

Fairland Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 4, 2016
7:00 PM, Media Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Kerry Luse. No previous minutes were approved since this was our first General Membership Meeting of the Year.

Introductions

Ms. Luse introduced the executive committee.

New business

Secretary Jamie Cook provided a general overview of the by-laws, which are due for resubmission to the Maryland PTA. She presented the executive committee's proposed revisions to the by-laws and invited questions from the general membership. Proposed revisions had also been previously posted on the PTA website. **Laura Hutchcroft** made a motion to approve the by-laws, and **Claudia Silbergliitt** seconded. Approval was made by unanimous vote.

Treasurer Laura Hutchcroft and Ms. Luse presented a proposed expenditure of ~\$700 (exact amount to be determined based on obtaining final quotation) to purchase computer mice and headphones for the new mobile computer lab for grades K-2, based on request from 1st grade teacher Teresa Austin. Discussion was made of soliciting donations from local businesses for additional mice/headphones. **Vidhya Vembar** made a motion to vote on approval of this expenditure, pending final quotation; seconded by Claudia Silbergliitt. Approval was made by unanimous vote. Ms. Hutchcroft will proceed with obtaining the final quotation for suitable equipment.

Other Business/Announcements

Ms. Luse described the upcoming Fall Book Fair, set for October 17-21 in the media center. **Ms. Linda Williams** is organizing the book fair and is requesting volunteers to aid in staffing. A plan was made for flyer distribution and publicity.

Ms. Luse announced afterschool programs (dance, soccer, music, art) currently being offered at Fairland, all of which are facing problems of low enrollment. Discussion occurred about difficulties that students and families face with short afterschool programs, including the problem of "gap coverage" for student care between the end of a program and the time when a parent is available to pick up the student from school. It was agreed that Ms. Luse or **Danielle Hollenbach**, afterschool program coordinator, would discuss potential gap coverage with Kids After Hours. A suggestion was also made that the PTA look into organizing a scholarship program to allow sponsorship of afterschool program fees for students in need.

Ms. Silberglitt announced that the Box Top store would begin operation on Wednesday, October 19.

Principal's Report

Principal Lakeisha Lashley announced that the positive behavior system was showing effective results, with students having earned a dance party and hat day. The Mobile Science Lab is visiting Fairland for a week, and all classes will have a chance to visit and participate. The annual Open House will be held Monday, October 10, from 9:30 until 11:15 AM. Finally, on October 24 there will be an opportunity for a Principal Coffee/Tea in the morning and evening with a specific emphasis on understanding the new county volunteering policy.

Community Comments:

Jeanette Proudfoot distributed information about the new programs available at the Maydale Nature Center. She also asked about involvement in farm-to-school initiatives aimed at providing fresh food to schools. Ms. Cook provided information about Real Food for Kids Montgomery, and Ms. Proudfoot agreed to report back on potential ways to approach this issue.

A suggestion was made for a Fairland parents Facebook page to allow for parent interaction. The PTA would not organize this, but could assist in publicizing if one is set up.

Guest speaker

The PTA welcomed **Khadija Barkley**, Executive Director of the George B. Thomas, Sr., Learning Center, who provided the attendees with information about the Saturday School Program. **Tia Scott**, head of the Paint Branch location of the Saturday School, also attended and spoke about the program.

The General Membership Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.