

DRAFT PTA Meeting Minutes  
October 7, 2014 7:30 PM

- Introductions - APS staff, parents and PTA board members gave brief introductions
- Agenda was approved
- Minutes from September 2, 2014 were approved
- Principal's report
  - Principal Schaffner reported that the recess equipment lessons have gone well. In concert with the PE teachers, the classes have made their choices for recess equipment and are responsible for them.
  - Amy Blaine gave a presentation on library services at Jamestown.
    - Ms. Blaine passed out a resource sheet for online resources. This sheet should go home through backpack mail.
    - Students have a new flexible schedule for library this year. Students have a 15 minute book check-out class in their weekly schedule. This gives the library staff greater time to focus on class interaction in the library as teachers need library resources.
    - Additionally, the library is open for check-out from 8:40 until school starts, and then until 4:00PM every day.
- Special Guest Abby Raphael – School Board Member and Jamestown's liaison until January - gave a brief talk and answered parent questions
  - Last year, Arlington county had a graduation rate of 98.7%
  - Arlington students participated in SAT/ACT testing in greater numbers than previous years, while scores increased and the achievement gap narrowed
  - The School Board has adopted priorities for the school year and among the priorities of student achievement are:
    - Literacy
    - Expansion of FLES
    - Enhanced STEM opportunities
  - The School Board is working through the challenges with the budget
    - Enrollment growth – 613 students over the projection
    - New elementary school
    - Debt servicing
    - FLES
    - Compensation increases for staff
  - The boundaries for the new elementary school may need to be changed. As the numbers have come in, the boundaries may need to be tweaked to make the best use of the new seats.
    - The School Board has a goal of having the boundaries finalized by the kindergarten information night in January
  - The School Board expects to be 1600 seats short at the middle school level by 2023
    - The CIP calls for the addition of 1300 seats by 2019
    - The Board will decide on the plan/location of the seats before the end of the calendar year
    - The Board will make the process as transparent as possible
    - No decisions have been made, and the Board is considering all options
  - The School Board is looking for all options for interim measures – actions to take to address the seat shortage prior to new seats coming online in 2019
    - The Board's focus is on doing what is best for the students

- CIP Liaison Report – Courtney Barton
  - The School Board will decide by 12/31 on the plan for addressing the 1300 middle school seats
  - Jamestown needs as many people as possible involved in the civil discussion over new capacity
  - Interim measures need to be addressed, and we likewise need support for attention to those steps
  - 10/16/2014 at 7PM EDT at Williamsburg is the next meeting on more seats
  - The Jamestown survey received 77 responses, with roughly equal support/dissention for the Wilson and Stratford sites
  - The Bond Referendum support item received a good deal of attention
    - The PTA voted 22-5 in favor of an amended option 2 letter
- APS Advisory Council on Instruction – Sonalee Singh
  - Each school nominates representatives to look at instruction in Arlington schools
  - The subjects are reviewed every other year, with updates during off years
  - The council looks at recommendations/ideas from committees on each subject, and votes on the suggestions
  - Suggestions that pass through the council are prioritized and presented to the School Board for review
  - Ms. Singh will update the PTA on the committee meetings and proposals as they come through
- Community Relations – Jennifer Leonard
  - The social committee is looking to rent a screen for movie night
  - The social committee is looking to put together Bingo night
- Internal Relations – Whitney Glacum
  - Room Parent Guidelines were distributed for review
  - Enrichment programs started this week. A number of classes were cancelled due to low interest.
- Communications – Sara Batla
  - Jamestown has about 45-50 families that have not responded on the directory. A targeted attempt will be made to reach these families, and the directory will be printed upon conclusion of that effort.
  - Additional updates to the website have been made. New pictures have been added, and the administrators are going through the cache of additional photos to eliminate opt-out children so more, and more up-to-date photos can be put on the website
- Fundraising – Tom Jensen for Wendy Noe
  - The PTA board is considering a new option for tracking fundraising. This investigation is just getting started, and will be brought to the PTA if it proves promising.
- Treasurer – Rod Pick
  - The PTA's finances are looking good so far this year. Rod reviewed the major items for September.

Adjourn 9:20 PM