

**Franconia Elementary School
PTA Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2011**

Attendees:

Carylin Waterval – President
Tracee Gartman – Vice President
David Noguera – Treasurer
Cory O’Meara – Secretary

Merrell Dade -- Principal
Wiatta Padmore – Assistant Principal
Katheryn Kennedy-Labat, 2nd Grade Teacher
Soojin Henceroth, 3rd Grade Teacher
Mary Flint, 3rd Grade Teacher
David Gillmartin, 5th Grade Teacher

Roger Baskin, Bob Flynn, Cheryl Flynn, Angel Carrington, Valerie Baybas, Anand Karunakaran, Greta Loggins, Cary Yarbrough, Nancy Rothermel, Deena Pagliaro, Dr. Frances Ivey

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

The minutes from the September 13, 2011 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve minutes from September 13, 2011: Bob Flynn.

Second: Katheryn Kennedy-Labat.

Teacher’s Report: Third Grade Team – Mrs. Soojin Henceroth, Mrs. Mary Flint

- Discussion of the Math curriculum and the units to be covered.
- Discussion of Social Studies and Science plans for the quarter.
- Discussion of Reading/Writing workshops in class.

Principal’s Report: Ms. Merrell Dade

- The annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and Open House will be held on November 11, 2011. The cafeteria will serve the main group. The gym will be a satellite location for overflow crowds. Volunteers are needed for this event.
- School has ordered new cafeteria tables. These should arrive prior to the Thanksgiving event.
- Discussion of PTA support of various school departments in the past. This year, the PTA is considering the needs of the Physical Education (PE) department.
- PE Department is interested in obtaining a ‘horizontal climbing wall.’ Due to the nature of this apparatus, the Fairfax County Public Schools needs to approve it first.
- The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) will be given to second graders the week of October 17th. Students in grades 3-6 have a one-time option to retake this test. Contact Miss Padmore for details.
- Fairfax County Public Schools is looking for a Special Liaison for the Special Education Committee. The duties of the position were enumerated. Please contact Ms. Dade for further details.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Frances Ivey, Cluster V Assistant Superintendent

- Dr. Ivey introduced herself to the group and listed her educational and professional background, as well as her philosophy about public education. Her main focus areas are intervention and literacy.
- She indicated that she works most closely with school administrators, but would also like to collaborate with teachers, parents and students.
- Dr. Ivey initiated a question-and-answer period with the assembled group. Discussion topics included: the 'old' Franconia ES modified calendar, afterschool programs, student transportation, Fairfax Country School District budget, the search for a replacement for retiring Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jack Dale, development/enhancement of FES relationships with local businesses to support school programs, technology, afterschool programs, pilot testing/technology for the Standard of Learning (SOL) assessments, and school start dates after summer vacation.
- She reminded the group about the Parent Advisory committee, made up of constituents from various schools in Cluster V. Franconia ES does have a representative for this committee.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. David Noguera

- Mr. Noguera presented the current budget to the group for review.
- He discussed the possibility of closing the PTA savings account and rolling the balance of that account into the PTA checking account. This action would save on bank fees.
- The PTA is currently ahead of last year regarding membership activity. As of this meeting, the PTA has 133 members.

New Business

- Carylin Waterval discussed the Mustang Read-A-Thon fundraiser. 30% of school families made initial pledges to read 170,000 minutes over the course of October 2011. The school goal is to read 400,000 minutes for the month-long period of the fundraiser. Organizers hope to raise \$9000 from the Read-A-Thon. Staff has given tremendous support to the event.
- Greta Loggins, Chair of the school Reflections program, gave an update to the group. Entries are due on October 21 and the theme is "Diversity means..."
- Cory O'Meara discussed the new Franconia Elementary School PTA Facebook page. The Internet address for the page is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Franconia-Elementary-School-PTA/284564241570550>. This page is to be used as a communications tool to supplement the school's newsletter, website, and email system. To allay privacy concerns, there will be no identifiable photographs of individual children on the site.
- Tracee Gartman discussed the National PTA web-based database, "Just Between Friends." The database has the potential to be of great use to the PTA for membership renewal, a member directory, communications, etc.
- Merrell Dade talked about convening a focus group at the next PTA meeting to discuss the variety of means used to communicate with school families.
- The Uno restaurant night fundraiser in September netted the school over \$300.
- Roger Baskin, FES representative to the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA), reported his findings from the September 2011 meeting of that group. Mr. Baskin encouraged attendance at the FCCPTA's upcoming conference, "Emerging Minority Leaders" on November 19, 2011.

Announcements/Dates to Remember:

- October 31, 2011 is the official end of the Mustang Read-A-Thon. All forms and sponsorship monies (if applicable) must be turned in by November 4, 2011.
- November 15, 2011 is the next PTA meeting.
- December 3, 2011 is the Family Fun Run.

General Discussion:

- Merrell Dade updated the group on Franconia ES general news.
- Construction on the new part of the building has begun.
- Student enrollment stands at 556 pupils as of 10/12/11. School capacity (563 students) may be reached very soon.
- FES is currently closed for pupil placement.
- The second grade and Kindergarten classes are very large.
- Due to large enrollment, classroom trailers may be required in the future.
- Space planning is a constant need.
- Construction is tentatively scheduled to be finished by the end of the calendar year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by: Cory O'Meara, PTA Secretary.