

10/25/22

- Call to order at 7:32 am
  - We have Veronica here for translation services.
  - If you are a member of the PTA, you can vote. Please join if you haven't yet.
1. Approve September 2022 Meeting Minutes (available on the PTA website - [georgemasonpta.org](http://georgemasonpta.org)) – *approved*
  2. Rosie Wiedemer, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Presentation
    - Nonprofit based at HS
    - Only serves ACHS students
    - Goal is to support students w/their post-grad goals (e.g., 2-year, 4-year institution)
    - College is an option and we can help you get there
    - Start by helping MS students with guidance
    - All HS students in one place and the Fund can help them figure out which schools can provide financial support – and they raise money to provide students with scholarships
    - Manage some scholarships that aren't need-based (e.g., lacrosse scholarship)
    - Support for all 4 years and minimum amount is \$3K
    - \$3K can make a real difference
    - NOVA community college is a great option for students; you can start there and then transfer into a 4-year college
    - Last year, awarded 205 new scholarships
    - Cool program in which you can honor a teacher; and this is a way that elementary school families can get involved
      - Raise \$3K and then a scholarship is awarded in that teacher's name
      - Can be in your backyard, at the playground, etc.
      - SFA creates a donation page
      - Last one at GMES was for Ms. Thorne during the pandemic; it was virtual
    - Reading Day is a day of scholarship app review and a great way to help out
      - You can participate if you don't work at ACPS or have a kid at the HS
    - Rosie Wiedemer is happy to answer any questions
  3. Jerry Peacock, GM PTA 2021-22 Audit Review and Adoption
    - Did an independent audit of the money that went in and out in 2021-22
    - Jerry volunteered his time to do this and it's not a small amount of time
    - Another parent did a review of his review
    - You should end up with a zero delta and we did
    - Several hundred transactions throughout the year
    - Looked at every deposit/withdrawal over \$100 and every fourth transaction under \$100
    - Some minor issues but the books are looking good going into this next year
    - Looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> audit reviewer for 21-22 – Jerry Peacock and John Fitzgerald were the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reviewers

- We are past due
  - We got a volunteer who is going to chat w/Jerry afterwards!
  - Motion to adopt, assuming that the 3<sup>rd</sup> review goes well -- *approved*
- 4. Crystall Merlino, George Mason Modernization Update
  - Has been in touch w/**Artia Funderberk (?)** who is new to the position
  - GMES is still on track for fall 2023 community meetings
  - Total building replacement
  - Funding will start in 2025 – ***Julie asked about what this means and Crystal will find out the year that GMES kids will move into the swing space and how long they are expected to be there***
  - GMES will go before Cora Kelly
  - Swing space
    - 1703 N. Beauregard
    - Funding for it was appropriated this year
    - Will eventually be a permanent school for 600 students (we currently have ~315 at GMES)
    - Will be used by GMES and then Cora Kelly
    - Design meetings will be held for the community (approx. one every month)
  - Community meeting on this (only about swing space not any rebuilds) in 2 weeks – there isn't an exact date but around 11/14 and it will be virtual
  - ACPS website isn't up to date
  - You can sign up through Parent Square or for the newsletter by going to the facilities website
  - Erika Gullick is now Exec Director of Facilities
  - ***Parent Q: How will transportation work? This will be addressed in community meetings?***
  - ***Parent Q: Would Campagna locate at the swing space?***
  - ***Parent Q: Will we be sharing the space with any other schools?***
  - ***Please contact [Crystallds@yahoo.com](mailto:Crystallds@yahoo.com) with additional Qs so that she can compile and present them to ACPS contacts.***
- 5. Principal's Update
  - Will host a parent coffee on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and the topic will be progress reports, as there have been some changes in the area of reading
    - Focus on the science of reading
    - Students will no longer have reading levels and Dr. O is still grappling with that transition
    - More info to come re: Parent Square
  - Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Covid booster available at Ramsey – more info to come
- 6. Chair Updates
  - Programs (Julie)
    - Going well
    - End on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Email Julie w/any Qs
  - Fundraising (Brooke)
    - Thanks to those who came to Pasta for Pages and/or Los Tios
      1. Raised \$400 at Los Tios

2. Raised \$1,142 at Pasta for Pages (which is one-fifth the cost of the yearbook, which is about \$5500, but the ads in the back should cover the rest)
  - Forming committees for Dragon Fest and Party on the Patio
  - Contact Brooke or Liz Bartlett if you are interested
  - Please sign up for the bake sale – bake something, sign up for a shift
    1. Sign up genius has been shared via Geoff's PTA emails
- o Membership (Geoff)
  - PTA members - 97 members and we'd love to get past 100
  - Dragon Families – 37 families
- o PTAC (Edith)
  - Safety Forum tomorrow and they sent out a sign-up genius for volunteering
  - RSVP via Zoom
  - Tutorial on Parent Square at the last PTAC meeting – Geoff said that they might start using PS for PTA updates so it captures everyone in the school and automatically translates it for a family's first language
- o Treasurer (Lisa) – covered already w/fundraising outcomes
- o Volunteers needed - Picture Day and Bake Sale
  - Need more baked item sign ups, and please wrap it individually in advance
  - Need one or two more for Picture Day – PTA gets some of the proceeds

#### Upcoming Events

7. Picture Day - 10/28
8. MCM Fun Run - 10/29
9. Election Day Bake Sale - 11/8

Adjourned at 8:25 pm