

Arlington Science Focus School

PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 7:00pm (Video Conference)



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- I. Welcome (*Dena Porter, ASFS PTA President*)
 - Dena welcome parents and teachers in attendance for our first 'virtual' PTA meeting.

 - II. New ES Principal Search Page on APS Engage Site & Community Survey (*Dan Redding, APS Superintendent, Human Resources*)
 - Dan provided an overview of the plans for the new elementary school scheduled to open in the fall of 2021 at the Key site, including the target timeline for hiring the new principal.
 - Dan walked through the New Principal Search Page on the APS Engage site, and highlighted the community questionnaire that has been posted to collect feedback on the new school and principal.
 - ACTION: Community members are encouraged to submit input on the community survey by Sunday, 4/26.
 - Parents may reach out to Dan Redding directly with any questions.

 - III. PTA Business
 - March PTA Meeting Minutes
 - VOTE: Dena reminded all active PTA members to submit their electronic vote on the draft meeting minutes by EOD Wednesday, 4/15. The link is in the PTA meeting reminder email from Mr. Harvey.
 - UPDATE (Thursday, 4/16): The PTA membership voted to approve the March PTA meeting minutes.

 - Monthly ASFS PTA Budget Report
 - The updated ASFS PTA budget is posted on the ASFS website. The executive board will develop the new budget for 2020-21 over the summer, knowing there will be adjustments due to less spending the rest of this current year.

 - Presentation from ASFS PTA Nominating Committee: Proposed 2020-21 ASFS PTA Officers
 - The ASFS PTA Nominating Committee provided the slate of proposed ASFS PTA officers for the 2020-21 school year:
 - President - Dena Porter
 - Secretary - Courtney Davidson
 - Treasurer - Kristi Tsiopanas
 - VP Community Service - Kristen Jeffreys
 - VP External Affairs - Leigh Rex
 - VP Fundraising - Lindsey Englerth

 - A notice to declare self candidacy will be included in the Friday eFF; anyone wishing to run for office may email Dena Porter by Sunday, 5/17 to be included on the ballot.
 - Electronic elections will open on Tuesday, 5/19 through end of day Wednesday, 5/20, and the link to vote will be sent via email.

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- IV. Principal's Report (*Mary Begley, ASFS Principal*)
- Ms. Begley shared an overview of home learning for the spring, as a follow up to the APS plan shared on 4/9.
 - Teachers are required to follow the APS curriculum posted on the APS Continuous Learning and related choice boards. They are communicating with parents via email, hosting office hours twice a week, and offering ideas for optional extension activities.
 - Specials teachers are also posting content on the ASFS Home Learning page on the ASFS website.
 - Parents asked whether there are options for including more interaction with students and learning via video conferencing.
 - APS has stated that no new content will be introduced for the 4th quarter, as they are focused on consistency across the county and equitable access for all families.
 - Parents would like teachers to provide new materials for students to continue learning this spring. This may provide a challenge for some families, whether related to technology or other reasons.
 - Discussion whether the ASFS PTA could send a letter to APS advocating for new content to be incorporated into the spring curriculum.
 - The PTA took an informal poll via video conference: a majority of parents in attendance would support a letter, but a number of others on the video conference would not. The PTA would need consensus to send a letter, and will gather input from teachers and the general membership before confirming next steps.
 - In the meantime, parents may continue to send any feedback, questions, and concerns directly to Bridget Loft (bridget.loft@apsva.us) and APS Engage (engage@apsva.us).
 - In addition, ASFS will continue to discuss additional ways to foster learning for students this spring.
 - Next Steps:
 - Look for a feedback form in this Friday's eFF to collect ideas on how to enhance learning this spring and gauge interest from the broader community on sending a letter from the PTA to APS to advocate for new content for the 4th quarter.
 - Based on feedback received, with consensus and full membership support, the executive board will draft a letter. Otherwise, parents may continue to send feedback directly to Bridget Loft and APS.
 - In addition, ASFS teachers and staff will take the feedback received to discuss what enhancements may be feasible to incorporate into the ASFS plans, based on the APS curriculum and guidelines, and the PTA will set up additional virtual sessions to continue to brainstorm, discuss next steps, and provide updates as needed.
- V. May ASFS PTA Meeting - Tuesday, 5/19 7:00pm (Video Conference)
- Electronic Elections: 2020-21 ASFS PTA Officers