



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of
George Mason Elementary School
General PTA
January 25, 2021
7:00 – 8:15 pm

1. Call Online Meeting to Order at 7:10 pm
2. Approve minutes from the December 7th, 2020 meeting
 1. Approved at 7:11 pm
3. Administrative Notes:
 - A. Ask questions via chat box, raise hand icon, or email
4. Presentation by Cindy Hart, Chair Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
 - A. Advisory committee for the ACPS School Board mandated by the State of VA
 - B. Intent: help school board understand the unmet needs of students with disabilities
 1. Produce multiple studies
 - i. Evaluation of services by third party (200-300 pg report and action plan)
 - a. In the process of implementing
 2. Request input from families on their experiences and needs at any time
 3. Includes special needs families and K-2 literacy
 4. Please join meetings – zoom link will be provided in school newsletter
 5. Messages to superintendent can be funneled through committee
 6. seac@acps.k12.va.us
5. Committee Reports
 - A. Treasurer (Lea Poggi)
 1. Balance sheet posted on PTA website
 - i. Updates include:
 - a. Gift for Ms. Dean's retirement
 - b. Jack Taylor Toyota donation of \$500
 2. Looking for individual or family to assist on taxes – please volunteer or reach out to friends
 - B. PTAC (Tasha Hensley) - Highlights from last meeting on 1/20
 1. Update from Dr. Hutchings
 - i. School reentry
 - ii. New decision matrix based on VA Dept Health that was released today:
<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3536>
 - iii. Goal is to reopen schools
 - a. Investment in temp tech at school entries
 - b. Reopening can occur before all staff are fully vaccinated

- c. GME had the highest % of families wanting to return to the hybrid model
 - d. Concurrent teaching includes classroom monitor roles
 - iv. ACPS is working in 2-4 week sprints that focus on different aspects of the calendar (reopening, summer school, fall, etc.)
 - 2. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee
 - i. Working on resources to share with PTAs
 - a. Communication toolkit
 - b. Operational toolkit
 - c. Messaging materials for families
 - 3. Youth Mental Health Program coming up
 - i. Focus: warning signs
 - ii. Audience: parents and guardians
 - iii. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16WlxqdudE02k7qDec85iRXIUZM3oBl13/view?usp=sharing>
 - 4. Camp Fair
 - i. Virtual online directory
 - ii. More info to share in late January or asap
 - C. Membership & Website (Beth Aiken) -- Join the PTA!
 - 1. School directory
 - i. Collected data from families but not enough to produce directory
 - D. VP Outreach (Chris Yianilos)
 - 1. Highschool rebuild at Minnie Howard
 - i. Study shows affordable housing can be feasibly located on-site and meet guidelines (no rec space or green space removed, etc.)
 - ii. 5 different options or "test fits"
 - a. First options showed affordable housing parcels on site
 - b. 4a and 4b included mixed-used building (school space with residential units on upper floors)
 - iii. Considering other colocation programs too (teen centers, pool, etc.)
6. Principal Update (Dr. Seazante Oliver, GMES Principal)
 - A. Shout out from Hutchings on high GME student intent to return!
 - B. End of 2nd 9 weeks is 1/28/21
 - C. January 29th is a teacher work day
 - D. Scheduled school reopening has been postponed – stay tuned for updates
 - E. February 4th Principal's coffee at 8:30 am
 - F. February 15th holiday for President's Day
 - G. February 18th and 19th Parent-Teacher conferences (half day for students but synchronous)
 - H. School specific reopening
 - 1. 40.5% average in ACPS chose hybrid but at GME 68% chose hybrid
 - 2. Busy planning for school reopening February 9th
 - 3. Q on materials: prior to opening supplies will be distributed (TBD on dates)
 - 4. Q on teachers willing to return? ~60%
7. Update from School Board Member Cindy Anderson
 - A. Shout out to Dr. Oliver for principal appreciation week!
 - B. Renaming poll closes this Monday
 - 1. Follow-up poll on results from first poll
 - 2. New name decision should occur sometime in April

- C. Budget meetings
 - 1. Compensation (88% of budget)
 - i. Trying to find way to include a step increase
 - ii. Manage discrepancies between jurisdictions regarding compensation
 - D. Colocation
 - 1. Next Board Meeting on Feb 4th meeting will vote on colocation
 - 2. Feb/March will discuss design specs, programmatic use (i.e. pool vs office space, vs affordable housing)
 - 3. March/April will move into design/concept (test fits do not include design concepts they are utilized for fit only)
8. Next PTA meeting is Monday February 22nd
- A. Presentation from GW Middle School counselors and staff to talk about transition from 5th grade to 6th grade
 - 1. Request for any middle school student panelists recommendations
9. Spring photo session
- A. TBD but working on options
10. Yearbook
- A. TBD but working on options (zoom, candid photos, etc.)
11. Adjourn 7:48 pm