

PTA General Meeting

9/27/22

Welcome/Intro/Process for PTA Meetings

- Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm
- This is our first meeting of the year!
- Please sign in tonight, and please use the QR code to become a PTA member if you haven't joined already
- Intro of PTA Exec Board
 - Geoff Goode, PTA President this year
 - 4th grader and 1st grader
 - Lisa Peña, Treasurer
 - 4th grader and 1st grader
 - Tasha Hensley, Secretary
 - 4th grader and 1st grader
 - Julia Zahn, Programs
 - 4th and 2nd graders
 - Liz Bartlett, President Elect
 - 3rd and 1st graders
 - Emily Litten, Former President
 - 3rd and 5th graders
 - Brooke Johnson, VP of Fundraising
 - 3rd and 1st graders
- Process
 - Need to be a member to vote
 - Don't need to be member to be here and part of the discussion

1) Approve June 2022 Meeting Minutes – *approved*

2) Principal's Update

- a. Welcome!
- b. Upcoming important dates (also shared on Parent Square app):
 - i. W, 10/5 students are out of school for Yom Kippur
 - ii. F, 10/7 at 8:15 am: parent coffee
 1. Zoom – she will send info out
 2. Guest speaker: r. Megan Tempel-Milner, TAG Director for ACPS, will be there for a Q&A
 - iii. 10/13: Pizza and Pasta for Pages
 - iv. 10/24: Holiday (Diwali)
 - v. 10/25: Teacher Work Day
 - vi. 10/28: School Picture Day
- c. Introduction of Ms. Mitchell, the new TAG point person at George Mason

3) Chair Updates

- a. Programs
 - i. Julie's 2nd year leading programs
 - ii. Begin 10/11 and there will be 12 different programs with 100+ students involved (23 are scholarship recipients)

- iii. Tues, Wed, and Th
- iv. There will be another session starting in early Feb.
- b. Fundraising
 - i. Restaurant Nights
 - 1. If anyone has connections with restaurants, they should connect with Brooke Johnson (VP of Fundraising)
 - 2. Families go to the restaurant and a percentage of the proceeds go to our PTA
 - ii. Dragon Fest in the spring
 - 1. Awesome event last spring with lots of games and activities
 - a. Liz Bartlett was the lead
 - b. Hopefully becomes an annual tradition
 - 2. Susie O'Brien is the lead this year
 - iii. Party on the Patio (or some version of it)
 - 1. Auction
 - 2. We'll need a lot of volunteer help
 - 3. Reach out to Brooke if you are interested in supporting
 - iv. Election Day bake sale
 - v. Yard signs that can be purchased on the GMES PTA website (<http://georgemasonpta.org/>)
 - vi. Pizza/Pasta for Pages is an annual event and the funds raised are used to defray cost of the yearbook
 - 1. Really successful last year despite Covid
 - 2. This year, inside with pizza and potluck pasta dishes
 - 3. Suggested donation of \$10 per family
 - 4. Geoff will be wearing an apron and selling 50/50 raffle tickets
- c. Membership
 - i. PTA members – 80 members
 - 1. \$20 for 2 adults to join PTA (parents, guardians, teachers can join)
 - ii. Dragon Families – 30+ families
 - 1. You can become one by donating \$100 to the PTA.
 - 2. Helps fund afterschool program coordinator and scholarships.
- d. Outreach/Modernization
 - i. Crystal Merlino is the lead on this but she's not here tonight
 - ii. GMES is planned to be rebuilt in a few years
 - iii. At the next meeting on 10/25, there will be a presentation from ACPS staff who are running the modernization effort
- e. PTAC – PTA Council of Alexandria
 - i. Committee of all PTA units in Alexandria
 - ii. Edith Andrade is under the weather and couldn't be here tonight but she is our PTAC Rep
 - iii. Reflections contest is run by PTAC and that's coming up. We'll send those deadlines out shortly and Geoff believes the deadline is 10/15.
- f. Treasurer (Lisa Peña)
 - i. Started the year with approx. \$64,000 in the bank.
 - ii. Recent expenditures:
 - 1. Ice Cream Social

- 2. Teacher stipends of \$50/teacher for classroom supplies
 - 3. Back to School Night meals for teachers
 - iii. \$59,275 in the bank currently
 - g. Volunteers Needed
 - i. We are looking for volunteers!
 - ii. There are some events that don't have leads or supporters yet and without volunteers, they won't happen.
 - iii. Please contact Geoff Goode if you are willing to volunteer.
- 4) TAG Liaison Presentation by MeEyoom Mitchell, TAG Screening Lead (here at GMES Mon to Th)
- a. You can reach her by email
 - b. Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner is TAG Director for ACPS
 - c. What is the TAG program like?
 - i. **Q from parent: Is the "gifted" definition in the statute?**
 - 1. Ms. Mitchell doesn't know so this is a good Q for Dr. Tempel-Milner.
 - ii. ACPS Equity for All Strategic Plan
 - iii. Three main groups
 - 1. GIA for K-3rd graders
 - a. Demonstrate superior reasoning
 - b. Broad range of intellectual disciplines
 - c. Occurs w/in classroom setting
 - d. 30-minute pull-out with a TAG teacher
 - 2. Specific Academic Aptitude for 4th to 12th graders
 - a. ELA class
 - b. Math class – take SOL for one grade above
 - c. If identified for science and social studies, it's embedded in the general classes
 - 3. Young Scholars
 - a. Targets historically underrepresented groups
 - b. 2e = twice exceptional
 - iv. Each TAG students has a DEP (Differentiated Education Plan)
 - 1. Parents should receive it on a quarterly basis
 - d. How do we identify kids for it?
 - i. Steps
 - 1. Referral
 - a. Automatic referral
 - b. Parent referral (9/30 is the deadline for SAA; 11/22, 2/1 are deadlines for GIA)
 - 2. Obtain Data
 - 3. Committee Meets
 - 4. Parent Notification
 - 5. Appeals
 - e. What's the referral process?
 - i. Parent referral (9/30 is the deadline for SAA; 11/22, 2/1 are deadlines for GIA) via PowerSchool or hard copy (PowerSchool preferred and it's translated in different languages)

1. Log into PowerSchool
 2. Select student
 3. Forms
 4. Select "ACPS Referral for TAG"
 - ii. Automatic referral
 1. 96th percentile on CogAT or NNAT
 2. 95th percentile MAP scores
 - iii. Two assessments
 1. Grade 1: NNAT (Naglieri Ability Test) in Oct.
 - a. 30 minutes to administer
 2. Grade 3: CogAT (Cognitive Ability Test) in Oct.-Nov.
 - a. 2 hours
 - b. Multiple choice
 - iv. What happens if my child is not found eligible?
 1. Letters sent home to convey the decision
 2. Parents/guardians have right to appeal w/in 10 days
 - f. Q from parent: Is a parent referral worthwhile if the student doesn't meet the standardized testing requirement?**
 - i. Dr. Oliver doesn't know so they are going to check with the TAG Director on 10/7
 - ii. Email megan.tempel-milner@acps.k12.va.us with any urgent questions now before 9/30 deadline
 - g. Q from parent: How do students admitted late to SAA TAG through fall referral process catch up on accelerated math?**
 - i. Dr. Oliver said that does present a challenge
- 5) Approve 2022-23 PTA Budget - *approved*
- a. Geoff is going to walk us through it
 - b. Fundraising = our expected income for the academic year
 - i. If there are amendments, no need to approve it. Amendments are only needed for expenses.
 - ii. Amazon Smile: Amazon has a platform that allows us to get some proceeds.
 1. Doesn't change the cost to you
 2. Geoff has put the link in several emails but will send again
 - iii. Q from parent: How did you make so much money at Dragon Fest?**
 1. Online auction is the bulk of it
 2. Food truck sales
 3. Raffle
 - iv. Q from parent: How can we get more bang for the buck in our fundraising efforts?**
 1. Please volunteer to support Party on the Patio and/or Dragon Fest!
 2. We're thinking Dragon Fest will kick off the online auction and then Party on the Patio (about a week later) will be the culmination.
 3. Susie: Maybe we could have a food truck night here at GMES but we'd have to find food trucks that would give us proceeds.
 - v. Q from parent: What's the social media presence for GMES?**

1. We are on Facebook, not Instagram.
 - c. Activities
 - i. Big ticket items are trip-related
 1. Music trip planned by Ms. Rosner
 2. Jamestown for 4th graders
 3. Alternative learning experiences (aka, other field trips)
 4. PTA will make up the difference for families who can't afford to pay for these trips
 - d. Community
 - i. Charitable donations
 - ii. PTAC Equity Fund is intended to support less well-resourced PTA units in Alexandria
 - e. Programs
 - i. Scholarships for kids whose families can't afford it
 - ii. Coordinator to provide administrative support for the programs
 - f. School Support
 - i. Grade level funds
 - ii. Educational material funds (longer term/capital expenses)
 - iii. Teachers make requests and PTA Exec Board reviews/approves
 - g. PTA General
 - i. PTAC dues
 - ii. School Directory – we're raising more money than it will cost b/c of ad space
 1. Most used item in Geoff's house!
 - iii. Insurance, etc.
 - h. Q from parent: Why do we have so much money in the bank?**
 - i. Lisa: We are cautious and try to keep a buffer to avoid budget amendments
- 6) Upcoming Events
- a. Pizza/Pasta for Pages on 10/13, 6-7:30 pm
 - b. Walking Wednesday on 10/12, 10/19, 10/26
 - c. Modernization Meeting on 10/25
 - d. Next PTA meeting on 12/5 – acting ACPS superintendent will be here
- 7) Adjourn -- *approved at approx. 8:45 pm*