

DRAFT PTA Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2014 7:30 PM

- Introductions - APS staff, parents and PTA board members gave brief introductions
- Agenda was approved
- Minutes from October 7, 2014 were approved with the request that the school bond letter be attached to the minutes
- Principal's report
 - Principal Schaffner noted that students are taking some new tests, and this has led to some questions from parents. She turned the floor over to Assistant Principal Hurley for a presentation on the NNAT2 and CogAT tests.
 - Assistant Principal Hurley presented slides on the basis for the new tests. (The presentation will be available on the PTA site.)
 - The NNAT2 (aka Nagliere) is a completely non-verbal test designed to measure a child's potential by removing potential socio-economic or cultural bias that may impact a child's performance in the classroom or on other standardized tests.
 - The CogAT test replaces the Stanford 10 test.
 - Principal Schaffner then noted that another test – Interactive Achievement – is also being given, and could be the subject of a future presentation. This third test is a formative assessment to help prepare and measure student's knowledge for the SOL. Basically the test is intended to measure how well the students are learning what the teachers have taught.
 - Principal Schaffner then introduced Christine Payack and visiting horticulturist Mary van Dyke to talk about the Outdoor Learning Program at Jamestown
 - The presentation will be available on the PTA website
 - One of the central themes of the Outdoor Learning Program at Jamestown is to make use of Jamestown's setting – the trees, the natural areas, courtyard etc.
 - The program stresses getting the students out in nature and working with their hands exploring our world
 - The Outdoor Learning Program brings various groups together – students, administrators, teachers, parents, sponsors etc.
 - The program works to integrate with the curriculum and connect students with the Jamestown grounds, and to inspire their curiosity to learn about the world
 - Parental support and involvement with the Outdoor Learning Program is essential
- President Jensen requested a re-ordering of the agenda to continue the outdoor learning theme allowing the Arlington Outdoor Education Association (AOEA) to share their presentation
 - The presentation will be available on the PTA website
 - AOE is the organization that runs the outdoor lab. The association owns and manages the property, while APS staffs the site with teachers, and provides transportation to students visiting the facility.
 - The Outdoor lab is on 225 acres in Broad Run and has nature trails, a spring-fed pond, wildlife, camping sites and boats
- CIP Liaison - President Jensen gave an update on the CIP for Courtney Barton
 - In two weeks, the APS staff is to present their recommendations to the school board on where/how to create new seats
 - On 12/18, the school board is supposed to vote on which solution will be implemented with the 2016 CIP
 - The option of adding additions to 4 of the existing middle schools has been removed

- A new option of co-locating the Montessori program with HB at the Wilson site has been proffered by parents from the Montessori program. It is unclear at this stage whether that proposal is under consideration by APS.
- The final community information session was 11/5 at Williamsburg Middle School. The architects presented further plans along with cost models for their options.
- Jamestown has taken the position that the board needs to take action. Jamestown is NOT supporting any particular option – just that the board needs to decide and not delay.
- APS released a statement that boundaries will be reviewed and likely change to support best utilization of the elementary school seats.
 - The PTA has worked with the school board to ensure that we will be a part of the meetings and discussions on boundary decisions
 - The PTA’s goal for our involvement is to work for as much flexibility and choice as possible
- Internal Relations – Whitney Glaccum
 - Odyssey of the Mind will have a meeting in the Jamestown library on Thursday 11/6 at 7:30 PM
- Communications – Sara Batla
 - Parents who have not responded to opt-in for the printed school directory have been contacted directly, and have until Friday to respond to be in the directory
 - The online directory is available through an app. A notice will be sent out to the community to publicize this feature.
 - Parents who do not opt-in for the printed directory by Friday can still have their information available online if they opt-in
 - The PTA website has been updated with photos from Halloween
 - Photos for the website are encouraged and always accepted
- Treasurer – Rod Pick
 - The PTA’s finances continue to look good so far. Rod reviewed the highlights for October.
 - Positive Highlight: Membership in the PTA far exceeds the budgeted number of individuals.

Adjourn 8:59 PM