

**February 20, 2018**

**6:30-8:00pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

* **PTA Board Members:** Jeni Hornback, Rebecca Kim, Nicole Knight, Carrie Lewis,

Kim Mathis

* **Faculty/Staff Present:** Ms. Uyeda, Ms. Liguidi, , Ms. Winkler, Ms. Muscarella, Ms. Firster

1. **Meet and Greet – Monique O’Grady, Arlington County Board Member –** Monique O’Grady introduced herself to the Abingdon community as the newest member of the Arlington County School Board. Ms. O’Grady serves as the Board ambassador to Abingdon Elementary. She has lived in Arlington for 25 years and has three children, two grown who went all the way through APS and one 8th grader currently at Gunston Middle School.

Ms. O’Grady presented an overview of the Board’s work plan, including the upcoming work on a budget, strategic plan, 1:1 IPad acceptable use policies, and elementary school boundaries. APS is opening three schools in one year, including a brand new elementary school and a new middle school at the current HB Woodlawn site.

Ms. O’Grady responded to questions and concerns raised by Abingdon parents about the middle school boundary changes impacting the Claremont and Columbia Forest neighborhoods. In particular, parents raised serious concerns about the lack of grandfathering, which will require students to start middle school at one school and then move in the 7th grade to their new school. Parents were also very concerned about the carving out of a small group of students in Claremont and Columbia Forest to attend different middle schools, meaning that the Abingdon zone will be divided among three middle schools starting in 2019.

Ms. O’Grady promised to bring the concerns back to the Board. She encouraged parents and teachers to engage with APS through the “engage” website, to attend and speak at Board meetings, and to watch the live streams of Board work sessions.

1. **Official Business**
   1. Principal’s Report – Joanna Uyeda – Ms. Uyeda reported that the students earned a special secret “reward” by beating the read-a-thon goal. She and Ms. LiGuidi will be doing something fun in the coming weeks to celebrate.
   2. Treasurer’s Report – Kim Mathis reported that we are on track with the budget. We will hold a spring mixed bag fundraiser.
2. **PTA Events and Activities**
3. Read-A-Thon Summary – The read-a-thon was a huge success. The event raised over $16,000, of which the PTA gets to keep $13,000. Students crushed the 175,000 minutes reading goal, reading 369,000 minutes (6,150 hours)! The following classes read the most in each grade and won a $100 gift certificate to buy classroom supplies: Ms. Young (5th); Mr. Utley (4th); Ms. Shaw (3rd); Ms. DeOlazo (2nd); Ms. Buckingham (1st); and Ms. Childress (K). The pre-k classes each get $50. Mr. Utley’s class read the most in the whole school – 33,119 minutes!
4. Yearbook Pre-Orders and Lovelines – Yearbook pre-orders will begin at the end of February. The cost will be $20. Funds raised from Lovelines will be donated to the 5th grade promotion fund. Fifth graders will also be able to purchase “friendlines” to print messages to friends in the yearbook. Each 5th grader will get one friendline for free.
5. Staff Appreciation Week – Staff appreciation week will take place May 7-11. Volunteers will be needed to make decorations, make daily treats, etc.
6. International Night – The highly successful International Night will be back, either May 17 or May 18. The PTA is looking for volunteers to organize the event, including finding entertainment.
7. Spring Fundraiser – the Mixed Bag fundraiser will take place in March.
8. Key Upcoming Dates:
   1. February 23: Movie Night 6:00pm (movie starts at 6:30pm)
   2. February 27: Yearbook and Lovelines Pre-Sales Begin
   3. March 1: Early Release at 12:26pm, Parent-Teacher conferences
   4. March 2: No School, Parent-Teacher conferences, Donate desserts for teacher luncheon
   5. March 7: After-School enrichment classes registration opens at 9:00am
   6. March 9: Project GIFT Showcase: Arts Integration Day, 7:50am, light breakfast, 8-9am classroom visits
   7. March 13: Kindergarten Orientation, 12:45pm
   8. March 14: Early Release at 12:26pm
   9. March 20: PTA Meeting, 6:30pm in library
   10. March 23: deadline for ordering yearbooks and loveliness
   11. March 26-30: Spring Break (no school)
   12. April 9: No School, Grade Preparation Day
   13. April 11: Early Release at 12:26pm
   14. April 12: Abingdon STEM night at 7:00pm
   15. April 17: PTA Meeting, 6:30pm in library
   16. April 20: Fairlington 5K Silent Auction
   17. April 25: Spirit Night for 5th grade promotion fund at District Taco
   18. April 28: Fairlington 5K
   19. May 2: First Abingdon Art Show, 7-8pm (each student will have 2 pieces of artwork on display)
   20. May 7-11: Staff Appreciation Week
   21. May 10: Abingdon Drama Club Show, 6:30pm in gymnasium
   22. May 17 or 18: International Night (TBD)

Next PTA Meeting – Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30pm