

Alexander Graham Middle School

General PTO Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2019

PTO Executive Board Members In attendance: Katie Davis, Jamie Curtis, Ghazale Johnston, Sallie Beason, Courtney Lapham , Melissa Self Not in attendance: Denise Pineno, Rebecca Drendel

General Board members in attendance: Regina Farmer, Cathy Bradley, Emily Blair, Jennifer Ricketts, Laura Murdock, Meredith Sorrell, Shelly Cole, Jen McDonald, Natasha Scriverner, Karey Tom, Regina Farmer, Anne Lam, Christy Parbst, Trina Cone, Meredith Heffner, Laura Tenzer

Meeting began at 9:08 am

Board Introductions

Treasurer's Report

- Reviewed the 2019/ 2020 budget. 2019/2020 planning is to spend part of the rollover from last year. The PTO did well with the AG Fund last year and didn't spend as much of the reserve as we planned. We have a 87k carryover.
- Bulldog club and Spirit Wear were spun off from the PTO and will operate independently including their budget.
- Student fees came in where we were estimated and help to fund the vocabulary books and the agendas.
- School needs are categorized under direct expenses. For example, these are the annual technology subscriptions like IXL, Brain Pop, NewELA, etc. Another direct expense made over the summer was the updating of the teachers' lounge.
- We have low operational fees and estimate that we will be 25k under budget so we will eat into the carry over as planned.
- The numbers we are reviewing today don't include the receipts/ checks submitted this week.
- **Suggestion:** We should include what we are doing for Staff Appreciation and Campus Beautification. Many parents aren't aware of all of what we are doing for the teachers, staff and bus drivers (e.g., back to school lunch, candy bars, etc.). Think people would appreciate knowing how their money is spent. People want to the money they contribute spent within the time their children are at AG.
- **Action:** If your committee wants to highlight to parents what is being done/ how their money is being used please submit it to the AGBulldogBulliten@gmail.com (Denise Porter and Jamie Morrow), also please follow the communication procedures posted on the AG PTO website.
- We will not publish a paper student directory this year like MPHS and other schools. This results in no expense for a directory.
- **Suggestion:** Should we look into vendors/ sponsor to provide money to be on the agendas.

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- There is a concern we will not have Wells Fargo's matching gifts and may have a reduction in giving due to population changes. We are being mindful of the inflow and outflow of our money.
- **Approved the 2019/ 2020 the AG PTO Operating Budget.** Please use the forms provided for expenses and read the financial procedures on the PTO website.

President's Report

- **Back to school forms**
 - We are going to do one more push to get student fees paid. Student fees pay for agendas and vocabulary books. The teachers are going to send a message and it will be included in the Bulldog Bulletin. The Bank of America Hispanic and Latino organization were very helpful in back to school.
- **6th Grade Open House**
 - The format to Open House was changed a little bit this year. We are meeting to see what worked and what didn't for next year. Strong attendance this year and Kona Ice was well received. Rubber bracelets were made for each 6th grade teams. Translators were here the first week of school
- **Staff Lounge** – We renovated the staff lounge over the summer.
- **Staff Appreciation** – Back to School Lunch was done and candy bars were provided to the teachers. This week the committee provided pizzas and salads. We will share what Staff Appreciation does with the Bulldog Bulletin. Throughout the year, Staff Appreciation does 10 things for the teacher and 2 for the bus drivers.
- **Bulldog Club** – Both Bulldog Club and Spirit wear are not part of the PTO Budget this year.
- **AG Fund** – Beverly & Russ Shoal are running the AG Fund – Nov to January is the timeline for donations. More about that in the coming weeks.
- **Bulldog Bulletin/ Website** : AGBulldogBulletin@gmail.com – Make sure you are reading the procedures for communications – they are on the AG PTO website. There has been an issue with some people not getting the Bulldog Bulletin – we think that parents that now have 9th graders were purged. If you have a younger child and you need to sign up for that child. We are going to publish the need to sign up for younger siblings in the Bulldog Bulletin so word will spread about why people may have stopped receiving the bulletin.
- **After school clubs** – We are using Dr. Washburn to fill this position because we didn't get a parent volunteer. Club sign up is this week and the deadline for sign up is Monday, September 30. Please thank Dr. Washburn as he has been doing a good job and is very responsive to parent questions.

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- **Campus Beautification** – Pressure washing has been done. The rock and some doors have been painted. Currently focused on the concession area to the 6th grade hall and want to do some art there. Asking CMS to help with the tree cutting.
- **6th Grade Events** – Kinetic Heights field trip coming up (Nov 6, 7 and 13) and getting 6th grade t-shirts. Also asking for volunteers. Student/ Parent lunch event is being planned for December.
- **7th grade Events** – Working on plans to attend a performance at the Blumenthal. Spring field trip being planned for Discovery Place lab on genetics - March 16-18. Want to utilize CMS busses for field trips because the cost is dramatically less than using private busses.
- **8th Grade Events** – Working on powder puff and getting t-shirts for all 8th grade students. Planning a Carowinds trip again in the spring.
- **Bulldog Prayers** – Started today, need donut donations/ delivery. You don't usually have to stay for the program just to hand out the donuts and you can leave.
- **100 Year Celebration** – Working on programming and fundraising.
- **In Reach/ Outreach** – No issues with school supplies. No longer paying to Sedgefield this year. Breakfast club is part of In Reach/ Outreach.

Principal Update from Mr. Folk

- We have new electronic locks on all exterior doors. You may be locked out more than usual. Staff has to use the badges to get in and out of the doors.
- New cameras were installed and put in areas where we didn't have them previously. Now we can see all areas of the school from the office.
- New curriculum in 6th and 8th grade – We've had some mixed reviews. Purpose of the curriculum is to bring a curriculum standard across the district that will help meet the state standards. Math is more inquiry based and its different for our teachers and it's good for some students. Teachers have to adjust. ELA is really in development and it needs to adapt the new curriculum to higher levels. Teachers determine what can come out for higher learners and what can be put in to enhance it. By end of the year, should have it down. Seventh grade next year will also have new curriculum in ELA.
- Getting our track replaced before the end of the school year. Already budgeted and approved by CMS. Our current track isn't a quarter mile for the first lane. We need to have it corrected (not replaced in kind).
- Centennial campaign – want to kick it off November 1 with the AG Fund. Want it to fund some potential special projects – media center, lighting and sound in the All Purpose room, bleachers/ field house, baseball field, main hallway flooring, etc. Hope to have a private donor to help us with the special projects.

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- Appreciate everyone's support and your help really makes the difference – from Mr. Folk, Jamie Curtis and Katie Davis.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am