



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of
George Mason Elementary School
General PTA
December 7th, 2020
7:00 – 8:15 pm

1. Call Online Meeting to Order at 7:04 pm
2. Approve minutes from the October 26th, 2020 meeting
 1. Approved at 7:06 pm
3. Administrative Notes:
 - A. Ask questions via chat box, raise hand icon, or email
4. Presentation Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, Rosie Wiedemer
 - A. Former GME parent
 - B. 35 years non-profit based in TC Williams
 - C. Serve TC and surrounding middle schools
 - D. Goal: help kids get to college if they want to go via services and funding scholarships
 - E. Start in middle school but amp up involvement in 11th grade
 - F. Fund scholarships for kids with financial need
 - G. How can elementary parents get involved?
 1. Spring Gala participation (April 23rd - 25th)
 - i. Attend
 - ii. Donate
 - iii. Plan
 2. Hosting a “honor a teacher” virtual party
 - i. Choose a deserving teacher
 - ii. Celebrate via virtual party
 - iii. \$3000 and teacher can award a scholarship in their name
 - iv. Email Rosie Wiedemer with questions: rosie.wiedemer@acps.k12.va.us
5. Presentation by Alicia Alston-Harrison, GMES Guidance Counselor on “Mindfulness”
 - A. Presentation available by request
 - B. Email Alicia Alston-Harrison: alicia.alston-harrison@acps.k12.va.us
6. General Announcements
 - A. Holiday Giving Tree – 111 gift cards to help families in need
 - B. Family Choice Form – fill it out by 12/11/12
 1. Intent to remain virtual or attend hybrid program

- C. Teacher Holiday Gifts
 - 1. PTA distributed questionnaire; Grade reps will contact parents with wish lists:
 - i. Simplest to focus on e-gifts
 - ii. Drop off gifts 12/15 or 12/16 from 9-4 but keep it small
 - D. Band Concert – 12/17/20 at 7 pm (see below Principal Update for more info)
 - E. Last day of school before Winter Break is 12/18/20 and school spirit day
7. Committee Reports
- A. Treasurer (Lea Poggi)- 2020-2021 Budget & Approve
 - 1. Review balance sheet as of 11/30/20
 - 2. Small increase due to yard signs, etc.
 - B. Fundraising (Cori Woods)
 - 1. Restaurant Nights
 - i. Lena’s night raised \$143
 - ii. Chipotle night TBD
 - 2. Giving Tuesday via PTAC for ACPS Transition HelpLine raised \$1,070
 - C. VP Outreach – welcome Chris Yianilos
 - 1. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
 - 2. Reduced budget due to reduced city revenue
 - 3. GME allotted 100K for repairs, CIP proposal calls for complete rebuild but delayed for year
 - i. GME timeline: 2024 Design, 2025 Construction
 - 4. McArthur and high school project are continuing their current construction plans
 - D. Membership & Website (Beth Aiken) -- Join the PTA!
 - 1. Directory
 - i. Learning packet mailers contained 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
 - ii. Google forms online
8. Principal Update (Dr. Seazante Oliver, GMES Principal)
- A. Family Choice form is important to understand what families are intending to do in terms of hybrid versus virtual programs
 - 1. 12/11/20 deadline!
 - 2. School is assisting families with PowerSchool accounts and filling out form
 - 3. School Board Community meetings are available online
 - 4. 12/8 – 12/10 Learning Packets pick-up between 9 am – 1 pm
 - 5. 12/14 art supplies pick up between 1 – 3 pm
 - 6. 12/17 Virtual Performance via zoom (look for link is Mason Messenger)
 - 7. 12/18 Last day of school before Winter Break
 - 8. 1/4 School back in session
9. Update from School Board Member Cindy Anderson
- A. 10 year CIP history with budget and recent economic downturn
 - B. Always looking for space (ex. Ferdinand T. Day school purchase)
 - 1. Co-location is recreation as well as housing (ex. Potential pool at Minnie Howard)
10. Adjourn 7:51 pm