



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of
George Mason Elementary School
General PTA
December 13, 2021
7:00 – 8:00 pm

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting approved at 7:05 pm.
3. Congratulations to our school librarian, Ms. Tyler, who was recently recognized as the George Mason Elementary School teacher of the year.
4. Thank you to our school community for providing two-hundred and ten \$25 Target gift cards for the Holiday Giving initiative (our goal was 150 gift cards).
5. Presentation by Rosie Wiedemer of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria:
 - A. Non-profit based at the Alexandria City High School.
 - B. Provides assistance with college tuition, and also assists with college planning.
 - C. Assists students in finding schools that can meet their financial needs.
 - D. Raises money to fund scholarships; last year provided over \$1M in scholarships.
 - E. Scholarships persist for all four years.
 - F. Some scholarships come from outside groups. The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria assists with the application process, and in some cases provides matching (or greater) funds to the award winner(s).
 - G. Honor a Teacher parties. If you raise \$3,000 or more, then the Alexandria Scholarship Fund will award a scholarship in the same amount of money, in honor of the teacher.
 - H. POC is Rosie Wiedemer at rosie.wiedemer@acps.k12.va.us, or 703-907-9924.
6. Budget and audit update from Lea Poggi:
 - A. Balance sheet shows a balance of \$51,084.16 as of November 31, 2021.
 - B. Proposed budget amendments:
 1. \$600 expense for yard signs (up from \$250); \$1,000 income for yard signs (up from \$500).
 2. \$2,250 expense for Holiday Giving (reflecting pass-through); \$2,250 income for Holiday Giving (reflecting pass-through).
 - C. Budget amendments approved at 7:27, and 7:28 pm, respectively.
7. Fundraising update from Liz Bartlett:
 - A. Only 24 yard signs sold for the first run.

- B. We hope to do a second order next calendar year for more signs, assuming we can generate more interest.
 - C. Final yard sign design is not yet approved.
 - D. Spring fundraiser committee is formed, and in discussions to do something different than the Party on the Patio construct. Potential date for this event is May 7.
8. Programs update from Julie Zahn:
- A. Programs end this week (December 13-17).
 - B. Next round of programs slated for February 8 through March 31, and will include some new programs that we did not offer in the fall.
 - C. Registration will occur immediately following the winter break, from January 11-23.
 - D. Scholarship applications will start now (flyer coming home this week in Thursday folders).
9. PTAC update from Tasha Hensley:
- A. Last meeting was in mid-November.
 - B. Discussion on teacher recruitment and retention.
 - C. Teacher attrition has not been an acute problem for ACPS, but they do have a need for more substitute teachers.
 - D. Information on becoming a substitute teacher can be located here:
<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/516>
10. Update from Dr. Oliver:
- A. Thanks for the Giving Tree support.
 - B. Grades 2-5 are completing MAP testing. Results due back to parents following the winter break.
 - C. TAG qualifying ongoing. Grades 4-5 students who meet the criteria will transition to TAG program later in the school year (timeline not yet finalized).
 - D. Students who show regression in standardized testing will be evaluated for intervention.
 - E. COVID testing ongoing on Tuesday afternoons for students whose parents provided authorization for testing.
 - F. Discussion on how to notify the school when your child is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - G. This Friday (December 18) at 9:00 am: coffee with the principal.
 - H. We have not yet identified a permanent music teacher (search ongoing).
 - I. Emily Litten mentioned possibility of starting a school robotics club at GMES.
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.