



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of
George Mason Elementary School
General PTA
September 27, 2021
7:00 – 8:00 pm

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Minutes from the June 7, 2021 meeting approved at 7:05 pm.
3. Introduction to the PTA Executive Board members.
4. Presentation from Darell Sampson, Executive Director of ACPS Student Support Services.
 - A. ACPS Health and Safety Guidance: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3738>
 - a. Reinforcing and explaining protocols.
 - B. ACPS Return to School Guidance (updated): <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3761>
 - C. ACPS Learning in Quarantine Situations: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3743>
 - D. Health and Safety Town Hall with the Alexandria Health Department: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3758>
 - E. COVID-19 Updates from September 23rd Board Meeting: <https://alexandriapublic.ic-board.com/attachments/8823ae28-92a0-42d0-8ba0-344adb931da1.pdf>
 - F. Information on the importance of the 14-day quarantine period for COVID-19 positive students.
 - G. Question from Meghan McCarthy: Will we participate in the Federal funding programs for testing? Answer: that program is still getting under way, so we are trying to find a funding source to cover the gap.
5. Alexandria PTA Council (PTAC) update from Tasha Hensley.
 - A. PTAC hosting two school board candidates forums. The election takes place on November 2nd.
 - B. An in-person meet and greet with the candidates takes place on October 2nd at 4pm at the William Ramsey tennis courts. The online forum is on October 13th at 7pm.
 1. More info and the opportunity to submit questions to the candidates can be found here: <http://alexvaptac.org/sbelection2021/>
 2. For interpretation services (Amharic, Arabic, Spanish) please pre-register here by October 1st: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gGlu01RzdtmLRUF6zdCIqJe4cT9hE8maaoHM32v4so/>
 - C. PTAC has a comprehensive and reader-friendly newsletter that comes out approximately every month. This is a great way to stay informed about what is happening across ACPS and our community. If you would like to receive it, please sign up here: <http://alexvaptac.org/ptac-newsletter/>

- D. From Greta Gordon (PTAC Co-chair): ACPS PTAC meeting tomorrow at 7pm via zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend.
 - 1. PTAC meeting Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89767829522?pwd=YXZTYWRvRINGakdOWGVsbktQVXpqUT09>
 - 2. More information about the PTAC can be found here: <http://alexvaptac.org/>

- 6. Treasurer update from Lea Poggi.
 - A. Introduction to John Fitzgerald (chair of the audit committee) for review of the PTA budget from Aug 31, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
 - a. Only minor discrepancies identified for both cash and check purchases/deposits.
 - b. Audit complete – almost ready to present audit results to the Virginia PTA.
 - B. Review 2021-2022 school year PTA financials (balance sheet, budget).
 - a. Projected net loss of \$25,900 represents a worst-case scenario.
 - C. 2021-2022 school year budget approved at 7:39 pm.

- 7. Programs update from Julie Zahn.
 - A. After school programs are back, and will be run through a partnership with Baroody Camps.
 - B. First session will run from October 12th to December 9th.
 - C. Seven different classes daily from Tuesday to Thursday, and open to students in grades 1 through 5.
 - D. Scholarships available.
 - E. Registration and scholarship information can be found here: <http://bc-alex-georgemason.jumbula.com/>
 - F. Great turnout in registration, overall; however, we opened registration back up today, and until Sunday, to fill remaining spots in the few programs that still have openings.

- 8. Membership update from Meghan McCarthy.
 - A. Join the PTA here: <https://georgemasonpta.membershiptoolkit.com/packet/573>
 - B. Survey link to better understand PTA information flow: <https://forms.gle/sHmifZ91NENfGcJx6>

- 9. Fundraising update from Liz Bartlett.
 - A. Restaurant nights in October.
 - a. Oct 13th: Hot Dogs and Fries
 - b. Oct 27th: SouvlakiBar.
 - B. Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon to raise money for GMES.
 - C. We need a chair person for the Election Day Bake Sale.
 - D. We need a chair person for Dragon Donation.

- 10. Outreach update from Crystall Merlino.
 - A. Update on GMES modernization project meeting from Sep 21st.
 - B. Meeting information/slides can be found here: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/2363>
 - C. If you would like further/continual updates, you can sign up for the GMES modernization newsletter at the above-listed site.

- 11. Presentation/update from the GMES Principal, Dr. Seazante Oliver.
 - A. Introduction of Pamela Buckley, the new GMES Assistant Principal.
 - B. Update on contract tracing protocols for classrooms and cafeteria.
 - C. Changes to lunch schedules to maximize space between students.

- D. Update on outside lunch options – works in the near-term but is not a long-term solution as we move into the wet/cold weather season.
- E. School closed on October 11th for professional teacher development.

12. We need volunteers for the Walking Wednesday program.

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.