



**TES PTA Minutes
September 10, 2013**

I Call to Order 7PM

Welcome from Elaine Peterson, this year's TES PTA President and introduction of current year PTA Executive Board for 2013-2014.

- Melissa Sanne, our Treasurer
- Angela Kennedy our President Elect
- Beth Robbins our Treasurer Elect
- Laura Pleasants our Parliamentarian
- Dana Johnson our Recording Secretary
- And Jennifer Pounders our Corresponding Secretary

II Approval of the June General PTA Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve June minutes was made and passed.

III Report of Officers

Principal's Report – Mrs. Ford

We are up to 730 children - the largest that we've ever been. She has found out how everyone is so supportive of teachers and staff.

Designations have been spent and all purchases are in the classroom. Empowering writers - the teachers are trained, teachers are excited. Brainpop information is coming out, more will be shared during back to school night. You can start working with it already. She expressed thanks for all of the tools.

A local garden club is going to be reworking the pow wow patch, which needs some refurbishment. They are going to be working on it so that our teachers can use it in the spring.

There will be a bigger emphasis on recycling – they will also be talking to the kids about why we do it.

Mrs. Ford has an open door policy - call or email her with questions or concerns.

There is a parent coffee on September 20th (which is the same day as newcomers activity). That day is about coming in and asking questions.

Mrs. Ozmore is new full time guidance counselor and now we have Shirley Ramsey part time.

Teacher Representative/Mrs. Archer – no report

Corresponding Secretary – Jennifer Pounders

Customized welcome notes and flowers were sent to 7 new full-time staff at TES on the first day of school.

There will be additional gift card and note gestures sent to new part-time staff in the next two weeks.

TES PTA Facebook Page Report - I continue to post content about 2x a week.

I have posted 19 times between June 24 and Sept. 9 We have gained 41 new users since August 14.

Our page currently has 299 likes. A little about the people who like our page:

- *63 percent are between the ages of 35-44

- *88.9 percent are female

- *11.1 percent are male

Treasurer's Report – Melissa Sanne/Budget Review and Vote

Motion to adopt the audit of 2012-2013 PTA finances was made and passed.

Motion to approve the 2013-2014 PTA budget was made and passed.

The Budget is now up on the tuckahoepta.org website for viewing.

For inflow of money – We do not have Sally Foster anymore, so we are hoping for lots of money from the annual fund - \$22,500 fundraisers. We do not have bake sales any longer. We hope for a great spring fling but can't budget as high as last year since we don't know if the weather will be nice.

Discussion of general expenses and how we can't carry money over. We had \$39K last year and spent most of it, including brainpop, math manipulatives, and a nationally known author visit. We do have \$10,000 that we are allowed to keep for emergencies, otherwise, everything must be spent.

Treasurer Elect – Beth Robbins

We have 2 online registrations open: PTA fee form and Volunteers. Only about half of the people have done it.

The online PTA fee form allows you to order a directory, join the PTA and order a yearbook, but it is also where the information is captured for the directory. So, if you do not complete it, you will not be in the directory. If you have not signed up already, please visit the PTA website at tuckahoepta.org and click on the green PTA fee form button. Or, if you would prefer paper, those can be found on the website or you can pick one up from me after tonight's PTA meeting.

The volunteer sign-up is also at the PTA website. Just click on the green volunteer sign-up button.

Numbers for both sign-ups are lower than we thought they would be at this time. We have put reminders in signals, Facebook, and are planning a Connect Ed from Mrs. Ford for tomorrow. If you have not already signed up, please do! Also, please talk it up at your bus stop or with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to sign-up as well.

2 additional sign-ups are coming soon: drama club and family night. Look for more information about them in upcoming signals and/or flyers sent home with students.

President Elect – Angela Kennedy

If you asked for a nametag, they are out front, let her know if you want one

second - sign up for kroger plus, just take the thing in to scan, new playground, new musical instruments. look for that flyer to earn money for our school

Parliamentarian Report – Laura

A copy of the bylaws is available on the website

President's Report

Vote Yes to the Meals Tax Referendum on November 5th - As an advocacy group the PTA supports the Meals Tax for Henrico County because all revenue collected from these funds will be lockboxed for Henrico County Schools. This money is necessary to continue to offer the superior educational system that we have been receiving. This is projected to raise 18 million dollars for the school system. Why meals tax, because we can pull money from tourist to help off set the cost. It is estimated that 40% of the meals tax funds will come from those living outside of the county. This is a great alternative to a real estate tax that will only capture funds directly from the Henrico County Citizen. One concern is that the voter that has not been educated about the referendum might glance at the referendum and read tax at 4% and vote no without understanding how important the money will be to the success of our schools. Also, In Henrico County, there is only about 24% of the population that has school age kids so we need to be advocating for this meals tax to our neighbors and our extended family. So please get the word out to vote on November 5th and to vote yes to the meals tax!

There will be a Committee Chairs Training Coffee and Donuts for Sept. 16th 9:30am at Melissa Sanne's home.

This Meeting is considered our first General PTA meeting. Back To School Night this year will not include a general PTA meeting, instead it will be a time for Mrs. Ford and the school to connect to our parents.

IV Demonstration of Brain Pop from Mr. Gordon

Brainpop is used in 25% of schools and is an online resource that supports classroom instruction. There is Brainpop jr - k-3, Brainpop 4-12, and brainpop ESL. There is some overlap between Brainpop and Brainpop Junior.

www.brainpop.com Passord and user ID to be provided

You can see the standards on home page, look up Virginia. Content is directly related to SOLs - arcade games, quizzes. The video that Mr. Gordon presented is directly on the website - click on the tour button to see it. The help tool at the bottom of the page.

You can access anything 24/7. On mobile devices, there are has different apps and it looks different.

V Committee Reports

ASE

Flyers went home on Monday, Sept. 9th with all 1st-5th grade students and a link to the registration went out in Monday's issue of Signals.

ASE is still done through a lottery and forms are due by this Friday, Sept. 13th (we will accept late forms if the class has space).

The cost of ASE is \$60 for the 6 week session which runs from Oct. 2nd-Nov. 6th and we added a make-up week in case of weather/school closing. We will send out confirmation of classes to parents the week before ASE begins.

Also, parent signature on the registration form will be used for change of transportation permission. Volunteers will be requested through Sign Up Genius.

We need lots of volunteers each week to keep ASE going as each ASE class offering needs a volunteer to check in/dismiss students and be an extra set of hands for the instructor.

This will be my last session as chair of ASE and I will help Abby Fredrick transition into her role as ASE chair. Angela Kennedy

Annual Fund

The goal is \$22,500 , so far they are \$10,000 shy. Laura explained that this is now our primary fundraiser, and many more activities are self funded. Any in school enrichment comes from fund raising. She hopes you all will support the fund and she expects to make our goal.

You can use the paper form, donate button, new registration, tax deductible.

Some companies will match.

Book Fair

Book Fair plans are already in motion. It will be set up the morning of the Weds, 10/16 by bbgb and volunteers. (Start around 8:30 - after carpool - finish before lunch)

It will start on Wednesday afternoon, October 16th from 2-4pm (this is during After School Enrichment, so there is always a huge crowd.)

It is open 9:00-4:00 on Thursday, 10/17 - open during the school day for classroom visits (teachers will be able to make appointments for their class in the lounge again), also after school for parents and kids.

Open 9:00-8:00 on Friday, 10/18 - open again for class visits, after school, and family night

The use of facility form was filed last week, plan on using ONLY THE TABLES FROM THE JANITOR CLOSET - no PTA tables, we also supply our own tables.

The book fair is dismantled immediately after family night - any and all help is appreciated.

There will be teacher wish lists in the fall but not the spring - will be posted, things the teachers want.

Buildings and Grounds

The pow wow patch is big project - health check on bunnies, down to 4 bunnies, moving to improve safer, healthier.

Fall cleanup day is coming up, the big project is to clean up the pow wow patch so that its ready for its redo.

Calendar and Directory

They are just waiting for everyone's information to get it out as soon as possible in October.

Chess

Flyers should have gone home and they will start in October for 8 weeks, probably limit to 20. To register, you need to have chess knowledge. If you want to learn chess you can take ASE.

Drama

Drama Club in on track. Co-Chair will be: Caroline Appich

Flyers for 3rd-5th grade will be in Monday Folders on 9/16. Drama Club will begin 10/15. Expect to use on line payment once spots are determined via a lottery.

Duathlon

Planning for the Duathlon Committee is going well! The date will be Sunday, November 3rd, at 1:00 p.m. We have a great committee of several women working together to organize everything. The race details will stay basically the same. Michelle Johnston will work with Mrs. Ranson to have the 5th graders do an art contest for the t-shirts (as we have done in the past). Registration forms will go out in backpacks October 7. The deadline for registration will be October 18.

We are seeking sponsors and have three sponsorship levels which start at \$75 and go up to \$250. If anyone has an idea of potential sponsors or would like to be a sponsor, please contact Sharon Brager. For sponsors, we have two \$250 level sponsors so far. I hope to contact all of last year's by the end of this week to get the ball rolling.

We would like to have more participants than ever so please mark your calendars and come join us for some fitness and fun!

Family Night

We are having Carytown burgers and fries food truck come. We are also having Gelati Celesti ice cream truck come. They said they can handle our number of people. We are still working on pay as you go vs. pay early online. We are hoping for nice weather so we can have a picnic style outside, bring your blanket and chairs kind of night. The cafeteria will be open for the later eaters (if its dark) and in case it rains. We will serve from 5-7:30. We will also ask the families to come in a staggered manner to help keep lines down. Ex 5-5:45 A-H....any questions or suggestions let me know.

Square one art

They are working on the artwork this week, you will get a packet and choose mugs or all sorts of things. Next week, they are going to work on getting some artwork displayed and distributing posters for the classroom.

First Grade Musical

At this time, we really don't have anything to report. I plan to reach out to 1st grade parents for volunteer help via the next TES newsletter. I may also see if I can place a volunteer sign up sheet in the classrooms on back to school night.

Holiday Kids Corner

Wendy has passed the reigns - planning and bringing it back to Tuckahoe. This year, they plan to try to use it as an educational time so you can scope out your shopping and plan out your spending - talk to kids and use as educational expense. Dec 6 - sending home information separately.

Hospitality

- Just did a lunch with 80s theme lunch had quesadilla truck coming. national theatre donated legwarmers concerts so teachers won tickets. next is Election Day lunch.

Lego

- They are sponsored by first lego league – they are getting children enthused about technology. There are 2 senior teams that are full.

Newcomers

We held two play dates over the summer. One in late June. One in late August. Facebook, flyer and email communication ensured everyone was aware of the opportunity. About 50 families came to the first play date and about 80 families came to the second play date.

Our first day of school Kleenex, Coffee & Confetti event went well. Panera donated coffee. Committee members brought baked goods and decorations. About 35-40 parents came to the event. This mirrors participation in the event in 2012 as well. We wonder if this is the most effective way to reach kindergarten parents. Or perhaps it is the best way. There always is a contingent that has “been there, done that” and also a group that isn’t comfortable coming and potentially revealing first day emotions with people they don’t know. Perhaps out of an incoming class of 120...the 35-40 who come are the ones who need it the most. The venue is quite large however, for a small group and makes it feel like no one is there. Perhaps there is a smaller space at Trinity they would consider letting us use in 2014 for a more intimate feel.

We got Indian head TES car stickers from the SpiritWear Committee and Mrs. Archer distributed them to all kindergartners. They went home in backpacks.

Our final event is supporting Ms. Ozmore on Sept 20 during the lunch hour. This is for new students in grades 1-5 only. There has been a little confusion about the date but it is definitely Sept. 20, not Sept.13.

Reflections

The theme for Reflections art contest sponsored by the National PTA for 2013-2014 is Believe, Dream, Inspire". The TES deadline for artwork is October 17th. A flier went home in the back to school packets already. More information should come out this week in Signals. We hope to increase the number of total participants and display all the artwork this year. Our art show was thwarted by the fire last year. We also hope to have some ribbons or certificates for all participants. Any ideas on how to promote the event would be appreciated.

Room Parents

They met today to pick room parents for the new school year. We gave each teacher the criteria for selection ahead of time. We will send our choices to the teachers for approval and then plan to inform our new room parents by next Monday, the 16th. We like to give them plenty of time to connect with their teacher before Back to school Night on Thursday. We will put together our schedule for Teacher Treat Days in the next week to be started at the beginning of October. We will also be working through the room parents to fulfill the volunteer needs in the cafeteria.

SEATS

Contact is being made w/ the lead teachers for each grade. Our focus is a face-to-face meeting w/ each during September to look at the year as a whole and brainstorm new ideas with a strong focus on identifying math and science opportunities for each grade level and the school as a whole. To date, successful meetings have been held w/ Mrs. Roy (4th grade) and Mrs. Gill (2nd grade).

Nothing has been scheduled for September as students/teachers alike settle in and MAPS/PALS testing takes place.

Upcoming in October:

Station 8 Firemen will visit K during Fire Prevention Week 10/7 – 10/11

Author Illustrator DyAnne DiSalvo will return to 5th grade to follow-up on the creative writing workshops held w/ the 4th graders last year.

VA Historical Society will be visiting 4th grade – Native American Presentation

Author Elisa Carbone will be visiting the 4th graders to talk about her book Blood on the River.

We are asking the faculty as well and anyone in the TES Community w/ any academic connections to pass on any thought/ideas regarding math & science / STEM (Science,

Technology, Engineering & Math) educational ideas/programs that we can research and present to the faculty.

Pete the cat author and other fun coming in November.

Signals

She announced the procedure for submitting announcements and reminded committee chairs to update their newsletter preferences to indicate they are on a PTA committee. She asked that everyone attending the meeting help spread the word about Signals and remind subscribers to check their email preferences to be sure the weekly emails are being routed to their inbox and not spam or junk folders. (we've had a low read-rate lately).

Spirit Nights

September 24 th	5-8	Sweet Frog on Parham
October 26 th	Noon	UR Football Game Flinn's (Still waiting for Tammy Farley @ Flinn's to get back to me on time)
November 13 th	4-8	Panera on Parham (Must bring Flyer for TES to get credit)
November Date TBD		Vineyard Vines-TES to get % of sales
December 14 th	5-8	Chick Fil A

Spirit Wear

They had a successful meet the teacher event, they almost ran out of girls t-shirts. They just ordered more. Shoot garnet an email if you want to help.

Volunteers - coordinating volunteers with PTA and - we haven't gotten the needed response from everyone yet. They are placing a lot of aides and copy moms - teachers do need help, an hour a week. Let them know if you can help and they will find a place for you. They send a sign up genius to the chairs but anyone is welcome to get more involved.

Walk to School

The Walk To School Committee is coming along fine. Walk to School day will be October 9, a Wednesday.

Marcy has contacted the Freeman Band and they are hoping to play for us again this year. Kelly is in touch with traffic control safety officers. I plan on meeting with Mrs. Ford in the next few weeks.

VI New Business – no other business

VII Meeting Adjourned