornamental trees and a rock bed of student-painted rocks based on the book, "Only One You."
- Addressing drainage issues on the field.
- Removing large mulch area by swings and replacing with grass.
- Replacing wooden benches with matching metal benches.

Central Clothes Closet – Lindsay Perry

- Lindsay provided a list of clothing items needed for the clothes closet – including shorts, shirts and boys' underwear.
- The Clothes Closet provided fall/winter clothes for more than 70 students in November.
- Lexington Baptist Church held a socks and underwear drive in December and will hold a clothing drive within the next few weeks.
- The committee expects to distribute spring/summer clothes in early March and will meet on 1/25/18 to finalize plans.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gaye Johnson, Central PTA President

(Ashley Crutchfield, Central PTA Secretary, was absent with prior notice.)

Next Meeting: February 21, 2017 @ 5:30 P.M.