

MEETING MINUTES

Maury Elementary PTA, 600 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22301

Date | time February 10, 2020 @ 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Jodi Zand, President | ~28 Attendees

President's Report – Jodi Zand

- After the second grade had a concert, Maury PTA President Jodi Zand welcomed attendees.
- Before introducing the guest speaker, Zand made a few announcements including dine-out at Lena's, the spelling bee finalists will be announced soon, and March 20 will be the Family Fun night at Charles Houston.
- A Nominating Committee will be formed with Haydee Moore and Tom Schulz. A slate of candidates will be developed in April and voted on in May.
- Finally, Crossing Guard Day is on February 13.

Guest Speaker

- Zand introduced special guest speaker Mayor Justin Wilson.
 - Wilson provided an overview of the budget process. The City Manager will present his draft on Feb. 18 for fiscal year starting July 1, 2020. Real estate taxes are the highest source of revenue. We are seeing the largest rate of growth in real estate tax base since 2007. The residential rate is going up 5%, and 6% for condos, with most value increases in northeast corner of city.
 - On expenditures, Metro continues to ask for more resources from our jurisdiction. We also have our 13th year of increased student enrollment, although the rate of growth is decreasing to the equivalent of the population of Maury. City operational needs like public safety, education and other staff continue to grow.
 - On the capital side of the budget there is around \$500 million for schools, and there is a request for increase. Construction cost escalation is a factor.
 - There is a lot of legislation generating in Richmond that may have an impact on funding for schools. Alexandria requires a lot of extra resources at their schools given the unique student body. He supported the General Assembly providing assistance to local cities/governments for financing options to help address school capital needs.
 - Questions included what was the current percentage of residents that have kids in schools. It is normally a relatively low percentage, but it's changing. Regarding the demographic of age ranges in the school population growth, over the past decade we have seen slowing in elementary schools and growth in middle to high schools. Many kids stay in the system once they are in.
 - Question was asked if the city is doing anything to address Pre-K and child care costs. Wilson responded the goal was to get to a place where we have universal/early education. Twenty percent of kindergarteners have no pre-K experience. We've looked to some public-private partnerships in the city. The biggest challenge is facilities, not operational resources, and we are building larger facilities.
 - Are there Spanish language immersion opportunities? This is a question for the school board to consider.
 - For special needs kids, what part of the budget should we pay attention to? Look at the proposed school board budget and offer input.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Powell welcomed everyone and provided a report. Following up on budget, ACPS principals meet with school board and the CFO. We are projecting 390 students, but numbers in classes may shift. Staffing may stay the same. We do not have a full-time school psychologist and it's something we should pursue. There will be positions changed particularly with reading services. We need to change approach to addressing interventions and providing assistance/coaching. There was a question on what this may look like as it relates to individual and group assistance. Mr. Powell responded that we are looking for options on what will work best for the kids and looking for best practices. We will have one designated for K-2 and 3-5. We are still working with central office to a strategy forward.
- We are #1 for Running Brooke again this year. This provides additional opportunities for students to stay active. We should continue to push these opportunities as kids' movement helps in the classroom. We may look into opportunities to help keep staff moving as well.
- Conferences are this week. Donuts with Dads will be on Feb 21 and school closed next Monday for the holiday. Spelling Bee participation has doubled and this is great exposure.
- Right now, we are at 100% on statements of intent by staff to stay at Maury next year, which is a good thing. It has been challenging for staff and kids with Ms. Arnold passing and she will be missed. Powell discussed how the school mobilized and communications. Ms. Falaroni is recovering and will push back her return to March.

Secretary's Report – Tom Schulz

- Schulz noted that minutes from the January 13, 2020 PTA meeting were sent out via e-mail, and asked if there were any changes or edits. None were offered. Motion to approve the minutes:
 - Approved on a Kirby motion and second by Josie Beets.

Gala Planning – Stephanie Kirby

- Kirby discussed final arrangements for the Gala planning. It would be helpful to order tickets before the event to get accurate food counts. There will be new sign-up parties and confirmed a trolley ride sign on party to get dropped off at school. We need volunteers to help with set up/clean up, bartenders. A sign-up genius will be sent out.

New Business & Discussion

- No new business.

Next PTA Meeting

March 9, 2020, 6:15 PM, Maury Cafeteria

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

