



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of
George Mason Elementary School
General PTA
October 26th, 2020

1. Call Online Meeting to Order at 7:04 pm
2. Approve minutes from the September 21st, 2020 meeting
 1. Approved at 7:05 pm
3. National Principal Appreciate Month – Kudos to Dr. Oliver! Welcome to our new AP Dr. Eggert!
4. Administrative notes:
 - A. Comments or questions in the chat box
5. UPCOMING ELECTIONS PRESENTATION - How to Vote and Get Kids Positively Engaged
 - A. Angie Maniglia Turner, Director of Elections & General Registrar from the City of Alexandria Office of Voter Registration & Elections. Ms. Maniglia Turner will talk about the importance of voting and share information on HOW to vote in the upcoming elections.
 1. Deadline to register was 10/13 vote.elections.virginia.gov
 2. COVID prevention measures coordinated with Health Dept, CDC recs, medical reserve corp volunteers
 3. Check you voting locations – they may have changed
 4. Absentee voting in-person deadline is 10/31 at 5 pm
 5. Deadline to vote by mail was 10/23 at 5 pm. Postmarked and received by Friday, 11/6 at noon
 6. Drop boxes at all voting sites and in-person absentee
 7. Presentation will be posted on PTA website
 - B. Ms. Julie Miezán & Ms. Amy Christensen, GMES Teachers, who together will share ideas on how to engage kids in a conversation about elections, democracy, civic engagement and citizenship.
 1. Book suggestions per grade level
 2. K-1: Practice polling, fill out ballot together, point out election signs and stickers, etc.
 3. 2-3: Rules of voting, beliefs and why, citizenship, etc.
 4. 4-5: Issues on the ballot, voting rights, track results, etc.
 5. VOTE!
 6. Presentation will be posted on PTA website
6. Committee Reports
 - A. Treasurer (Lea Poggi)- 2020-2021 Budget & Approve

1. Review balance sheet
 - i. PTA operating expenses (dues, insurance, etc.)
 2. Budget amendment
 - i. Added fundraising for the yard signs
 3. Motion to approve 2020/21 budget: approved at 7:33 pm
 - B. Fundraising (Cori Woods)
 1. Back to School yard signs
 - i. Raised over \$800 and 20 signs to community lodgings and 10 signs to teachers and staff
 - C. Membership & Website (Beth Aiken) -- Join the PTA!
 1. Sign-up or renew membership anytime on the website
 2. Directory
 - i. Learning packet mailers will contain Directory form to be returned within 2 weeks:
 - a. Picture/scan and emailed to Jennifer Gibbons
 - b. Drop-off boxes at GME and Community Lodgings
 - D. Outreach (Jane Frazer)
 1. Joint City Facilities Masterplan Process
 - i. Phase 3
 - a. Framework for entire plan, fall community engagement and opportunity for input
 - b. Meeting focus in Sept focused on Minnie Howard
 - c. Quick timeline ahead
 - d. Check ppt posted on website, though not all recordings, notes, etc. are posted
 - e. Request for meeting recordings and notes from previous meetings posted asap (January, September, and October meetings)
 - ii. Cindy Anderson input:
 - a. October meeting was today
 - b. Nov 7th city council retreat (school board invited)
 - c. January deadline to move ahead with decisions
7. School Board Update (Chair Cindy Anderson, ACPS School Board)
 - A. 11/12 next meeting on return to school
 - B. Looking for additional facilities and technology
 - C. 10/29 public hearing on renaming
8. Principal Update (Dr. Seazante Oliver, GMES Principal)
 - A. Revising K-2 schedule
 1. Small group rotation (more small groups)
 2. Encore time reduced from 45 minutes to 30 minutes synchronous
 3. Reducing screen time in general
 4. November 4th start for new schedule; will be released this week
 - B. Friday is school spirit day
 - C. 11/3 no school
 - D. 11/11 – 11/13 parent/teacher conferences
 1. Half days asynchronous and will end at 11:30
 - E. 11/20 school spirit day
 - F. 11/25-27 no school for Thanksgiving break
 - G. Question:
 1. Why the schedule changes?
 - i. Reduce screen time

- ii. Include opportunities for small groups for differentiated instruction
- iii. More formalized rotations
- 2. Will kindergarten schedule change after latest change?
 - i. Kinder asynchronous time will stay the same with the new scheduling changes
- 3. Will the small group have adult in session?
 - i. During small groups the teacher/proctor will facilitate while the other students will have asynchronous assignments
- 4. How are teachers holding up?
 - i. Challenging in terms of technology, community, etc.

9. Adjourn 7:59 pm