



## ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes October 2, 2018 7pm

- I. **Welcome** (*ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter*)
  - a. Guest Speaker – *Officer Gammie, Arlington County Police*
    - Officer Gammie visited this evening to introduce himself as the police point of contact for the school. He's been at the school recently to build repour so children gain a positive experience with the police. Relationship building has helped in other schools. Behind the scenes, he focuses on safety. He has been devising building plans and documentation for all emergency responders in the event something happens, for example, lockdowns. This has been placed in a central location for any personnel that show upon the scene. It is required by state law to do two events in September, one in January and one in April. Coming up, a lockdown will take place during an inconvenient time such as recess or lunch and the last event will be at a time when even Ms. Begley will not know. Similar trials in other schools have pointed out areas of improvements to ensure everyone is safe.
    - The power outage two weeks ago was very smooth and W&L was a wonderful host.
    - If an emergency situation arises or you hear something on the news, please *do not* come right to the school. Police need room on the scene. In a real situation, no one will be able to get into the school and the police's focus is to ensure everyone's safety. After that point, they will reunite families. Please wait for instructions on where to go. Please look for updates from the ACPD social media (Twitter) account or Facebook. WTOP and Channel 4 may also be faster.
    - You will be notified by APS if there is such an event. Emergency responders may not be able to provide information as quickly as they like. Phone lines need to remain open to ensure any information that could help the situation
    - Police have made a number of recommendations to APS to continue to enhance safety across all schools.
- II. **September PTA Meeting Minutes Approval** (*ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter*)

The meeting minutes were approved.
- III. **Meet and Greet with our new RTG** (*Debra Bulford, ASFS Resource Teacher for the Gifted*)

Her goal is to ensure the learning environment is adding depth and breadth for children. If your child has been identified as a gifted learner, then Debra will work with their teacher to ensure they are receiving the boost they need. Most of the ASFS teachers already have gifted certifications as well.

Ms. Bulford gave an overview of how the gifted learning program works in ASFS.

Questions: Email Debra @ [debra.bulford@apsva.va](mailto:debra.bulford@apsva.va).

Upcoming Dates: (all in the library)

- November 13th – 8-9 am - Gifted services overview
- January 23th, 2019 – 8-9 am - What You Need to Know for gifted program

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

It's October! Annual Halloween parade. Guidelines will be coming home and that costumes fit in a bag should they choose to dress up. Children should come to school ready for academics. Costume swap coming up soon.

Teachers are hard at work. Most assessments have been completed with exception of 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Trying a new reading program for them to identify letters, colors and numbers in various orders. Ms Begley and Ms Jones are also participating to gain insight. Science City is well underway.

Hanover Research came over today to help clean up the grounds. They did an amazing job!

V. **ASFS PTA Website Overview** (*ASFS Website Manager, Sean Bethel*)

Revamped the ASFS PTA web site last year. <http://asfspta.com>. Sean walked the audience through the site. In order to opt in, go through Parent Vue to approve or simply go to the web site and set up an account. Click on the 'register' button which is located in the upper right hand corner of the site. Fill out the online form to create an account. You'll receive a confirmation process that it was in fact you who requested that the account was set up. Then you can go in and add other family members. You can sort by classroom, by siblings, by grade etc.

Other highlights:

- Past EFF mailings
- Donate
- Sign up for the PTA
- Volunteer

VI. **ASFS No-Frills Fundraiser Update** (*ASFS PTA Fundraising, Kristi Tsiopanas*)

We are one month in and we have received over \$15,000 with 14% participation. This effort plus other efforts brings us to 20% of our goal for the year. If you haven't been able to participate yet, please consider. Our goal is 100% participation. You may donate online, check, square reader at events. The more we do now, the more fun we can have in the spring.

VII. **Committee News and Announcements**

- School Grounds Committee
  - i. As Mary mentioned, Hanover Research was here this afternoon cleaning up the grounds. They were fabulous!
  - ii. Design the Steps Contest Winner – Anna Brodsky from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We are working on an implantation plan this week and are targeting completion by the end of the month.
- Green Committee
  - i. Costume swap – 10/12 – Please bring any costumes to school this week.
- Food Bus
  - i. All unopened food is collected in bins and stored. Weekly, it's

- ii. Available Friday afternoons and want something simple to help out? Pickup at the school and drop at AFAC.
- Naming the Stratford Middle School
  - i. Please reach out to Kris Humphrey and Toni Wexler.
- Odyssey of the Mind
  - i. Forming teams. We need judges and volunteers. We can sponsor as many children who are interested. Children are challenged to form a solution to the problem and present in front of judges. Older children need to also think on the spot.
- Art in the Classroom
  - i. Program designed by a former ASFS parent intended to have art in the classroom. 100% volunteer. The parent teaches the children about art for an hour and the kids to an activity. This is fully sponsored by the PTA. Questions? Please contact your child's teacher.

VIII. **APS and School Board Update** (*PTA VP External Affairs, Kate Merrill*)

No new information about the swap until January when an engagement timeline will be released. If you would like more information, please go to the ASFS PTA web site or the APS Engage web site. The advice we have been given is to do internal calculations such as what would our enrollment numbers look like, how many siblings and transfers to do we have? They recently put out a recommendation for South Arlington schools which will be voted on in the December 6th school board meeting. Questions: Please reach out to Dena or Kate.

There is also an ESPI committee which has members for all neighborhoods in our community. Kate has a list of members and email addresses if you would like to contact any of them.

IX. **Upcoming Events/Reminders**

- 10/8 No School (Columbus Day)
- 10/10 Walk/Bike to School Day
- 10/10 Early Release (Dismissal at 1:26pm)
- 10/11 2nd & 3rd Grade Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:00am (Library)
- 10/12 Kindergarten Fall Picnic, 5:00-7:00pm (Hayes Park)
- 10/12 Halloween Costume Swap, 6:00-7:30pm
- 10/17 4th & 5th Grade Parent Coffee, 9:00-10:00am (Library)
- 10/19 School Picture Day
- 10/19 1st Grade Fall Picnic, 5:00-7:00pm (Hayes Park)
- 10/25 Early Release (Dismissal at 1:26pm - Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- 10/26 No School (Parent/Teacher Conferences)