



ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes September 4, 2018 7pm

I. Welcome (ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter)

President Adena Porter welcomed everyone and a special welcome to the new families. Should there be any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to parents or executive board with questions.

Jen Bethel has set up a new buddy program which will assist new families with existing families to make connections and get families acclimated sooner.

New moto for the year is "One Team – Together Everyone Achieves More."

Dr. Murphy has let us know that in the next few years we will be switching buildings with Key. Kate Merrill has more information later in tonight's meeting. School Board member and ASFS representative, Monique O'Grady, will be visiting our school later this month.

No frills fundraiser is kicking off this month. Kristi will tell us more about this in a bit.

Thank you to the teachers and staff for all the hard work this summer to get the school ready for our children.

Back to school packet went home today with children and there was a lot of information. There is a blue sheet which outlines the parent-teacher code of conduct. Please take a quick moment to review.

II. PTA Meeting Minutes Approval (ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter)

The August minutes were approved.

III. Principal's Report and 2018-2019 (ASFS Principal, Mary Begley)

Thank you for coming tonight. It is my favorite day of the year because we get to see everyone after the summer and how much the children have grown over the summer. Thank you to the PTA for the monetary gift to the teacher money to get supplies. We had 662 students come to school today. Have 691 registered. We're working through the gap to find out if some of those children have decided to attend other schools.

We had a great first day. I asked the teachers to not come tonight because they were exhausted. Many put in a lot of time the past few weeks preparing their classrooms and over the weekend.

Thank you to Mr. Harvey who was here all weekend updating Ipads for the kids.

Thank you to Ms. Hawthorne for helping the parents today. The kids were all fine 😊

Thank you to Ms. Jones for all the hours this summer and reflecting what worked and what didn't.

Thank you to the fabulous teachers who are here and the ones who joined us. We have a fabulous team.

Questions? Please email your teacher. They typically will respond within 24 hours.

Time to celebrate! All Arlington schools passed accreditation. ASFS has its best percentage pass rates. 99% pass rate in English, 97% in math, 100% in history and 96% in science. How did we get there? It wasn't just one thing but wanted everyone to understand preparation and planning teachers have done. We have exceptional teachers, small group instruction, 2106 lightning lessons, 1104 reading lessons, after school tutorials, 36 student mentors...and the work you do at home.

The Result: Niche #1 Elementary School!

How did we get there? Together!

- IV. **Vote on 2017-2018 ASFS PTA Audit Report** (ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter)
Treasurer Chris Brown has a binder of every receipt we have to track. Please see him for any details. We need to send a summary to the state. The 2017 audit was approved.
- V. **Vote on 2018-2019 ASFS PTA Budget** (ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter)
This is this year's activities and needs. Handouts include a high level overview and detail. Thank you to Chris Brown for all this work on this! The 2018-2019 budget was approved.
- VI. **New VP Position** is on hold until we have more information from the school board.
- VII. **ASFS No Frills Fundraiser Kick-off** (VP Fundraising, Kristi Tsiopanas)

Two main fundraisers this year:

- "No frills" kicks off this fall. This is a direct donation from the parent to the PTA. There is a no frills form in the back to school packet or you may donate online as the asfs.pta.com/donate/. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Checks and cash do not have a commission taken off. The online/swipe methods do have a small credit card processing fee. We are planning to bring a card reader to upcoming events for easy giving.
- Spring event – Auction. If we are able to raise a good amount this fall, then the auction may be more fun and less "fund focused."

- If you are interested in having your money spent in a certain area of the budget, please let Kristi know.

VIII. **Summer Volunteer Thank yous** (ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter)

- Kindergarten playdates - Mary Schmergel, Neelima Denduluri, Jackie Java, Rabia Oubenadi, Julie Olcott
- School grounds watering and pond/aquarium - Lindsey Englerth, Julie Flynn, and Rob Shelton
- Audit committee - Chris Brown, Nancy Ory, Nellie Carr, Cindy Getner
- Welcome back breakfast - Tyeana Mclver
- ASFS Lemonade stand - Karrie Beaudry

As Ms Begley mentioned, we succeed with help from you! No effort is too small. Please sign up and if you have any questions about the level of commitment, please reach out to Dena or Julie Olcott.

IX. **PTA Directory Update** (ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter)

The state of Virginia has mandated that all schools need to have parents opt in to send out communications. Please fill out the form in the back to school packet or do it online from Parent Vue. As always, information is available on the PTA web site or in the EFF as well. The deadline is September 14th. We plan to open up the directory at the end of the month.

X. **Back to School Reminders** (ASFS PTA President, Adena Porter)

- Join the PTA
- Opt in to the PTA Directory
- Return your PTA Volunteer Form
- Donate to No Frills Fundraiser
- Sign up for Rewards Programs
 - Another easy way to help the school. Please look at the flyer that outlines ways to help, including Smile Amazon and your local grocery store programs.
- Bookmark the ASFS PTA Website for all the latest and greatest news
- Barody After School Enrichment Class Registration: Opens Sunday, 9/9
 - Starts in October and runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Email will go out when registration opens.
- Back to School Picnic (Rabia)
 - We need volunteers. Please see the electronic folder for a link for details about what is available. We only need 1 hour of your time. It's a lot of fun. There will be games. Please bring a side and come have fun!

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

Elementary boundary update. We learned that we will not be part of the process for next fall.

Instead the superintendent has decided that ASFS and Key will swap buildings either in 2020 or 2021. We don't have a lot of details at this time. A timeline will be released in January which will outline more detail on how, what and when things will start happening and how the school board will be working with the communities impacted. We heard from staff today they are posting FAQ for the community soon.

The rationale given was the school board needs to focus on other boundary issues while opening Reed and Fleet in the coming years.

This is a superintendent decision and he may do so without requesting board approval. Our goal is to ensure that this transition is smooth and that we have the same things in the Key building as we have here in our current location. Please also know that 2020 is the earliest this will happen.

There are links on the ASFS PTA web site for more information.

The ESPI group is focused on what changes may be coming and representing all neighborhoods. The VP of Transition role is on hold until more information becomes available so the executive team may focus on what is important to the community given the changes.

XII. Announcements

- a. Buddy program (Jen Bethel) – Fun way for new families to be able to connect with a current family who will provide an email address for questions and to have a meet up.
- b. Soccer jerseys (Jen Bethel) – Opportunity to customize the jersey with your child's name. All orders need to be in by the end of September. They will arrive in October.
- c. T-Shirts will be on sale at the picnic. (Jen and Shaudy)
- d. Turf will be installed by the end of the month. It will take up to 4 days and will impact recess.
- e. Paint the stairs art contest – Submissions due September 21st to Lindsey Englerth either in the office or via email.

XIII. Upcoming Events/Reminders

- a. Sunday, September 9th – Back to School Picnic, 4-6pm
- b. Wednesday, September 12th – Back to School Night, 7-8:30pm (parents only)
- c. Thursday-Friday, September 13-14th – 3rd Grade Outdoor Lab
- d. Tuesday, September 18th – Guest Speaker Event: Monique O'Grady
 - i. (Arlington School Board Member and ASFS Liaison), 7-830pm
- e. Friday, September 21st – Kindergarten Parent Coffee, 9-10am & Paint the Stairs Contest entries due
- f. Tuesday, September 25th – First Grade Parent Coffee, 9-10am