

**Franconia Elementary School
PTA Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2011**

Attendees:

Carylin Waterval – President	Merrell Dade -- Principal
Tracee Gartman – Vice President	Wiatta Padmore – Assistant Principal
David Noguera – Treasurer	Katheryn Kennedy-Labat, 2 nd Grade Teacher
Cory O’Meara – Secretary	

Roger Baskin, Gladys Fitzhugh-Pemberton, Bob Flynn, Cheryl Flynn, Heather Viehl-Yee, Nancy Rothermel, Anna Ellis, Svetlana Horhannisyan, Angel Carrington, Diontria Lattimore, Christina Quilaqueo, Megan Harris, CJ Grebb, Colby Warnock, Kamna Virmani, Navin Jain, Cara Wolfe, Valerie Baybas, Mona Khaled Abdulwahed, Tiaa Henderson

Carylin Waterval called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mrs. Waterval introduced the new PTA Board members to the group.

The minutes from the June 7, 2011 meeting were presented. Typographical errors were discussed and amended.

Motion to approve amended minutes from June 7, 2011: Bob Flynn.

Second: CJ Grebb.

Teacher’s Report: Sixth Grade Team – Ms. Amber Dzubinski, Ms. Leslie Hicks, Ms. Molly Moorstein

- Assessments and expectations are underway for the academic year.
- There will be a field trip to Hemlock Overlook in October 2011.
- The average 6th grade class size is 22/23 students.
- October 5, 2011 will be pizza night at the Fall Book Fair. Pizza night is a fundraiser for the 6th grade’s gift to Franconia ES.
- 6th grade service learning hour requirements will begin soon – 5 hours per child is required.

Principal’s Report: Ms. Merrell Dade

- The new cafeteria is now open and looks fantastic.
- There are several new flat-screen TVs on the walls around school to showcase school news, lunch menus, upcoming events, etc.
- There are no TVs in classrooms now; all school news will be delivered via the SMART Boards.
- School construction is expected to finish by the end of calendar year 2011.
- There is a change to the Kiss-N-Ride procedure. Parents are no longer able to park in the back parking lot. Only official Kiss-N-Ride lanes are open for safety reasons.
- The new Art teacher, Ms. Kirk, may offer an extra opportunity to school children/families to paint decorative tiles for the hallways. Samples of painted tiles were on display at the tables.
- Back to School Night is September 15, 2011. Besides the classroom presentations, the Specials teachers will be available in the gym. Scouts and Community groups will also be represented.

- The Mustang Message will be placed on the school website every other Wednesday.
- Franconia is looking for as many volunteers as possible to review the School Improvement Plan. This document is meant to be a parent/school tool. Contact Ms. Dade to participate.
- The October 2011 PTA meeting will feature a visit by Dr. Frances Ivy, the new Cluster V Assistant Superintendent.
- Personal Note: Ms. Dade thanked the Franconia PTA for making a donation in her father's honor to his alma mater.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. David Noguera

- The 2011-2012 PTA Treasurer's report and budget was submitted for review and discussion.
- A reminder to school families to renew their Giant and Safeway cards for this school year so that Franconia ES may earn money via the affinity programs.
- Mrs. Waterval spoke about the rule that the PTA must bring monetary requests of over \$300 to a meeting for a vote.
- Ms. Dade thanked the PTA for the Back to School luncheon for the staff from Paco's Lunch Truck.
- Review and discussion of 2010-2011 Audit Report for Franconia ES PTA. Balance on hand at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year: \$4819.40.

**Motion to approve the 2010-2011 Franconia PTA Audit Report: Valerie Baybas.
Second: Katheryn Kennedy-Labat.**

New Business

- The Ice Cream Social school year kick-off was a very successful event with over 900 scoops of ice cream distributed.
- The Volunteer corps at Franconia needs Chair people for different events. Sign-up forms are posted on the school website. Key positions still need to be filled, such as: After School programs, Staff Appreciation, Reflections and Cartridges for Kids.
- Svetlana Horhannisyian is the Chair for the FLEX foreign language program. The FLEX program is slated to begin in October 2011, with Spanish being offered as the only language. Ms. Horhannisyian is seeking a Chinese teacher to expand the program. There are also plans for a FLEX program in the spring, and possibly a "FLEX-tra" session for more advanced speakers.
- The PTA Membership Drive is on and the applications are coming in. Over 70 families have joined since the Ice Cream Social kick-off. Members receive an ID Card and a calendar magnet when they join the PTA.
- Renae Polovchik chairs the Spirit Wear program. This is a pass-through program, the school does not make money from the sales of spirit wear. Order forms have been distributed and orders will be filled in October.
- A reminder that the Reflections program is going on and that entries are due in October.
- Chairperson Anna Ellis discussed the Mustang Read-A-Thon that will be run through the month of October 2011. It is a fundraiser to encourage students to develop good reading habits and to raise money to support Franconia Elementary School. The reading goal for FES students is 400,000 minutes for the month. Students will set goal minutes to read per day and may choose to seek sponsorship and donations. Weekly reading logs will be turned in throughout the month and students are eligible for prizes and special activities based on their participation. All logs, sponsorship forms and sponsorship money must be turned into the school by November 5, 2011.

Announcements/Dates to Remember:

- September 14-29, 2011 will be the week to gather and turn in Spirit Wear orders.
- September 15, 2011 is Back to School night at FES.
- September 28, 2011 will be the first 'restaurant night' fundraiser for the PTA. This event will be held at Uno's Pizzeria in Kingstowne.
- October 3, 2011 is the official start of the Mustang Read-A-Thon.
- October 11, 2011 is the next PTA meeting. The Guest Speaker will be Dr. Frances Ivy, the new Cluster V Assistant Superintendent.

Special Presentation: Ms. Wiatta Padmore, Assistant Principal

- Ms. Padmore presented the results of the various tests and assessments given to the students of Franconia ES for the 2010-2011 academic year, including Standard of Learning (SOL), Developmental Reading Analysis (DRA), and Math Reasoning Assessment (MRA).
- Discussion of 'celebrations' – where Franconia achieved excellence, and 'opportunities' – where Franconia needs to focus more resources.
- Franconia ES achieved Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) in all Language Arts categories.
- Franconia ES missed AYP by one percentage point in the Math category. This may be due to a variety of reasons, which are being explored and researched.
- The Administration and Staff of Franconia ES are working together to review the test results and plan for the coming year and beyond.
- Discussion of the various Sub-Groups represented at Franconia and how to ensure these groups are making Expected Progress.
- The aforementioned School Improvement Plan will focus on closing the gap between whites and other groups. One idea is to increase the time kids spend reading in school.
- New this academic year: Advanced Math will be offered to selected students in Grades 3-6. Students will be identified by assessments and classroom performance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by: Cory O'Meara, PTA Secretary.