

**White Oaks Elementary
PTA Meeting
September 11, 2018**

The meeting convened at 7:04 pm at the White Oaks library

Introduction of officers for 2018-19 school year: Sarah Tran as President, Liz Casteel as Vice President, Aaron Suits as Treasurer and Danielle Burgos as Secretary. Open board position for a President Elect; if anyone is interested please contact Sarah.

Reviewed June meeting minutes. Motion to pass minutes from Sandra Guaqueta, seconded by Patty Onks, motion passed by membership vote.

Old Business

Summer get together: Popsicles on the Playground throughout the summer. Thank you to everyone who came, it was a fun time getting to know classmates.

Spirit nights: We have had 2 so far this year, Coal Fire earned \$151.29 and Spartan's earned \$200.00. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Spirit wear: We sold t-shirts at Open House and Back to School night, over 80 shirts sold so far.

Treasurer's Report

Audit: over the summer the PTA's financial records were reviewed by 3 non-board members, everything balanced and was in order. Motion to approve the audit review by Holly Darling, seconded by Sandra Guaqueta, motion passed by membership vote.

Budget: The proposed 2018-19 budget was presented for review. Some highlights include:

- Mr. Richardson spoke about the school's wish list item, books for the classrooms. Each class has a level reader library which is used and many need updating and refreshing. This typically runs about \$500 per classroom. The PTA has proposed approximately \$5,000 toward this school support goal to be raised through an armchair direct donation fundraiser. We are also looking to use funds raised in our armchair fundraiser to go toward getting an author in to speak with the students.
- Popular events such as Bingo Night, Multicultural Night, Movie Nights, Teacher Appreciation Week and the Fall Festival will be continuing this year
- We are looking to add a Spring Fair/ Open House once the construction is completed. If you are interested in being a chairperson to help organize this event please see Sarah Tran.
- The focus for this year is Emotional Wellness. We will be providing information about community events happening and are looking to have some parent programs and guest speakers regarding this topic. If you are interested in helping to coordinate these events please see Sarah Tran.

Motion to approve the budget by Aaron Suits, seconded by Elizabeth Casteel, budget passed with membership vote.

New Business

Spirit Wear: The flyer for the upcoming sale was presented. Discussion was had about doing online sales individually vs. pre-ordering through the PTA directly. It was decided to have the pre-orders because that would save everyone state sales tax and PayPal transaction fees, keeping the price of the shirts lower. Flyers will be updated and order forms sent home within the next week. We will have the Emoji design in both youth and adult short sleeve t-shirt, an Eagle design in youth and adult long sleeve shirts and the school logo car magnet available. You can see the flyer and print the order form

on our website. Order deadline will be Friday October 12th. Please return all orders to your child's teacher with your payment.

Book Fair: Our Fall Scholastic Signature fair will be on October 29-November 2, the theme is Enchanted Forest. Students are helping to create decorations in art class this year that will be on display during the fair. Students will have browsing time to make wish lists with their class on Monday and Tuesday. Starting at 4 pm on Tuesday the fair will be open for sales (students must have a parent or guardian with them for after school purchases). Kids will have the opportunity to buy during the day with their class as well. We will have a Family Night on Tuesday night. More information will be coming home about the book fair in the coming weeks.

Fall Festival: Will be held Friday October 12th at Burke Nursery. Tickets will be available at a discount through the PTA, order forms will go home in the Friday folders. Food will be available at a discount if you pre-order or can purchase at regular price the night of. Festival admission includes a small take home pumpkin, hay rides, slides and games.

Watch DOGS Report

Welcome Joey Eom the new head Watch DOG. This is a national program to encourage more fathers to volunteer at their child's school. The Watch DOGS help in the classrooms, at school events, and at PTA events. They are also looking at Dad's nights out as additional activities for fathers and their children to have fun together.

Coming up on October 27th from 6:30-8 pm will be a pizza with dad night at White Oaks. All fathers and their children are encouraged to attend. Please see Joey Eom for more information.

Library- Mrs. Darling

Talked about the mindfulness moment she does with the students at the beginning of every class.

Virginia Reader's Choice books are a collection of 10 books selected by the Virginia State Reading Association, the Virginia Association of School Librarians and the Virginia Library Association. They select books for each reading level- Primary for grades K-2, Elementary for grades 3-4, Middle for grades 5-6. If the students in grades 3-6 read 9 out of 10 books for their grade level and write something about each book they can vote for their favorite at a party in the library at the end of the year. This is an optional program for the students. Mrs. Darling will read aloud all the Reader's Choice primary books to the students in grades K-2 during class.

There are 2 books selected for Reader's Choice that parents should know about. The first is *In the Shadow of Liberty* by Kenneth C. Davis that is for 5-6 grades and is about the slaves who were owned by the early American Presidents. The second is *The Other Boy* by M.G. Hennessey that is for grade 6 only and is about a transgender student who is bullied. Parents are encouraged to read these books with your child or to read them first yourself to see if this is a book you would want your child to read. If you would not like your child to read either of these books please talk to your child about it and let them know they should not check them out.

Principal's Report

Renovations are 77% complete. They are currently working on where A pod used to be, most of the work is occurring in the evening outside of school hours. Kids love the new sections and have had very positive feedback from teachers as well. 3rd grade should be moved inside to new classrooms after winter break.

Back to School Night- political table, this is a public building and all groups are allowed to have tables provided they follow the state guidelines.

Staffing: Thank you to those in 1st and 2nd grade who were understanding with some last minute changes before open house from what was posted. For those in 4th and 6th grade it is not ideal to have the larger number of students in the classroom but much of that is from the county school board level. If you would like to see smaller class sizes it is recommend for you to speak with your school board representative. If additional students in those grades enroll there is the potential to add another teacher to reduce the class sizes or an instructional assistant to help in the classroom.

Everyone is asked to check in to main office if visiting the school. Email and text weather alerts for school closings are available, please sign up from the White Oaks FCPS website.

Principal's coffee will be offered as an open forum for parents to talk to Mr. Richardson 3 times per year at the end of each quarter. The first one will be Friday October 26th @ 9:30 am in the cafeteria.

Other

Question was asked about after school programs. This is something that hopefully will be available starting in the spring. We will have more information about it at future PTA meetings.

Please check out our website www.whiteoakspta.net and Facebook group, White Oaks PTA, as they are great ways to get information about what is happening. We also have a monthly newsletter that goes home in the Friday folders and will have email communication with our members who provided an email address on their membership forms.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm