

Douglas MacArthur PTA Community Meeting

September 23, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Jamie Pfister, PTA President
2. PTA Overview – Who We Are and What We Do
 - a. Approval of June 2021 Minutes: Motioned by Alyssa Kovach; Second – Jennifer Ayers & Stephen Ng, Community Approved by digital show of hands.
3. School News & Update - Penny Hairston, Principal (invited)
 - a. Transportation
 - all arriving by 8:30am, less traffic on Taney
 - Ridership 95%
 - Any carpools arriving after 8:30am is considered tardy
 - b. Dismissal
 - Dismissal Changes need to be sent to dmoffice@acps.k12.va.us and the student's teacher no later than 12pm
 - Unexpected Dismissals from 2:30pm- 3:00 are disruptive and need to be called IN
 - Have your child know their daily plan (after school program, bus or car)
 - Kindergarten Students need to have an authorized adult at the bus stop
 - Have your student learn bus # and/or car number (bookbag tag)
 - Kiss & Ride is 3:05-3:15pm, have number displayed and stay in car
 - c. Covid Health & Safety Measures
 - Please remind your child proper mask wearing
 - DMES COVID+ cases: 1 adult and 1 child, direct contacts are quarantining base don the AHD. You can choose to keep your child home if they were in direct contact, but inform Penny if this came from the AHD.
 - Live Streaming is only for those quarantined by the principal via the AHD
 - HEPA Filters in every classroom, double filters in larger common areas (Health Annex, Gym, library and a cafeteria.
 - Flooding situation on 9/23 was due to a backed-up pipe due to leaves and debris. Building is safe and looks fresh and clean.
 - COVID Team: Mrs. Pittman, Mrs. Hairston, & Nurse Desmond – will inform you if you are in contact tracing immediately
 1. Penny Hairston Cell: 571-388-7716
 - Daily Screener required
 - Clean Masks and Water Bottles
 - Problem with Water Bottles being emptied in bathroom (tick tok challenge) particularly with the 4th graders, 2nd graders like turn off lights
 - Keep your child home if they are feeling unwell
 - Negative COVID Test required – if they are ill before they return to school
 - d. Instructional Support when Quarantining

- Chromebooks will be coming to and from school starting next week
- Access Clever and Canvas
- Teaching Digital Citizenship
 1. Sarah Petritich will go to each classroom to go over rules and digital citizenship

e. Questions

- Closure due to flooding - Was there sewage? Why is there confusion?
Penny: There was a smell, but just due to stagnant water – not actual sewage. It was blockage due to leaves and debris. Another communication will be sent out to clarify that it was not sewage.
- Vaccination Percentage at DMES
 - 2 teachers not vaccinated, 85 vaccinated
 - Lina (AHD) – recordings of the Town Hall will be on the MacArthur Website; please get tested if your feeling sick/symptomatic even if you think it might be allergies.
 - Cafeteria has 4 monitors, 2 are temp and 2 are permanent, one grade level at a time, eat for the 15 minutes, and after they can have their conversations – so difficult but super important
- Buses – **Boarding buses from the back to the front**
 - **Penny will have to follow up**
- Snacks – or possibility to have another time to eat
 - ACPS has a food and wellness policy – no snacking or food in the classrooms, unfortunately No (truly because of allergies and anaphylaxis)
- Lunches: Heard there are limited choices and differences from the calendar, where is the authoritative
 - **Penny will ask the Cafeteria Manager.**
- When can parents will be to enter the inside of the building?
Under ACPS Authority, no parents are not allowed in the building, until they lift that mandate – **Ms. Pinero is working on a video (in the child’s canvas page due to security reasons)**
Jamie – there are upcoming volunteer opportunities that may allow the volunteers to be in/around the facility.

4. Fundraising – Alyssa Kovach

- a. Efforts go to many programs that benefit students, teacher, the building
- b. Budget will show where the money goes and using it for the mission, our students and school
- c. Oct 12 – Chipotle Night (33% back)
- d. Traditional Fundraising in the Fall, that covers our operating expenses;

5. Presentation of FY 21-22 Budget - Michele Dixey, Treasurer

- Presentation of Annual Budget and Community Vote
- We did more of a spring appeal rather than a fall because we didn’t know what the year would look like
- Big Categories

- Community Outreach (ie. 5th Grade Celebration, MLK Service, RIF)
- Enrichment (ie. Arts, Reflections Program, Book Fair)
- Events (ie. Spelling Bee, Pancake Breakfast, Family Dance)
- School Support (Major category, ie. Teachers Fund, Principal/Staff Appreciate, Coffee for the break room, Fieldtrips, Gardens)
- Questions:
 - Orange – is budget proposal vs. the last few years, each month will update what the actuals
 - Gardens: Kids participate with Susan Tomiak herb garden and Ms. Dugan, potentially joint garden with Patrick Henry
 - Anything upcoming to celebrate fall/Halloween: Grade Level Events – Not Halloween -- Book Fair, Tied to Literacy Month; if we can do programs to support the grade level, we can try to do it
 - Spring to Action in the past was used for a Bike Program; Can we reallocate money to future effects in the new building (ie murals, academic excitement throughout) Restricted Cash – Spring2Action (2018-19) was raised toward the Bike Program, money is ear marked for bikes, needs to be used for bikes specifically, but can look through budget to find opportunity.
Penny: Bike Program comes and goes to each ACPS via trailer, students will have the opportunity
Follow up – Ownership of the bikes since the thought of the fundraiser is that MacArthur could keep their bikes
 - Do you anticipate PTA funds to not be raised as much because of the lower enrollment?
 - We did lower PTA Membership, but kept other categories about the same
- approved, Jamie motioned to approve, Carmina seconded
- a. Presentation of FY 21 Audit to Community
 - Difference of \$58.99
 - Motion to approve audit results – Carmina, Second - Charissa – Approved
- 6. PTA Communications - Carmina
 - a. Newsletters
 - b. Reminders from the list serve
 - c. Social Media (Twitter, Facebook)
 - d. Website
 - e. Email Address of the Board provided at the end of the newsletters
 - f. Reflections
 - Statewide art completion that any PK-12 can enter – Theme: “I Will Change the World By”
 - Deadline Oct 15
 - Submission Instruction in the Newsletter
- 7. Other Programs – thank you to all the volunteers who lead these programs
 - a. Oct 6 Outdoor – Walking Event – Outdoor volunteer opportunity
 - b. RIF – Oct 29

- c. Book Fair – End of October – Week of Oct 18 - Volunteers will be needed
- d. SpiritWear – ends tomorrow, Board purchased spiritwear for those who might not be able to purchase themselves
- e. DEI & Outreach Committee (NEW) – Trying to get new voices/perspectives within the community
- f. Robotics Program – 10 Grants bought kits to continue the program with the help of volunteers