

September 26, 2016 Minutes

The meeting was opened with the introduction of this year's officers:

Chris Ditta, President; Lisa Sockett, VP; Don Weinstein, VP; Evan Thomas, VP Communications; Linley Mancilla, Treasurer; Maura McMahon, Secretary.

The President's welcoming remarks and comments highlighted the general goals for CCPTA this year:

Starting and ending meetings on time;
Continuing to facilitate effective partnerships;
Enhancing learning environments;
Promoting success for all students;
Continuing "Spotlight on Solutions" and putting a focus on measured success;
Continuing to support the arts and other traditional CCPTA activities – Summer Activities Fair, Reflections, Scholarships, etc.

CPCI Grants

There was approximately \$6,000 in PTA contributions last year. One application from Hoffman-Boston Elementary to help fund the fourth grade field trip to Jamestown.

The CCPTA encourages more applications; but also more donations. The CPCI is a financial resource; but also a source of collaboration for events, expertise, equipment needed for events, etc.

REFLECTIONS

Edgar Tolentino, Barcroft Elementary parent, has volunteered to lead the Reflections program this year. PTA drop-offs of entries will be November 4-5. Ceremony will be January 18, 2017.

VIRGINIA PTA

Kathy Miberg gave a presentation summarizing highlights from the Virginia State PTA meeting this past summer. There are links to the presentations from the meeting on the VA PTA website. Some highlights include:

* Vote on VA legislation priorities

Issues included gun violence protection and school safety initiatives such as dedicated funds to support school resource officer training

*3 to 1 rule: PTAs should strive to provide 3 programs or activities for every 1 fundraising ask. The primary purpose of the PTA is advocacy, not fundraising.

* Documentary: "Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age"

Nottingham ES is planning a screening of this documentary at Williamsburg MS. SEPTA may also hold a screening.

* CCPTA representatives are encouraged to get legislative agenda out to PTAs and to vote so that our District PTA is truly representing our PTAs at the District and State levels.

Graduation/Diploma Requirements – Dr. Tara Natrass

APS' new Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Tara Natrass, gave a presentation on what is happening at the state and local level regarding the profile of a high school graduate and the discussion looking into high school diploma requirements. This conversation is just beginning and will be a 3-5 year process.

High School Boundary Refinement – Lisa Stengle and Linda Erdos

A high school boundary adjustment process is getting underway to alleviate overcrowding at W-L. More information is available at www.apsva.us/APSboundaries/

The School Board will approve a framework for this process, including community engagement, at its October 6th meeting. An online boundary tool is planned to be made available to the public October 12-24.

If any individual is interested in becoming an “ambassador” to help APS staff reach out to various members of the Arlington community during this process, please contact Meg Tucillo at Meg.Tucillo@apsva.us

School Board member James Lander was in attendance and provided additional information and answers to questions regarding the boundary process. All are encouraged to be engaged and remember that an additional 1300 secondary seats are still needed and will possibly generate a larger boundary discussion when they become available in approximately 5 years.

APS 3-5 Year Action Plan

The new 3-5 Year Action Plan was presented and the School Board will hear a presentation at its October 6th meeting.

Superintendent's News and Highlights – Cintia Johnson

The school year is off to a good start with approximately 26,000 enrolled students; 354 new teacher hires; and almost 16,000 students receiving transportation services.

Highlighted events include:

Harvesting Dreams for Our Children on October 14th at Kenmore MS

Promoting literacy – a community book conversation with Libby Garvey and Nancy Van Doren 9/29
Walk/Bike to school day October 5, 2016

MISCELLANEOUS

Chris Ditta publicized a pumpkin patch on Route 50 by Outback Steakhouse offering partnerships with schools for PTAs. Barcroft Elementary partnered with the pumpkin patch last year and received a portion of proceeds.

Chris Ditta will be a member of a panel with Barbara Kanninen and Dr. Murphy at the Committee of 100 meeting on October 19th. The focus of discussion will be high school capacity solutions.

Next CCPTA meeting will be 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 24th at the Ed Center behind the Planetarium near W-L High School.