

# Arlington Science Focus School

## PTA Meeting Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14th, 2020 7:00pm



### I. **Welcome** (*Dena Porter, ASFS PTA President*)

Dena welcomed the community to the meeting and introduced the guest speaker, Candice Lopez, from Project PEACE.

### II. **Overview of Arlington County's Project PEACE** (*Candice Lopez*)

Ms. Lopez reviewed an overview of the organization and explained how to have healthy relationships at a young age. Specifically, she stressed that consent is not always sexual in nature and establishing healthy relationships early can help children so they may continue to be resilient and safe. Current practices include teaching consent and modeling body boundaries. Ms. Lopez provided some resources for all ages.

### III. **Follow up ASFS PTA Letter to School Board** (*Dena Porter, ASFS PTA President*)

Dena thanked the PTA membership for supporting the letter that was sent to the School Board in December 2019. The ASFS PTA executive board proposed sending a follow up letter focused on the need for more neighborhood seats and encouraging the School Board to proceed with the vote at the February 6th meeting.

The ASFS PTA community expressed unanimous support at the meeting by a show of hands to approve sending the letter. The executive board also received positive feedback from parents not able to attend the meeting via email. If no other feedback is received by end of day on Wednesday, 1/15, the ASFS PTA executive board will plan to send the letter to the School Board by the end of the week.

### IV. **Principal's Report** (*Mary Begley, ASFS Principal*)

ASFS has already registered 18 new students in January 2020. Ms. Begley would like parents to understand how full the school is and how urgent the need for another neighborhood in our area is.

Ms. Begley is continuing to work with APS to secure additional trailers to alleviate immediate space concerns. APS has shared proposals with ASFS for options, but the trailers have not yet been approved, and they would not in place before May at the earliest.

The Kindergarten coffee was held this week. Please check the calendar for mid-year coffees for other grade levels.

The new fitness equipment is expected in February. The pond in the courtyard has been completely been reinstalled and looks fabulous. Please come and look at it!

### V. **PTA Business**

- [December PTA Meeting Minutes Approval](#)

VOTE: The December meeting minutes were approved.

- [Monthly ASFS PTA Budget Report](#) (*Chris Brown, Treasurer*)

A monthly budget snapshot was provided to the community. The latest financials are always available online on the ASFS PTA web site.

**VI. 2019 ASFS Fundraising Update** (*Kristi Tsiopanas, VP Fundraising*)

- No Frills Fundraiser
  - Thank you all for your contributions! The fundraising efforts totaled \$27,000.
- Annual Auction
  - This year's event will be held at Don Tito in Clarendon on February 29<sup>th</sup>. The theme is Mardi Gras.
  - Should anyone wish to help in any capacity, please reach out to Jennifer Berenbaum.
  - Any parents with items to donate should turn in the family donation form (paper or online).

**VII. Committee News and Announcements**

- New/Open PTA Roles
  - There are always ways to help the PTA. Can you spare an hour organizing something for the school or in your child's classroom?
  - Current opportunities:
    - STEM Night planning committee
    - Habitat Days Co-Chair
    - Dining Out/Restaurant Lead
    - New Family Parent Liaison
    - Grant Writing Committee
  - Please reach out to Dena if you are interested.
- Reflections Contest Winners: Dena congratulated all of the ASFS Reflections art contest winners.
- Family Night at The Simple Greek (1/22)
- Baroody Teacher Work Day Camp (1/31)
- Community Service Week (2/3-2/7) – Karrie Beaudry, VP Community Service, reviewed the upcoming community service week. More information will be coming out in backpack mail this Friday.
- STEM Night (National PTA Grant) (2/12)
- ACI (Advisory Council on Instruction) Update: During the last ACI meeting, concerns were relayed around topics including inequity in schools, too much use of technology or reliance on iPads, and the desire for more pen to paper testing. Some parents don't understand what many new initiatives such as instructional pathways are and what that means for their child/children.

**VIII. APS and Arlington School Board Updates** (*Kate Merrill, VP External Affairs*)

Kate reviewed the key dates handout from the School Board. There are several upcoming open office hours with School Board members. This is a great opportunity to emphasize the need for additional seats in support of the vote next month.

The APS budget meetings start next month. This is something to pay close attention to as it is anticipated that there will be a continued deficit. For elementary school planning, the superintendent recommended proposal 1.

As always, parents may submit feedback online at <https://www.apsva.us/engage/engage-aps-online-feedback/>.

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Please be on the lookout for the 'Your Voice Matters' link. It only goes to one parent per family.

Dima Hakura shared that at the recent CCPTA meeting, Monique O'Grady spoke about staff salary increases as part of the upcoming budget. She also shared that funding for APS summer programs was cut. This recent decision does not impact the outdoor lab which is run through Parks and Rec. In addition, there will be an upcoming high school boundary process along with the elementary process. And for elementary school planning, APS will review planning unit data in the spring of 2020.

### IX. Upcoming Key Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday, 1/15	Early Release
Thursday, 1/16	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, 2:30pm (for students) and 7:00pm
Friday, 1/17	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:00am (Library)
Monday, 1/20	No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Wednesday, 1/22	ASFS Family Night at The Simple Greek (Rosslyn), 5:30-7:30pm
Thursday, 1/23	SCA Bingo Night, 6:30-8:30pm (MP Room)
Monday, 1/27	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:00pm (Library)
Wednesday, 1/29	ASFS ELA (English/Language Arts) Day, 9:00-10:00am
Friday, 1/31	No School (Grade Prep Day)
Monday, 2/3-Friday 2/7	ASFS Community Service Week
Tuesday, 2/4	Informal Toy Swap, 6:30pm (Library) – No Children please
Tuesday, 2/4	February ASFS PTA Meeting, 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, 2/6	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:00am (Library)
Saturday, 2/8	ASFS Dog Walk
Saturday, 2/29	ASFS Annual Auction, 7:00-11:00pm