

# Arlington Science Focus School

## PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 7:00pm



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- I. **Welcome** (*ASFS Principal, Mary Begley and PTA President, Lisa Anbinder*)
- Ms. Begley welcomed all parents in attendance at the meeting. She thanked Sharon Wells for all of her years of service at ASFS and congratulated Ms. Wells on her retirement.
  - Thank you to all of the teachers, and especially Ms. A'Hearn, for coordinating and providing dessert for the volunteer reception. Thank you to all ASFS parents for their support in volunteering throughout the school year.
  - Lisa welcomed all parents to the last PTA meeting of the 2017-18 school year, and thanked parents for their support, both in serving as committee chairs and as part of our many school committees. She encouraged parents to continue to be involved next year.
- II. **May PTA Meeting Minutes**
- The May 2018 ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes were presented to the PTA and passed unanimously.
- III. **Vote on PTA Officers and Committee Chairs for 2018-19** (*PTA President, Lisa Anbinder*)
- Lisa introduced Rabia as the nominating committee chair, and read the proposed slate of officers for the 2018-19 school year.
  - The offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and VP Fundraising did not have any additional nominations.
  - In addition to Tara Bibb, Karrie Beaudry was nominated from the floor as VP Community Service.
  - In addition to Steve Leutner, Kate Merrill was nominated from the floor as VP External Affairs.
  - VOTE: Dena Porter was unanimously elected as President for the 2018-19 school year by a voice vote.
  - VOTE: Lindsey Englerth was unanimously elected as Secretary for the 2018-19 school year by a voice vote.
  - VOTE: Chris Brown was unanimously elected as Treasurer for the 2018-19 school year by a voice vote.
  - VOTE: Kristi Tsiopanas was unanimously elected as VP Fundraising for the 2018-19 school year by a voice vote.
  - A written ballot vote was held for the offices of VP Community Service and VP External Affairs. The 2017-18 Secretary and nominating committee chair counted the written ballot votes, with supervision from the Assistant Principal.
  - VOTE: Karrie Beaudry was elected by majority vote as VP Community Service.
  - VOTE: Kate Merrill was elected by majority vote as VP External Affairs
- IV. **Capital Projects Proposals and Vote** (*PTA President, Lisa Anbinder*)
- Ms. Begley gave an overview of the four proposals for capital project expenditures to be included in the 2018-19 ASFS PTA budget.
  - First capital project: to provide the 1st grade team with a set of science trade books for a total of \$333.30
  - Second capital project: to purchase 50 iPad keyboards for the 4th grade for a total of \$2,499.50.
  - Third capital project: to purchase 75 iPad keyboards for the 3rd grade for a total of \$3,749.25.
  - Fourth capital project: to purchase a set of materials for the school grounds committee, including a new storage shed, repainting the back railings, and miscellaneous supplies (shovels, trowels, hoses, gloves, etc.) for a total of \$1,571.04.
  - VOTE: The ASFS PTA voted unanimously to pass all four capital project requests highlighted above.

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### V. **ESPI Committee** (PTA President, Lisa Anbinder)

- The ESPI Committee is a newly formed special PTA committee with 12 members and one community liaison representing different ASFS neighborhoods, with the goal of discussing current APS ESPI related issues and topics. Thank you to all committee members for their time, effort, and support.
- The committee has held two meetings so far, and will continue to meet over the summer and next fall, as we learn more about upcoming APS changes.
- The ESPI Committee worked to create and send a letter to the APS county and school boards requesting their consideration to expand ASFS to the Buck property site.
- Parent are encouraged to reach out to Dena Porter with questions about the committee and to Ms. Begley if any feel that there is not adequate representation for their neighborhood, or would like to be involved.
- Parents raised the question on how information will be communicated to the wider community, and the next step is to send a draft letter regarding the Buck property to the school for review. There are no notes in the bylaws that state we need 100% agreement, but in the interest of being inclusive, we would like to have strong community support if we do send a letter on behalf of the ASFS PTA to the county and school boards, as it is not in our best interests to send something that is not supported by the entire community.

### VI. **Revised Bylaws** (PTA President, Lisa Anbinder)

- Every five years, ASFS is required to update our PTA bylaws. The updated proposed bylaws are posted on the PTA website, and any questions or feedback is due by Friday, June 15th.
- We will vote on the updated proposed bylaws at the July 3rd PTA meeting before sending them into the VA PTA for approval.
- One change made is to the executive board term limits, to update the term to a 1-year term, renewable every year for up to a maximum of four years. This is the same total number of years, but split into 1-year terms (rather than a maximum of two 2-year terms).
- In addition, there is a new VP APS Transition role included in the new proposed bylaws.
- Please contact the nominating committee if you are interested in serving in this role. We will collect all names and the nominating committee will propose the nomination at the August PTA meeting, with the goal to vote on the new VP role at the September PTA meeting (providing 30 days notice).
- Please contact the Bylaws committee or Dena Porter with any questions.

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

- Ms. Begley shared that a number of families are taking their children out of school early for travel to their home country or other destinations.
- If 1% of ASFS's population does not meet the attendance requirements, we will lose our state accreditation, and we are in jeopardy of meeting this threshold. State and federal rules mandate this requirement, so we need all parents to keep their students in school through June 20th.
- Teachers and staff have worked so hard this year, and we have had a great year
- A suggestion was made to send out a bilingual letter to ASFS families to make sure all parents are aware of this requirement and how important it is.
- Students that are not returning to ASFS are not included in these statistics.
- Ms. Begley thanked all parents for their kind notes and gestures, and shared how much it means to all of the teachers and staff.
- Congratulations to all of the new 2018-19 executive board members and committee chairs, and thank you to all of the current 2017-18 leads for all of their support this year.

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### VIII. **APS and School Board Update** (*Vice President External Affairs, Steve Leutner*)

- The proposed APS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a 10 year plan currently under development. There is not a lot of money to work with, and there is growing number of students in the county, which is causing challenges for the county.
- One potential solution for ASFS would be expansion to the Buck property. The new CIP will be adopted on June 21st, and will go into effect for the next 10 years, so we have until then to advocate for this option.
- The county is also looking at commercial property to expand schools, with the potential to use these sites for elementary or high school seats depending on neighborhood proximity.
- The new APS school naming initiative will be voted on at the June 7th board meeting, which will impact the names of the new schools coming in the fall of 2019.
- The plan for the upcoming Elementary School Planning Initiatives (ESPI) will be announced at the June 7th school board meeting. There is the potential that APS may adjust boundaries for half the county now and the other half in 2021, but details are yet to be determined.
- The PTA membership expressed that we would like to try to advocate for expansion to the Buck site with a letter to the county/school boards on behalf of the ASFS PTA. Lisa will send the draft letter out to the community for feedback, with the goal to send it to APS prior to their next working session meeting on June 12th.
- Steve clarified that it would take approximately \$14-15M to update the current Buck site to create about 250+/- seats. For ASFS, we would also ask for additional funds to use the current Dynamic Gymnastics building as cafeteria/gym space. It would require additional funds to update both buildings, but allow us to support more students. In addition, APS has said they cannot use CIP funds for buildings with a lifespan less than 20 years, so funding options would need to be determined.

### **Announcements/Reminders**

- June 6th - Early Release
- June 8<sup>th</sup> - Field Day
- June 12<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, 2:30pm and 7:00pm
- June 13<sup>th</sup> - Early Release
- June 14<sup>th</sup> - ASFS Ice Cream Social/Book Swap, 6:30-8:00pm
- June 19<sup>th</sup> - 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
- June 20<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of School (Early Release)