

MEETING MINUTES

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

Date | time December 9, 2019 @ 6:22 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, which was to thank Maury PTA Volunteers.
- Kindergarteners are singing holiday songs at Barnes and Noble this weekend and volunteers were needed to help wrap gifts.

Secretary's Report – Tom Schulz

- Schulz noted that minutes from the November 11, 2019 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 Teresa Schofield motion and second by Joan Diehl.

Keynote Speaker

- Zand introduced the evening's Keynote Speaker, Judy Yan of Virginia 529.
 - Judy had a hard copy of the presentation available. She provided an overview of the Virginia 529 organization and a history of the education savings program. Virginia's is the largest 529 program in the country due to many savings options.
 - It is an advantageous way to save for college from a tax savings perspective. In Virginia, you can take out a deduction equal to contributions to the plan in a given year, up to \$4,000. There is a limit of \$500,000 per child that can be used, and the earnings used for education are not taxed.
 - Yan reviewed the two account options. Under Invest 529, the owner manages the account directly. The user can pick among 20 portfolio options, how much to invest, and how often. Funds can be used at any eligible education institution found on the U.S. Department of Education website. Yan went through the eligible uses for the funding that is saved.
 - College America is the other program that is administered through American Funds. Information is on their website.
 - Yan went through various frequently asked questions. A penalty applies if someone wants to get their money back, generally 10% on the earnings of the account. All state refunds will be recaptured. You can also roll forward an account to another beneficiary. Accounts can be held for 30 years after high school graduation. Any reduction in any financial aid would be capped at 5%.
 - To open accounts, Invest 529 can be done directly on the website and College America can be done through a financial advisor.

School Board Update

- Zand introduced Michelle Reif, the Maury liaison on the School Board. At this time the school year will likely start after Labor Day in 2020, but consideration is being given to starting before Labor Day the following year.

Principal's Report

- With winter here, people should be tapped into alerts on weather. We will work with ACPS to disseminate alerts as needed.
- Tomorrow the Superintendent is hosting a chat at TCW. Dr. Richard Cash is speaking on Wednesday on differentiation in the classrooms. He will come into classrooms to observe TAG and upper-level classrooms. Maury teachers have been through his training.
- Winter concert is on Wednesday.
- The school's kitchen is getting renovated over the summer. Other projects include continuing HVACs and the rest of the roofing project.
- We are at 397 students now.

Treasurer's Report – Teresa Schofield

- The budget status was handed out and there were no comments or questions.

New Business & Discussion

- No new business.

Next PTA Meeting

January 13, 2020, 6:15 PM, Maury Cafeteria

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.