

PTA Meeting Minutes – APPROVED
September 8, 2015 7:31 PM

- Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves.
- Agenda was approved
- Action on the June 2, 2015 minutes were postponed to the October meeting, as the June 2 minutes were not posted with enough time to review before the September 8 meeting
- Principal's report
 - We had a great opening day with 560 students. This year we have 4 classes each of grades 1-5 and 3 kindergarten classes.
 - The staff and administration have made a change to the birthday celebration policy at Jamestown. There will be no treats/snacks sent in with children for their birthday. Each class will determine how to celebrate each child as part of setting up the responsible classroom at the beginning of the year.
 - This year, the administration and teachers have made an attempt to group students with similar allergies in the same classes.
 - Kindergarten and Montessori Back-to-School night will be Wednesday 9/16, and for grades 1-5 and MIPA, on Thursday 9/17.
 - On October 6, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the library (prior to the October PTA meeting), Amy Blaine will give a presentation on Digital Citizenship.
 - At the October 6 PTA meeting, Principal Schaffner will be ceding her time for a presentation from ASPAN.
 - Jamestown has dropped five minutes from recess this year in order to give teachers leeway for a five minute cognitive break as the teachers see fit. Recess is now 25 minutes long, which is five minutes longer than Arlington County School Board guidelines.
- Community Relations – Maurine Fanguy
 - We need volunteers for the Reflections contest. We need this volunteer in very short order or we will not be able to participate in Reflections this year.
 - We also need a volunteer to help Dr. Spees with the community service projects she organizes for the school.
 - We need help with the Ice Cream Social.
 - We have additional need for volunteers for various activities throughout the year.
- Internal Relations – Jennifer Leonard
 - The PTA approved several speakers for the current year as part of last year's efforts. The dates and times for those events will be coordinated through Principal Schaffner, and we will get the calendar updated.
 - We are investigating the idea of holding a 5k run. We are looking at this as either a fundraiser or as a community event with another Arlington elementary school. Due to planning considerations, the event will not occur until fall 2016.
 - The Special Education PTA (SEPTA) is a county-wide group supporting special needs through gifted students. The group works with the Parent Resource Center (PRC) and the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee to advance special education in Arlington. We are looking for the head of the PRC to come to Jamestown to speak at an upcoming PTA meeting.
 - SEPTA offers \$500 grants to teachers who are members. A teacher has to be a member to apply, but does not have to specifically teach special education. In years past, more grants were available than applications received.
- Communications – Sara Batla
 - We need a new chair for the newsletter.
 - We have a snag with the directory, as we have some new students this year who are

multi-lingual, with parents who do not speak English and do not have a computer in the home. We are working to address the needs of these families.

- Fundraising – Grace Shea
 - We need a chair for box top collections.
 - We are planning to drop the gift wrap fundraiser, as the feedback on the products received was not positive.
 - We are continuing and expanding the Original Artworks fundraiser this year. It is going digital, so families will be able to see how the student's art looks on a particular item before purchase.
 - The Winter Auction will be either 2/20 or 2/27.
 - We are targeting 4/23 for the Spring Fair.
- Treasurer – Rod Pick
 - We have an opening for an assistant treasurer.
 - We are budgeting for income in the 75-80k range.
 - As for budget changes from last year, there are several tweaks, most notably, we have raised the per teacher allowance from 250 to 300.
 - We approved 10 items in the special vote last year, but have only paid for three so far. Money for these items was carried over in the current year's beginning balance.
- President's Report – Tom Jensen
 - Discovery opened.
 - We are already working on middle school capacity issues.
 - We have four main items:
 - Wilson School
 - Stratford building
 - Interim measures for Swanson and Williamsburg
 - CIP 2017-2024
 - The newsletter will have details of upcoming meetings and further information on how you can get involved in extra support for your child's middle and high school future.

Adjourn 9:02 PM