

MEETING MINUTES

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

Date | time November 11, 2019 @ 6:15 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Jodi Zand, President | ~18 Attendees

President's Report – Jodi Zand

- Maury PTA President Jodi Zand welcomed attendees, and introduced the theme of the meeting as “Maury Gives Back.”)
- Zand and Mr. Powell randomly chose the winners of gift certificates for joining the PTA. The winners were Lee Lynch, Laura Rose, and Ms. Johnson,.

Keynote Speaker

- Zand introduced the evening's three Keynote Speakers
- Rosie Wiedemer, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria
 - Wiedemer shared how the SFA provides scholarship money to high school students with financial need, but also help students starting in 6th grade learn about college, then provide support to get in, pay for and stay in college.
 - In May 2019, 171 graduating seniors received scholarships from SFA, in addition to the funds granted to already-graduated students.
 - \$0.93 of every \$1 donated goes to scholarship funding
 - SFA raises money primarily through their spring Gala, but also through various events like their women's reception in DEcember and by asking community members to host “Honor a Teacher” parties. If the party raises enough money, the teacher being honored will have a scholarship in her/his name.
 - Elementary families can support SFA by volunteering to read scholarship applications in the spring, as long as you don't have a child at TC Williams and/or don't work for ACPS.
 - It's a really great, volunteer-run program
- Jen Kenealy, InspireLit
 - o Collects gently used children's books and distributes them throughout Alexandria to kids who need them (preschool and up)
 - o Have “upcycled” 25,000 books so far
 - o Goal is to level the playing field and “hook” kids on reading before tablets take over
 - o They welcome any group, like Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts, to hose a book drive, especially in December.
 - o Books can ALWAYS be dropped off on the porch at 23 W Myrtle St.
- Courtney Pippin-Mathur, Maury Elves
 - o Each holiday season, work with Ms, Lusk to provide holiday gifts for Maury families in need 0 not just the child at Maury but all the kids
 - o Parents submit a wish list, and the Elves identify a want, need, to read and to wear gift for each child
 - o Sign-up genius goes out, and Maury community volunteers to buy gifts. Elves wrap gifts and get to Ms. Lusk

- o All anonymous, and no PTA or school funds are used.
- Josie Beets, Military Families Subcommittee
 - o A PTA subcommittee to support kids of military families at Maury.
 - o Each April is Month of the Military Child, and the subcommittee hosts a breakfast for the kids where their uniformed parent serves them breakfast and provides a certificate to acknowledge their effort and sacrifice as a kid in a military family.
 - o This year, they also did the Halloween candy drive for troops (collected 120+ pounds of candy!) and had 40+ kids write letters to the troops during Fall Festival
 - o This is opt-in, so military families choose to be part of this, but open to active duty and retired, and National Guard and Reserve too.

School Board Update

- Zand introduced Michelle Reif, the Maury liaison on the School Board.
 - o The School Board is in the process of developing and approving the Capital Improvement budget, which includes funding to redo schools like MacArthur. Maury is slated for CIP funding in 2030. There is a public hearing on 11/25 for comments on the budget, which can be found by visiting <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/cms/lib/VA01918616/Centricity/Domain/803/2019-29CIPBudget.pdf>
 - o Reif is also hosting monthly meet ups to talk about School Board issues. The next one is 11/13 at 6:30pm at the Nannie J Lee Center

Principal's Report

- Since he's been at Maury, Mr. Powell has given books as gifts to the Kindergarten and 5th grade classes at the end of the year
- The Book Character Parade was a success
- Parent-Teacher conferences are this week - 11/13-15
- He is continuing to focus on equity awareness and training within the staff and the community, and plans to do ongoing training and quarterly conversations with parents.
- Literacy Day on 10/23 was a great success. With funding from a PTA mini-grant, we were able to bring 2 authors in that day which allowed the whole school to participate.
- Ten teachers have been trained by Richard Cash on differentiation, as part of Mr. Powell's efforts to make sure ALL Maury students are exposed to differentiated learning techniques and strategies, not just TAG.
- Today (11/11) was one of the Superintendent's quarterly chats where he comes to Maury and reviews lesson plans, looks at data, visits classrooms and sits in on lessons. We got great feedback.

President's Report – Jodi Zand

- Jodi Zand noted that a report of PTA activities was included in the agenda.

Treasurer's Report – Teresa Schofield

- The October Financial Report was presented. There were no questions or comments.

New Business & Discussion

- The minutes from the October 7, 2019 meeting of the Maury PTA were sent out to members the previous day. No edits or changes were suggested.
 - Motion to Approve the October 7, 2019 minutes of the Maury PTA: Christy Hollywood, with a second by Krista Tongring, approved on a unanimous voice vote
- Ms. Lusk asked for families to donate new or gently used hats, gloves and scarves. There is a box at the front desk.

Next PTA Meeting

December 9, 6:15 PM, Maury Cafeteria

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.