

## **TES PTA AGENDA**

General Meeting

March 10, 2014

### **I Call to Order**

### **II Approval of the February Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the February minutes was made and passed.

### **III. Principal report – Mrs. Ford**

The capital improvement project related to the Henrico Meals Tax has been approved, although the meals tax money needs to start coming in before any bids are obtained. Mrs. Ford didn't have any details beyond that the project will improve the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade hall. This will be a process, and they are looking at starting summer 2015. Mrs. Ford will keep us updated.

There will be a parent coffee to discuss class placement on April 3rd at 9:30. Mrs. Ford indicated that some parents would like an evening coffee but schedules during spring time are challenging. This process may be different than previous years, but she is going to give opportunities to provide input. This meeting is about how we look at class placement and what the process is at the school level. This is not a conversation to talk about gifted, that will happen at a later date.

Mrs. Ford reported that Mrs. Tyler is doing a great job with music sharing week. There will soon be an activity highlighting Mrs. Ranson for art.

There will be a Volunteer Breakfast on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to say thank you for anyone who has volunteered. The time for that meeting is still to be determined.

There was an interim safety audit, they will be making some revisions but overall the report was outstanding. Last year was a full audit. Stay tuned for the next update. Some suggestions made in the audit related to budget items that will hopefully get resolved via the budget process.

The school book, the Lemonade War, is going well and has lots of participation. People are bringing the books to school and there are many for our sister school, and we will also provide lesson plans or anything not copyrighted. The book was picked by committee, and while some have expressed concern about the book, most who read all of the way through end up liking how the book ends. It is challenging to pick a book that is relevant to grades K-5.

Presentation on waiver.

We were one of 13-14 schools that met criteria to get a waiver for the SOLs and to maintain fully accredited status for 3 years. That gives us a three year window to try new things and see if it makes a difference. Schools can try new things.

We still need to take SOLs, and the scores are still published, but schools are allowed to spend more time creating experiences. In 2012, we had a fire, and we weren't able to get as much traction with the transitions. Then, Mrs. Ford came in the summer and they started trying to figure out what to do next. Many schools have gone to PBL or project based learning. It is rooted in the standard, but it get kids to investigate and ask good questions to drive their learning. It involves integrated subject matter, science, math, etc. combined. With PBL, students are driving the learning. All staff meetings are involving backward design and PDL discussion. They are excited about the direction.

#### **IV Teacher report – Mrs. Archer**

Mrs. Archer gave a big thank you for the delicious treats. She said that it's so nice to walk in and see the nice spread. Also, she said that the SEATS activities really support many of the things being done in the school. Mrs. Archer also thanked everyone for their help through the winter weather, for having less time to do the same thing and supporting the students and teachers to get things done under a tighter time frame.

#### **V. Report of Officers**

##### *Treasurer's Report - Melissa*

Melissa pointed out that ASE money came in and went out and that SEATS is spending their money.

##### *Treasurer Elect's Report - Beth*

No report.

##### *President Elect's Report - Angela*

Last month we voted on a nominating committee. They got together and brainstormed and created the slate of nominees for next year. Angela will create on-line voting in 2-3 weeks and link in signals and PTA page, she asked the group to tell everyone to vote.

The slate was presented. Jennifer Pounders and Dana Johnson will continue in their roles as corresponding secretary and recording secretary, as these roles have the option to continue for an additional year. Amy Belcher will be the president elect and Sarah Cochran will be the Treasurer elect.

A request was made for other nominations. There were no other nominations. The slate was approved as presented.

Angela is also filling committees – the biggest open spot is on the community service committee, which was started this year. We need to keep up canned food drive, deliver books for the one book, one school, and also deliver coats. The walk to school committee also needs a committee lead. There are lots of committees that still need helpers.

### *Corresponding Secretary's Report – Jennifer*

Jennifer put together special gifts for 8 students who joined since the new year. TES Loves It's New Students was the theme and they were given the Wednesday before Valentine's Day (before the snow). Girls received a TES headband, a stuffed animal, a TES pencil, a heart with skittles and a handwritten note to them and their family. Boys received the same items but TES socks instead of a headband.

She gave special Valentine's gifts for 12 TES bus drivers. Handwritten notes went to each. Mr. Gordon was delivering when appropriate. The theme was TES Loves Its Bus Drivers. In the past, TES has recognized National School Bus Driver Week in October and given gifts then.

She sent special boxes of chocolate from For the Love of Chocolate to Mrs. Ramsey and Mrs. Ozmore during National School Counselors Week along with handwritten notes.

#### **Facebook:**

There were 21 posts between 2-1 and 2-18 (will probably be about 6 more before the month is over). Post on Mrs. Hubard's Teacher of the year showed up in over 6,000 news feeds.

Jennifer did a Valentine's Day like and show some TES love promotion and took us to 406 likes from 370 in a few days.

Jennifer presented the Facebook plan to TES Staff Meeting at request of Principal Ford.

Jennifer solicited feedback from facebook followers prior to the meeting. Received great feedback, people like to see the information.

Jennifer reminded us to continue to like all of the posts so that they will show up in more people's post.

The marquis will post a facebook reminder to remind people to like our page.

### *Parliamentarian - Laura*

Last month we voted on standing rules. Laura didn't have a report other than that she will be contacting the nominees to get the ball rolling on their background checks in the next week or so.

### *President's Report - Elaine*

Elaine is currently taking nominations for Volunteer of the Year last day to send in your nomination is March 17<sup>th</sup>. She received a lot names but might need some additional information.

In case you have not heard, Elaine's family has made a difficult decision to move closer to family in Tennessee at the end of this school year. Her husband has

been asked to be a part of their family business and he has accepted. Since they will be moving, she will be unable to complete the 3 year commitment on the PTA executive committee. Angela, Laura and Elaine have been working to find the right person to fill the parliamentarian role for next year. The Parliamentarian is a member of the executive committee and is responsible for making sure the PTA is following its bylaws and standing rules. Heidi Frenzel has been asked and has accepted this position for the 2014-2015 school year. She is the perfect person to fill this spot because Heidi is a former lawyer, who is great at reading the fine print and understanding the details. She also has served on the executive committee previously as the recording secretary and helped to rewrite the bylaws last year. Elaine is very grateful to Heidi for stepping in to fill her role when she is not able.

There is a STOP Meeting scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm. It was difficult to get everyone scheduled for the same time. The crosswalk study was completed and we want to be a walking community, but we also need to be a safe community.

Next month, Lisa Shumadine will explain everything about SEATS.

## **VII Committee Reports**

- ASE

ASE is wrapping up, last session on 3/12.

- Book Fair

Nothing new to report.

- Buildings and Grounds

They were contacted by a parent complaining about some dog business. Their neighborhood put up signs, but we are not sure if we can put the signs on the school grounds.

- Chess

Chess Club is half way through with the Spring session

- Community service

Coat drive ended Friday.

- Drama Club

Drama Club extended rehearsals begin the week of March 18th. Performance dates are: Tues Club, April 1st Thurs Club, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Field Day

Field Day is coming up on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Fifth grade celebration

They have a proposed schedule for the week. On Monday, they are working with SEATS to do U of R team building. On Tuesday, there will be a class picnic. On Wednesday, there will be yearbook signing and donuts. Thurs will be the completion ceremony, and the celebration in the evening. Friday will be the Tuckahoe salute and kickball game. The week will have a beach theme.

- Ice cream social

The Ice Cream Social will be May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the bookfair will be 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Legos

Legos-may change the name of the club for 2014 to better reflect the activities. There's been a perception that students will spend a majority of their time lego building, when in fact, its very little. Of the 8-12 WEEKS we meet, only the first few HOURS are spent building with the Legos. The rest of the time is critical thinking, team building-fun, programming, and problem solving with a Lego robot.

It sounds like we're looking at three senior teams for the fall. The number will depend on student interest and parent volunteers to coach. I have two other potential coaches in mind and need to follow up. With that said, we always need help and situations change, so if anyone is interested, contact Heather. It's a few summer planning meetings and coaching beginning mid-August. From mid-August until mid-November, it's 4-5 hours a week.

Heather will schedule an interest meeting, tentatively 4/29 or 4/30 to better gauge the fall needs and to adjust budget requests.

- Newcomers

Jennifer developed a thought document pondering changes for 2014-2015. She is sharing with Co-Chair Elizabeth Robertson this week. She shared some ideas with the board, and they were well received. She will need to talk with the school as some ideas involve teachers or after hours times. She will continue to consider what events will best serve the newcomers and the school.

- SCA/Spirit Nights

Thanks to all of the TES families who came out to support the University of Richmond Spiders. \$795 was raised for the PTA.

- SEATS

SEATS FEBRUARY REVIEW:

2/7 Calvin Duncan spoke w/ 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders about "What it means to be a Champion".

2/11, 2/27 & 2/28 Ginjer Clarke met w/ the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to talk about and practice writing. She talked about developing characters, choosing setting (time & place), and adding action words, descriptive words and sound words. She also had lunch w/ 10 students on the 28<sup>th</sup> – 1boy/1girl from each class who were chosen from their writing submissions. They were asked to write 5-8 sentences describing the most memorable animal they'd ever seen. Thank you to Chick Fil A for providing chicken nuggets and fruit for the students and a salad for Ginjer.

2/21 Ebizu Muntu African Dance Group performed for K-3

#### MARCH:

One School/One Book is off to a great start. Kudos to the mini committee that is working w/ Sarah Hubbard to make this event so exciting. Big thanks to Liz Boggis, Laura McCoy, Anne Marie Hite, Ashley Stalker, Heidi Frenzel, Melissa Berrey and Hilary Blanchard for their hard work decorating, distributing books and providing everything for the student celebration on the 28<sup>th</sup>!

SEATS has contributed by paying the \$500 lifetime membership fee to Read to Them that provides the One School/One Book program, buying 125 books for all staff w/ extras going to FOES, and covering all decorating & celebration costs. To date, we have an amazing 308 books to donate to the 355 families at FOES. All other non-copyrighted items will also be shared w/ Fair Oaks Elementary.

3/13 Young Scientists – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (soil)

3/20 Young Scientists – K (magnets)

3/21 5th grade field trip to The Science Museum. Thanks to Heidi Frenzel for planning the trip and creating the scavenger hunt for the students while at the museum.

#### AHEAD IN APRIL:

April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> the Dome Theater – take 2!

Schedules have been given to the teachers outlining their time in the dome and the existing signup genius will be utilized for the parent event on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. A connect-ed will go out to families with the new dates and to ask families to review the sign-up genius for conflicts and to remove their names if unable to attend to allow another family to utilize that time slot.

4/7 Young Scientists – K (Time Changes)

4/10 Noetic Learning Math Contest – a biannual math problem-solving contest. We have 7 teams entering in April. Each team will have 45 minutes to solve 20 problems designed to challenge students and enrich problem-solving experiences. (\$203 total/\$29 per team)  
Barila, Chapman, Siepert, Toy, Williams Block A & B and Hubbard

- Signals –

Continue to send any signals articles by Wednesday for the following week.

- Spirit wear –

Spirit wear is gearing up for kindergarten registration and spring fling. They are not going to be there the whole spring fling.

- Spring Fling –

The Spring Fling committee is hard at work! There was a Save the Date in today's Signals, and the packet of forms will be sent out electronically at the end of March. Paper forms will be available in the office starting then as well. The Silent Auction baskets are due on Friday, we are excited to see them! Book drive has started, look through those, all get donated. The teachers and staff have started to turn in their event ideas for the teacher raffle! So far, we are excited that Mr. Gordon will be offering his very popular "After School Basketball"; the First Graders teachers are offering an Ice Cream party, and the 5th Grade teachers are offering a Sweet Frog outing. They will start profiling the baskets on facebook.

- Teacher Appreciation

TA week is May 5-9th. We are working on making it a great one for our amazing teachers and staff. If anyone would like to donate a gift card to the daily raffle, I can have them dropped off at my house or sent to school in an envelope marked teacher appreciation week.

- Volunteers

No report for volunteer committee

- Yearbook

No report.

## **VII New Business.**

Someone asked about make up for snow days – Mrs. Ford said that elementary still has 3.5 days to make up.

## **VII Meeting Adjourned.**