

December 19, 2016 Minutes

“GIVING BACK”

Meeting began at 7:04 p.m. with introductions and stories of “giving back” by those in attendance. A number of schools sponsor collections for ASPAN and ‘giving tree’ programs, as well as gift cards and coat drives. Other examples of giving back include:

Sign-up Genius for various needs throughout the year;
Toy drives by student government;
Snack attacks for teachers and staff;
Drew school’s Nauck Community nights and students raising funds for field trips that goes to fund field trip expenses for lower-income students who cannot afford the associated costs;
And, of course, the CCPTA’s CPCI fund ... more below!

Annie Moyer, Director, Sun and Moon Yoga

Those in attendance were able to begin the meeting in a state of relaxation after being led in a short exercise by Annie Moyer and learning more about the benefits of yoga for students and adults alike: Behavioral self-control, improved concentration, boost for the immune system, and increasing compassion and contentment.

Sun and Moon yoga offers fundraising opportunities for PTA’s. by donating a room and teacher for a 45 – 60 minute yoga and mindfulness experience. Your school can collect a small per family fee for the class and designate it to the school’s PTA discretionary funding.

Contact Annie Moyer at annie@sunandoonstudio.com or 571-278-6511.

APS Budget

Leslie Peterson, Asst. Supt. of Finance and Management, gave a brief presentation about the current \$22 million budget shortfall. Much of this is attributed to enrollment growth expenditures; second-year initiatives such as the psychologist and social worker expansion efforts and the continued expansion of the Arlington Tech program; compensation increases; and retirement and health insurance expenses.

There will be no online budget tool for the community to provide feedback this year as in years past. Comments and suggestions can be submitted via budget.feedback@apsva.us and through the APS website at <https://budget.arlingtonva.us/fy-2018-budget-priorities-public-input/>

About \$22.7 million from last year's budget is in the closeout process (approximately \$16 million from APS operations and \$6 million from additional end-of-year County revenue sharing). These funds are being allocated to internal modification projects (\$10 million), unexpected needs (\$3 million), and Syphax renovations (\$5.7 million).

CPCI Grant Distributions

The CCPTA Executive Board recently met to review requests for funding through the CPCI fund. Funds were allocated to six projects and several recipients were in attendance to provide more information about their project's needs. Funds allocated total \$7,775.

After allocating funds for these requests, the CPCI fund has a remaining balance of \$5.00. The CCPTA is seeking additional contributions to the CPCI fund this year so that more projects at more schools can be funded.

The CPCI fund is evolving a more specific schedule for submitting requests and fund allocation will be established as we move forward. For now, please continue to make contributions and to submit requests as needed.

Thank you to the PTAs that have already made contributions and who have truly made a difference for many of our teachers and students.

A full report regarding the recent requests and an account of contributions will be posted to the CCPTA Blog spot. Representatives are encouraged to share this information with their PTAs and principals.

APS 2017-1028 School Calendar

Dr. Kristi Murphy, Asst. Supt. of Human Resources provided information on the process for developing the school calendar. A committee of approximately 30 members use the previous year's calendar to develop recommendations for the following year. There will be a meeting on **January 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Ed Center** open to the public. The committee's draft will be finalized in January and forwarded to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will adopt his calendar and submit for feedback, with final recommendation in March.

Some notable dates for next year's calendar:

Parent-teacher conferences usually held the first week in October potentially moved to the last weekend in October to avoid an extra long weekend created by conferences adjoining the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

December winter break beginning Friday Dec. 22nd and returning Tuesday Jan 2nd. Some suggestion has been made to begin the winter break on Monday Dec 25th instead of the previous Friday to ease childcare needs for families. A question was asked regarding the possibility of a full two week winter break as has occurred in the past. This is a trade-off with other holidays the school system chooses to honor (such as Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, and the day before Thanksgiving).

Spring break typically aligns with neighboring jurisdiction's spring breaks. With some jurisdictions receiving a waiver to begin school before Labor Day, this impacts the typical spring break scheduling. Spring break would be the last week of March instead of the first week of April, with a Grade Preparation day remaining a week later on Monday Apr 9th.

Many teachers do not live in Arlington; so this aligns their schedules with where their children may attend school. Also, high school sports schedules are affected when spring break schedules are not aligned.

Last day of school dates are currently scheduled on June 18th, 19th, and 20th for high school, middle school, and elementary school respectively. There were questions about making students return for one day on Monday for graduation after the weekend and the possibility of holding commencement ceremonies on Saturday instead of a weekday.

HS Boundary Update

Lisa Stengle reported on the final high school boundary adjustment decision. They are currently gathering feedback about the process as they look toward the processes next year to revise all middle school boundaries and all elementary schools boundaries in south Arlington.

It is yet to be determined when each of those boundary processes will begin or which will come first; but one will likely begin next fall and the other the following January (2018).

Before the end of the school year, perhaps in May, information will go out to the PTAs about the boundary processes. A suggestion was made that staff provides information at the various school's major events when more people will be gathered, rather than relying on PTA meetings, listservs, or websites. PTAs and principals are encouraged to notify APS of their event schedules.

James Lander was this month's School Board liaison. He had just attended the swearing in of Nancy Van Doren and Tannia Tolento as newly re-elected and elected school board members. Biggest issues are boundary changes and review of admissions and transfer policies. A working group or committee will be established for the review of admissions and transfer policies, though it is not known when.

Mr. Lander also noted some of the requests that were recently funded through CPCI. He stated that if teachers need something for their classrooms, they should not have to ask the PTA for it. APS should be providing what teachers need to provide the instruction to their students in the classroom.

Superintendent's News and Highlights

Dr. Murphy reported there were over 1000 entries for the MLK Jr. Visual Arts and Literary contest. There will be an event on January 15th and School Board recognition at its January 19th meeting.

Arlington Tech applications are due January 31st. Another open house will be held on January 7th.

The high school boundary refinement process has ended and the new information was made available to parents at high school information night on December 12th.

Dr. Murphy clarified two separate issues being addressed at the high school level. First is the State of Virginia's effort to update the requirements for a high school diploma. It is not likely that we will go from 2 diplomas to one. Another difference that will be noted is a decrease in standardized tests. The second effort is Arlington's process kicking-off in January to determine where 1300 additional high school seats will be located and what instructional program or focus will be offered.

Committee updates:

FAC: Lois Koontz highlighted a shift in the education specifications to a values-based perspective giving consideration to daylight, flexible spaces, secure and healthy spaces, etc. Also, regarding the 1300 high school seats to be determined, FAC is trying to lay out options for consideration. Looking at only APS-owned properties for now, there will be a meeting Wednesday January 4th at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public – but please let her know if you are planning to attend, as they may need to find a larger room to accommodate. Currently, the meeting is scheduled at the Columbia Pike Library.

BAC: BAC has liaisons to ACI and FAC and is working to evaluate the implications of various instructions designs and facility options, as well as the implications of the compensation and benefits study.

New Business

An issue was recently raised regarding the proper use of PTA funds for teacher salaries or professional development. Linley Mancilla is attempting to schedule a webinar with the VA PTA for January. In the meantime, she provided a handout on "suggested use of PTA funds." More clarification to come.