

March 27, 2017

Dates to note:

June 12: APS 101 at Wakefield HS 6 – 9 pm

May 23rd: APS Scholarship night at Ed Centre 6 – 9 pm

CPCI grants:

4 requests for funding granted. Will check with APS to ensure all clear to be funded.
CPCI balance will be \$7.00.

Proposed slate for 2017-18 CCPTA officers: **Jen Bauer (President)**

Vote next month.

Mahendar Dudani distributed some certificates from NOVA District Awards dinner to PTAs that increased their membership 5% or more over last year.

Leslie Peterson gave a budget update:

\$14 million gap in proposed budget.

County Manager recommended tax increase with 1 cent to go toward schools, resulting in an additional \$11 million and leaving a \$3 million gap.

School Board will adopt its budget May 4th.

Introductions and how various schools celebrate diversity:

Swanson MS: Handmade Arlington event Saturday from 10-4; multicultural Night on Wednesday from 6-8.

ATS: International Night; 4-6 multicultural assemblies.

Yorktown: Student workshops; Challenging Racism series next year; exploring ways for PTA to support students next year.

SEPTA: Introduction to Special Education session in Spanish; promoting visibility of diversity.

Gunston: Signed letter regarding IDEA

Kenmore: Entire school went to African American history museum; bring in poet and other prominent speakers.

Randolph: Dancing Under the Stars – DJ, organized cultural dances learned in PE, desserts to share.

Campbell: Multicultural night; different dances.

Discovery: Diversity program; parents reading to students in section of library reading from diverse authors, etc. Important to the community because they are not a particularly diverse school.

Taylor: Each class picks a country and decorates classroom

Tuckahoe: visiting authors program; Arlington Academy of Hope in Uganda partnership and letter exchange.

Wakefield HS and Career Center: Seminar on Knowing Your Rights; Seminar on resilience and weathering adolescence in today's times. Embrace diversity by opening the door and letting everyone in.

Drew Montessori Model UN:

Partially funded by CPCI, 20 students attended the Montessori Model UN in NYC. 18 students from Drew and 2 students from Gunston 6th grade participated. Some students attended tonight to share their experiences:

Camille said it was an honor to go to the general assembly because not many kids get to go and she was very grateful. Sierra said they experienced different things and had the opportunity to sit in the representatives' chairs. Vivian explained that it was a lot of work and assignments; but it was worth it and better than expected. It was a lot of fun. Olivia enjoyed meeting a lot of new people. John said it was a good experience, hard work, but worth it in the end.

Each student had to conduct research and write a position paper. The days lasted from 8 am until 9 pm, four days.

Mary Kusler, Discovery PTA VP, spoke for a few minutes to encourage parents to engage in the process with School and County Board members regarding budget and also capacity needs. She emphasized the need for engagement with both Boards. We have no full-time advocacy for funding schools with County Board and they need to hear from more than just the SB members.

Barbara Kanninen, School Board:

Why is the budget increasing? 1, enrollment growth; 2, additional teachers and staff; 3, the whole child initiative.

April 7 work session with County Board.

Work session on personalized learning next Tuesday.

Upcoming meetings looking at enrollment and transfer policy revisions.

Superintendent's report:

Every school board meeting includes an update on the 3-5 year plan. Confusion when new plans or ideas are introduced, each document will indicate "Draft" or have an implementation date on it. (Following a discussion of the instructional focus model recently introduced, suggestion was made to use "Concept" rather than "draft" for initial proposals, and subsequently "Draft 1" "Draft 2" etc. and "Final Draft.")

Dr. Murphy made final note that there will be a High School capacity forum from 7-9 pm at Yorktown HS on April 25th.