



ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes

August 7th, 2018 7:00pm

I. Welcome (PTA President, Adena Porter)

President Adena Porter welcomed everyone. This year we have a new PTA motto – “One Team. Together Everyone Achieves More.” Thank you to Jen Bethel who created the design and logo.

Dena attended the National PTA training this past weekend and commented how fortunate we are in our community to receive as much parent support as we do which results in immediate benefits for our teachers and children. Small things like doughnuts for teachers, the back to school picnic, and supporting teacher education mean a lot. It was eye opening how many northern Virginia communities struggle to have small and simple events due to lack of parent support or inability to raise funds. Thank you to each and every one of you for the little things you do that help make a difference. We are stronger together.

A reminder of the ASFS School Motto: Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Property, Be Safe, Be Fair, Be Kind

Ms Begley will send out the new electronic Friday folders (eFFs). New this fall, *all* parents need to opt in to the directory in order to receive this communication. Please visit ParentVUE for more information.

II. July PTA Meeting Minutes Approval

The PTA membership voted unanimously to approve the July PTA meeting minutes.

III. Principal’s Report (ASFS Principal, Mary Begley)

This summer ASFS hosted summer school for 200 students. The programs focused on stem and math academy. The staff thoroughly enjoyed it.

Throughout the summer, we have been working. We had our 89th kindergarten parent meeting and registered our 111th child today. Anything you wish to discuss about the coming year, please reach out to Ms. Begley or Ms. Jones.

We will be receiving new playground equipment for ages 2-5 near the trailer which should arrive in the next two weeks.

APS has run into a glitch with permits for the turf. They have sent an updated permit and will hope to have it back this Friday so we may have it installed before the school year. We are also getting a new floor in the multipurpose room. New tiles will be laid tomorrow.



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Niche rated ASFS the #1 Best Elementary School in Virginia as part of its 2019 Best Elementary Schools in VA rankings.

At the present time, we are fully staffed. We have 111 children for kindergarten and that would put us into 6 classrooms. Every grade level is doing well and collecting addresses for those who are entering the county. If you know any rising K's, please encourage them to come register as soon as possible.

Ms. Jones and I have been reorganizing the school to maximize learning spaces. Instructional teams have been meeting on how to take teaching to the next level. The front office was taken apart last week and we putting it together this week. Some staff are on vacation this week, so if you don't hear from them right away, know they will follow up when they return.

Kindergarten playdates are every Thursday evening from 5-7. Potluck is scheduled for this week.

Lastly, Thursday August 30th, come and meet your teacher, and bring supplies. We will kick off another great year on Tuesday, September 4th!

IV. VP APS Transition Nomination

If you recall from the July meeting, we approved new bylaws. As part of that process, we added a new executive position to support our upcoming transition activities. The nominating committee has a nominated Alice Brennan. A vote will be taken in our September meeting.

V. Proposed 2018-19 PTA Budget (President, Dena Porter for Chris Brown).

Two page handout provided which outlines the 2018-2019 proposed budget. There is a new "snapshot" of where money offers a more visual view of how money is being spent. Questions? Please reach out to Chris Brown.

New this year.... APS will not fund a new track for schools. Should anyone know anyone who works in construction, please reach out to Dena or Ms. Begley. Glebe just put a track in this summer and it cost them \$125,000. We will reach out in the September newsletter to see if anyone has contacts who may be able to assist in offsetting costs in any way.

We'll kick off the 'no frills' fundraiser in September to jump start the effort. Kristi will share more details next month.

VI. PTA Directory Update (PTA President, Adena Porter)

The state of Virginia has updated a law stating all schools need an "opt in" process in order to permit schools to communicate electronically with parents and guardians.

There is a box you need to check on a paper form or you may do this online. In doing



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so, you are stating that it's ok for the ASFS PTA to communicate with you. Please be sure to opt in if you would like to be part of any school communications. This also includes communications regarding school wide initiatives and classroom activities and information. Should you choose to opt out, you would not have access to school contact information that is available. You may opt to opt in but still not display all information in the directory. This will be something we'll need to do every year.

VII. PTA Volunteer Opportunities (PTA President, Adena Porter)

On the homepage of the PTA web site, you can view all available opportunities. Volunteers are needed for the following upcoming events:

- **Tuesday, August 28th from 3-5pm will be stuffing back to school packets.** Great way to see the class lists and older kids are welcome. Meet in the multipurpose room. Please sign up!
- **Holiday Helpers Lead.** Coordinates holiday gift collection and distribution working with Ms. Hawthorne. If you are interested or know anyone, please sign up or reach out to Dena.
- **Volunteer clearance form is good for 3 years.** This is for parents who volunteer for a field trip or in the classroom. It takes only 10 minutes and a quick stop in the office to see Paige.

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

Handout provided. Information is also available online. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of new information on the elementary boundaries. Office hours tonight with the APS staff. The next work session on 8/28th. Staff is going to come up with different scenarios. We could either be included this year or in two years, but no planning units will be impacted more than once. We'll know more after the 8/28th work session. Please note this session will be for observation only. Comments and questions will not be permitted. The APS Staff presents to the board in November. The APS School Board is scheduled to vote on the new boundary changes on December 6th. Changes will go into effect in the fall of 2019.

Interesting notes:

- Engagement policies around inclusion – Look for more information in January
- 9/18 @ 7pm – Monique O'Grady will be here to talk with us.

We'll continue to update the EFF and the PTA web site. Questions? Reach out to Kate.

IX. Other Reminders (PTA President, Adena Porter)

- a. Join the PTA! Online or with the PTA envelopes which are located in the office!
- b. Flyers to support the school with regular shopping for programs such as Amazon smiles and grocery programs such as Harris Teeter, Giant and Safeway, and Box Tops (eBoxtops or cutting paper boxtops).



- c. After school enrichment will be available the first week of school. Will be using Barody again on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- X. **Volunteer Opportunities** (VP Community Service, Karrie Beaudry)
- a. **Come "Chill Out"** at our family-friendly event at the Clarendon Market Commons on Saturday, August 25th from 2:00-4:00pm. Stop by to support ASFS with a cold glass of lemonade, or volunteer below to help out and/or provide supplies for this fun family event
 - b. **ASFS community service week** – Details to follow early fall. Will take place in February.
 - c. **Back to school picnic – 9/9 4-6pm** (Rabia Oubenadi)
 - School provides hot dogs, burgers. Ask families provide side dishes. Kona ice will be selling shaved ice and some proceeds will benefit the school. The truck is really fun! Need volunteers so please sign up! We particularly need some grill masters. Each shift is 1 hour. AFAC will be collecting food. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will be there. Games on the field. Music. PTA will have a table. Please come and have a great time! You can work a shift and then enjoy!
 - d. **ASFS T-Shirts** (Jen Bethel)
 - Designed new ASFS soccer shirts. Jen will have a sample at the back to school picnic. Jen is also designing a new apparel line for the school. We need to sell the old stuff so we can bring in the new stuff. Apparel and cookbooks will be available for sale.
 - Welcome committee – We are starting a buddy program to help new families better acclimated to the school. The ask is that you provide an email address so the new family may reach out to you with questions and you can be a resource. Also please meet up with your group in person at least once at either an ASFS event or even coffee or dinner. We are going to try to pair families based on the children's ages. We currently have 11 families signed up. Targeting matching mid to late September to allow new families the opportunity to sign up. Perhaps clipboard at the K playdate? If anyone is interested or has any questions, please reach out to Jen.
 - Also we will be hosting a new family reception before the September PTA meeting to get better acquainted.
 - e. **Paint the Steps Contest!** (Lindsey Englerth)
 - This fall, we are kicking off an art contest in the school which will help us to add color to the back stairs which go from the parking lot to the black top. Information will go out in the EFF and in folders with more information. In short, interested children should propose a design to be painted on the front of the steps. Group designs also welcome. Submissions will be due in mid-September and the winner will be



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selected September 21st. Our goal is to have it painted before the end of the fall and the winner(s) name(s) will be painted on the steps.

Questions? Please see Lindsey or Julie.

- f. **A local company has offered to donate time** to ASFS the first week of October. If anyone has ideas for areas which could use volunteers that week, please see Lindsey or Karrie.
- g. **Boy & Girl Scouts** will be hosting a recruiting event on September 20st in the multipurpose room. (Mary Schmergel)

XI. Upcoming Events/Reminders

- a. Kindergarten Playdates (Hayes Park) - See PTA Website or Flyer for dates
Every Thursday through August 30th, 5:00-7:00pm
- b. Thursday, August 30th - Open House, 3:00-4:00pm
- c. Tuesday, September 4th - First Day of School!
- d. PTA Parent Coffee, 8:45am (ASFS Parking Lot)
- e. Tuesday, September 4th - September PTA Meeting, 7:00pm - New Families
Reception, 6:30pm (Library)
- f. Sunday, September 9th - Back to School Picnic, 4:00-6:00pm
- g. Wednesday, September 12th - Back to School Night, 7:00-8:30pm