



## **ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes November 6, 2018 7pm**

- I. **Welcome** (*ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter*)
  
- II. **New Middle School Overview & Update** (*Ellen Smith, Principal at new Stratford Middle School*)

Ms. Smith has been a middle school educator for 27 years. Notable highlight from her career is bringing the IB program to TJ. It's been a privilege to be selected as the new principal. She is very excited about everything in front of us. Ms. Smith is an Arlingtonian. Kids went to Ashlawn, Thomas Jefferson and W&L.

This summer, a new student drop off zone and sport fields were added. The new addition on the left of the school is currently under construction. Great consideration has been given to include a nod to the history in the building. Should the addition not be ready in time for the fall, with current enrollment projections, the school could most likely open in the original building.

Survey is out for renaming of the school. Next meeting is November 26<sup>th</sup> to formalize a recommendation at the December school board meeting. A link to the survey will be available in the next EFF.

School starts at 7:50am, lunch around 10:30am and dismissal around 2:24pm. The building opens at 7:20am. Highly recommend packing snacks.

Each student is part of a homeroom and also with a larger group of approximately 100-125 kids. Each larger group will have a name such as penguin, eagle, etc so there is some identity. There is an adult that each child is assigned to who is the main point of contact for the parents.

Core classes are Arlington core curriculum. Reading in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will shift from reading and assessing fiction to learning and organizing factual information ie science, engineering, history, social studies, math.

P/E and extracurricular activities are also available in middle school.

Ways to get involved:

- Principal's advisory committee
- PTA for the new middle school, once we are named (will kick off in January)
- February 2, 2019 – historical commemoration event
- New middle school web site <https://newmiddleschool.apsva.us>

- Best way to reach Ellen: [Ellen.smith@apsva.us](mailto:Ellen.smith@apsva.us)

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

Thank you for coming tonight. Regarding the turf, new requirements have been established by the County of Arlington to dig further into the depth of the soil as the school sits on the Chesapeake Watershed. As such, the price of installation has more than tripled to \$530,000.00. This significant increase requires the School Board to allocate approximately \$400,000.00 of additional funds. They will receive this information at the 11/29 meeting and vote on it on 12/6. I have requested that the installation begin as soon after that as possible and that the 2 week winter break would be a terrific time for this to happen as no children will be at school.

Report cards were completed today. Veteran's day is on Monday.

IV. **October PTA Meeting Minutes Approval** (*ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter*)

The meeting minutes were approved.

V. **Fundraising Update: No Frills Fundraiser and Auction** (*Kristi Tsiopanas, VP Fundraising*)

We are half way through our No Frills fundraiser and have 100 families who have contributed a total of \$19,000. Thank you to those who have already participated! We are looking for all donations to come in by end of December so we know where we are going into the auction.

The auction is currently scheduled for the end of February/early March. More details to follow soon.

To donate, please see Kristi, fill out a form or donate online at the PTA web site.

VI. **ACI Overview** (*Sylvia Cacciato, ASFS ACI Rep*)

Web site: [apsva.us/aci](http://apsva.us/aci). The committee develops instructional recommendations to the school board to be adopted. Typically members either have a lot of experience in a particular field or have a passion for devising curriculum. Meetings are held two times a month. Next meeting is tomorrow with a focus on technology.

VII. **Thank you!** (*ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter*)

- Walk/Bike to School Day - Nancy Ory
- Costume Swap - Amy Hodges and Sylvia Cacciato
- School Picture Day - Karrie Beaudry
- Parent/Teacher Conferences - Rabia Oubenadi
- Fall Clean-up Day - Julie McGowan Flynn, Patricia Wilson, Rob Shelton, Courtyard - Alex James
- Grade Level Event Leads: Rabia Oubenadi and Julie Olcott, Heather McIntire and Sarah Leonard, Christina Hanke/Fanney Hermannsdottir/Olga Kasyan/Tyeana Granby, Patricia Wilson, Chau Do and Natasha Chikhali

## VIII. **Committee News and Announcements**

- School Grounds (Lindsey Englerth)
  - As you all noticed, the front beds in front of the school have been turned over with lower maintenance plants with a nod to VA native plants and the original plan for the grounds on the school. Thank you for all who helped make this possible. It was a LOT of work!
  - Design the Stairs – This month, we had hoped to receive approval from APS on whether we could put a non-slip surface on the top of the stairs before painting and we unfortunately have not received this but hope to soon. This may push the design to not be able to be painted until the spring.
  - Our next meeting is Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am at the school. Please join us and bring ideas.
- Community Service (Karrie Beaudry)
  - Candy collection – Collected over 2,100 pieces of candy which was Ronald McDonald house donation today
  - Food Bus – Fridays, unopened food is collected and bused over to AFAC. Please reach out to Karrie if you are interested in helping with a weekly drop off slot.
- Green Committee (Sylvia)
  - Coat drive – A box will be out front by the front office. Both children and adult coats are welcome as well as mittens, hats, scarves and other similar winter gear.
  - Official swap will be on 11/15 during tasty tales outside the multipurpose room. Whatever is not taken is donated.
  - Planning on monthly tips on how to integrate green ideas in your home or in the classroom.
  - Questions or ideas? Please see Sylvia.
- Holiday Helpers
  - Focus in giving to families in need. A volunteer list will be posted in the EFF. Monetary donations are given and the PTA purchases gifts.
  - In the last EFF, we put out a kindness calendar.
  - 12/8 – Gifts that Give Hope – Hosted here. More information to follow.

## IX. **APS and School Board Update** (*Kate Merrill, VP External Affairs*)

School board has been focused on South Arlington boundaries. We'll have more information about the swap and engagement timeline in January. We don't know what they will be telling us at that time. Guessing it will be focused on how they will engage with us versus what is going to happen. We are in a holding pattern. Ms. Begley referred to some budget shortfalls which we'll want to keep an eye on in the spring.

## X. **Upcoming Events/Reminders**

- Thursday, 11/8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade concert, 2:30pm (for students) and 7:00pm
- Monday, 11/12 – No School (Veteran's Day)

- Monday, 11/12 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Event 3:00-5:00pm (Rocky Run Park)
- Tuesday, 11/13 – Gifted Services Overview 8:00-9:00am (Library)
- Thursday, 11/15 – SCA Tasty Tales, 6:30-7:30pm (Multipurpose Room)
- Friday, 11/16 – Picture Make-up Day
- Wednesday, 11/21 – Friday, 11/23 – No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- Tuesday, 11/27 – ASFS Family Night @ The Simple Greek (Rosslyn), 5:00-8:00pm
- Wednesday, 11/28 – Outside the Box Day, 9:00-11:00am
- Friday, 11/30 – ASFS Flu Shot Clinic, 11:30am-3:30pm
- Monday, 12/3 – Friday, 12/7 – ASFS Book Fair