

TES PTA AGENDA

General Meeting

October 7, 2013

I Call to Order

II Mrs. McCullogh's Presentation on Accelerated Readers

The AR program is part of the reading program used to assess comprehension. Mrs. McCullogh expressed gratitude to the PTA for helping them move to the new web-based AR. Some teachers consider it a big incentive and others don't, each teacher may use it a bit differently, although most decisions are grade level decisions. The updated search function shows the title and cover of the book, which makes it easier for kids. The teacher can print out records of tests taken, but nothing is accessible from home. Some parents had questions and Mrs. Ford suggested emailing their individual teachers to see how they are using AR.

III Approval of the September Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve September minutes was made and passed.

IV principal report – Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford expressed a thank you from the teachers for the support and getting help with the copies and the treats. The treats were great and it was wonderful that the new teachers got flowers.

Mrs. Ford let us know that there was a close call on one of the crosswalks - on Lindsey, near the horsehoe, someone was pulling out and just missed hitting a child. Mrs. Ford said that safety is her first priority and she called our resource officer, Officer Cable. For crosswalk situations, we have to be careful about what roles people can do - parents can't be crossing guards. However, this year Henrico is looking for crossing 4 guards, so it's possible we could get one. We need to do data collection for every cross walk that we'd like to have reviewed. Tuckahoe staff has to collect the data, and they will get some people out there as soon as they get the go ahead. They will do a 10 day study, then to see if there are enough kids to justify a crossing guard. If you live close, might consider doing something as a community, like parents taking turns getting all of the kids to school safely. There are going to be patrols around the neighborhood looking for erratic behavior or speeding. One parent raised the question as to why it's not one way out of the horseshoe – perhaps only right turns out of the horseshoe as the left hand turns are more dangerous. Mrs. Ford said she would consider that.

The last item was class size. She thanked parents for support. First grade is not where they would love to be. However, she is using our resources here to make sure to meet needs. She has moved some support to first grade. This all plays into the trust factor - she is working on it to make sure teachers and kids are supported. She feels confident we can meet the challenges and provide. She met with Dr. Krickovic and part of the conversation was for class size, and Dr. Krickovic felt comfortable with the plan.

A parent asked about long term subs and the impact of Obama care and the subs not being able to work more than 29 hours. Mrs. Ford said they feel like they have a good plan for this.

A parent asked about if TES is at the school capacity and what that capacity is. Mrs. Ford said that we are not at capacity. Some rumors floating around – as far as we know, there will not be a 4th grade teacher added before first grade and we don't know anything about redistricting at this time.

We had a lot of new families this year and if we continue to have many new families, we will continue to monitor our numbers, update them every week, and then when it gets top heavy, then they will put in

V. Parent new business - Margaret Crowe

Moved up in the order due to schedules. Margaret's job involves looking at kids issues from a policy issue and she can't help but notice there are lots of differences in achievement around the county. She raised the possibility of trying to partner with another county elementary school that is not quite as resource-rich. It feels like we have a lot, and it would be great to partner with another school and then help our kids also. The next steps would be a small meeting to see if county could tell us if there was a school that was interested. They will start it as a question and maybe a small project or a book drive. Mrs. Ford indicated that we have to be careful not to offend, and indicated that at some schools, children's basic needs are not being met. They may be in biggest need of coats, socks, snacks, and things like this. If parents would like to do there is a need and there will likely be schools that are interested. We'd have to find out if the school wanted to be known or did school want to stay anonymous. Anyone who is interested should contact Margaret directly - margaret_nimmo@yahoo.com. There might be a core group of people ready to make a committee.

VI. Teacher report - Mrs Archer – thanked everyone so much for the wonderful food, it was very appreciated and it always makes everyone's day. Also, empowering writers has been a huge success. She also showed us some manipulatives that just came in and kids are excited. She thanked the PTA for funding all of that.

VII Report of Officers

Treasurer's Report - Melissa -

Membership money has come in, but they haven't paid it out yet. Also, after school enrichment money has come in but the related money hasn't gone out yet.

Treasurer Elect's Report - Beth

Online PTA fee form is closed. We have 704 PTA memberships for 2013 as compared with 706 last year. Approximately 84% of the people completed the form online, while 16% completed paper forms.

Overall, people seemed pleased with the online payments. There seemed to be some confusion regarding what the PTA fee form actually is. In addition, with Henrico County going online with only some of its forms, I think people were confused about what they had already done and those forms that hadn't been done. There is also no real way of checking to see if you have completed it. Next year we have talked about doing a FAQ document regarding the different forms.

Upcoming online registrations/payments - drama club is just completing its online payment and registration and online registration is being set up for Veterans Day. If any other committees are interested in getting more information about online payment and/or registration, please contact Beth.

President Elect's Report - Angela - no report

Corresponding Secretary's Report –

-Mrs. Kramer received a \$25 gift certificate to Lululemon for her wedding present from the TES staff. She and her new husband are outdoor enthusiasts.
-A few TES families received a \$25 Sweet Frog gift certificates for various reasons.

TES PTA Facebook Page Report:

- content posted about 2x a week.
- posted 22 times in the month of September.
-Page has 310 likes
-Will be writing a piece to go in Signals to encourage people to like the page as we are not reaching as many families as we should.

Parliamentarian - Laura no report.

President's Report - Elaine

This is the PTA's busiest month! So get out and enjoy all the fun things we have planned for your family.

VII Committee Reports

- ASE – Angela Kennedy - The fall ASE session has started and the first week was great! We have 240 students participating this fall (our highest participation in the 3 years she has worked with ASE) and will have a profit of about \$1000. We are meeting in October to plan classes for the Winter session.
- Annual Fund - have met the goals, which is great, and will be thanking contributors soon.
- Book Fair Oct. 16th to 18th

The Book Fair is coming next week! Flyers should have gone home in most backpacks today. Posters went up throughout the school. Signups are now available in the Teachers Lounge for the teachers to make an appointment to bring their class down for some wish list making, story time or book recommendations. Parents, please don't forget to check out the Teacher Wish List Wall to find a book to donate to your child's classroom! Our resource teachers need books as well - check out their lists, too! We are looking for a good turnout on opening day: 2-4pm on Wednesday the 16th - After School Enrichment brings in a large number of shoppers. Please remember that the book fair is also open on Thursday ALL day - from 9 am until 4pm. If you don't like crowds or are shopping with little ones, please consider coming then. Last day for the fair will be Friday, October 18th. Book Fair will be open from 9am until 8pm. We pack up the books and clean up after family night.

- Buildings and Grounds:

We are getting ready for Fall Clean-up day on October 26. We will be sending home fliers in the next week or two, and will include information in the newsletter as well. Main needs are wheelbarrows (lots!), rakes and shovels. This clean up day will also include the Pow Wow Patch. We are trying to get it cleaned up and ready for renovations. The Thomas Jefferson Garden Club has taken on our rabbit patch as their "project" this year, and they have already consulted with landscape architects and local businesses. They are combining some of their funds with some grant money that they are applying for (\$700 received so far) to make considerable improvements to the patch - including an outdoor classroom area with child sized tables and benches, centers around the patch that will include an herb center, butterfly/hummingbird center, and a center focusing on shade gardening. The rabbits will also be getting a much improved hutch area, complete with a clover patch for grazing. Mrs. Ford arranged for the county arborist to come out and "limb up" the trees in the patch - and it is a HUGE improvement. There is more light, the trees look healthier and the risk of dead limbs falling on the roof or a kid is much decreased.

- Calendar and Directory – Gretchen De Francesca - Directory is in production with Precision Printers. Ordered a total of 665 and the goal is to have them to the teachers for backpacks by Friday.
- Chess – Suzie Park - Chess Club started last week. We have 20 students from 1st grade through 5th grade. The coach, Mike Callaham played a game with each of the students in order to gauge their level of play. We will meet for total of 8 weeks. Parents have been very responsive and willing to help out with check in/check out process. After one meeting, so far, so good!

- Drama –registration closed

Applications came in, class placements were sent out, and parents had until the 4th to register. They are getting the last details hashed out and rehearsals start on the 14th.

- Duathlon—Nov.3rd

The planning is going well for the upcoming Duathlon! The Duathlon will be Sunday, November 3, from 1 - 4 p.m. at Tuckahoe. Registration forms went home in students' folders today, and the deadline for registration is next Friday, October 18. We hope to have more teams than ever. We have raised \$1500 so far through sponsorship and should have an additional \$500 raised to make a total of \$2,000.

We held another 5th grade art contest for the t-shirt design, and our winner is Gina Vinson. Keep your eyes open for her design!

We are still looking for additional volunteers the day of the race, so please let us know if you are interested in helping out.

- Family Night—October 18th, prepay

We are on track for a great Family Night next Friday night. So far we have received close to 300 meal reservations and they are coming in steadily! The official cutoff for prepay is Tuesday but food will be available to buy at event a la carte at full price from but we don't want to publicize this until closer to event. Gelati Celesti will be available for purchase at event. The trucks will park near the Cafeteria and will have tables/tents set up to speed up the process.

Confirmations of orders/prepayments will be mailed home with eldest child late this week and early next week. These confirmations will be brought to event and presented to pick up your food.

We are planning to have Mr Gordon/Mrs Ford call families next Thursday, Oct 17th to remind everyone about the event and the alphabetical by last name food pick up. Please feel free to bring balls/frisbees along with your blankets and chairs for some added entertainment for the kiddos!

There was some discussion about arrival times based on your last name and it was generally agreed that anyone who can't come at their time should still come when they can. It was also mentioned that it is an expensive time of year with all of the events occurring.

- First Grade Musical- Dec. 16th daytime and 17th evening - nothing to report yet

- Holiday Kids Corner

They are getting ready to send a note home with the kids about holiday kids corner and they are still looking for crafters. Maria Long is going to help co-chair.

- Hospitality – teachers' luncheon for November 5th
- Lego – no report

- Newcomers

Their final event "New is Cool" for new students in their parents grade 1-5 only was held Friday, Sept. 20 in the cafeteria. We served cookies, lemonade/waters and gave TES Indian head bumper stickers to each child. Principal Ford, and Mrs. Ozmore both spoke to the group. Mrs. Hubbard was there too. There were more children this year than last but fewer parents present. Mrs. Ozmore personally called each family in advance as well.

-Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. Ozmore said they will let us know as new families move into the school during the school year so we can welcome them appropriately.

-We are investigating a few items that we can purchase specifically for Newcomers to use during the year and next fall for kindergarteners and new families.

- Reflections – Deadline Oct. 17 – no report, deadline approaching
- SCA/Spirit Nights

Thanks to everyone who made it out to Sweet Frog on September 24th for spirit night. This was the first time we tried Sweet Frog and it was a big hit.

The next spirit event is on Saturday, October 26th with the UR vs. Towson Tigers football game at noon and Flinn's from 11:00 am-10:00 pm (TES will receive 15% of the sales from TES families who dine).

Flyers for the football game went home in backpacks today. We have a short turnaround time on registration for the football game-Monday, August 14th. All registration forms and payment should go to UR via fax, mail or drop off. Do not send to TES!

They're trying something new in November-Vineyard Vines November 22 from 6-9 pm. TES families receive 10% off their purchases and TES gets 10% of TOTAL sales.

- SEATS

Throughout September the grade level chairs have been in contact w/ and had in-person meetings with teachers regarding 2013/2014 activities. Our grade level chairs are:

Maggie Leahy – K & 1st grade
Niki Davidson – 2nd & 3rd grade
Heidi Frenzel – 4th & 5th grade

Suzanne Monroe – Literacy Chair

The following activities are on the calendar for October:

Oct. 15th –K - Station 8 Firemen
Oct. 16th & 18th – K - Henrico County Police – Officer Cable

Oct. 22nd & 23rd – 5th grade – Author DyAnne DiSalvo
Oct. 25th – 4th grade – VA Historical Society (American Indians)
Oct. 29th – 4th grade – Author Elisa Carbone (Blood on the River, James Town 1607)
Oct. 30th – 1st grade – Author Carol Lemons (Matisse and the Boy who Loved to Draw)

They are providing a different type of support for our 2nd grade this year. The teachers are implementing ***Engineering is Elementary*** curriculum developed by the Museum of Science, Boston. The program integrates science and math concepts that our 2nd graders are and will be learning this year with engineering design. The program embraces a new way of teaching students to:

ASK – good quality questions

IMAGINE – possibilities

PLAN – make a plan

CREATE – solutions

IMPROVE – finished products

Each teacher will facilitate an engineering design unit to all 6 classes that is hands-on and project based. SEATS is covering the costs of all the extra classroom materials needed to make these projects successful.

A formal introduction to SEATS 2013/2014 will be in an upcoming issue of Signals as well as a running list of planned activities.

- Signals

Please get things to Dot by Weds at 5pm to guarantee inclusion in next week's newsletter. Feel free to send pictures but no kids faces.

- Square One Art – Aletha Sangiray and Marcy Green

Mrs. Ranson is in the process of having the students work on their pictures for Square 1 Art. We will send them to Square 1 Art in October, when all of the students have completed their artwork. They hung a poster advertising Square 1 products in the display case in the front lobby of the school before Back to School Night. They also placed items that Square 1 sent as examples of some of the items parents can buy in two display cases that Mrs. Ford placed in the entrance lobby (they hope to keep them there until the day after the deadline for orders). We have requested labels with students' names, grades and teachers (Mrs. Hatcher is going to see if they have that template and, if not, they'll move on to "Plan B" - she was very helpful and having labels will make the process easier and with less errors). They also contacted Mrs. Watkins about advertising on the outside Marquis for Square 1 Art orders due from November 6th- November 15th (the day they are due)." They will coordinate how to begin our big push for advertising and getting the word out there through Facebook and Signals closer to the deadline.

- Spirit Wear— Will be providing green Tshirts to TES staff from our profits so far. This is a great example of the sort of thing we are lucky to be able to

do.

- Veteran's Day Assembly – Nov. 11th, Ms. Ozmore is leading this committee, 5th grade chorus is working on the music

They are working on getting online veteran registration this year for the assembly. They are also trying to find a parent veteran to speak at the assembly. If anyone has any ideas please send them to Mrs. Ozmore.

- Volunteers – registration is closed, have made most placements

All committees were given their volunteer lists to work with

-Had extra 1st grade parent volunteers; have placed them all with Mrs. Ford's help after requesting additional needs from teachers

-working through some additional placements for teachers

-All spots are filled for Picture Day

-Reminder to use copies respectfully; copy parent schedule is listed on the wall

-and of course, big thanks to all our volunteers

- Walk to School

Walk to School will be Wednesday, October 9. The Freeman Band will play again this year, but on the blacktop instead of the front lawn. The band will be on the blacktop at 7:20 and will end play at 7:40. We will have 4 parent volunteers (as well as the chairs of the committee) to help with traffic flow. Parents are helping with on campus pedestrian flow only. Kelly has arranged for 13 or so safety officers to be stationed around the neighborhoods.

Tuckahoe has been identified as a flagship school for this event by the HCPS Safe Routes to School grant. There may be an opportunity to encourage more walking events later in the year.

Given liability issues, we have been asked by HCPS to make it clear this is a PTA sponsored event. There will be no TES publicity--no marquee sign or ConnectEd call.

VIII New Business:

Watch Dogs –October 15th at 6:30 – flyers went home for this.

Traffic Safety- STOP

Walking School Bus – would like to consider more ways to help kids be able to walk to school, like coordinating some walking school bus routes. To be discussed in future meetings.

IX Meeting Adjourned.