

**Providence Elementary School PTA
September 5, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

PTA Officers: Pam Wagner, Lisa MacCammon, Lucille Short, Sue Elgart, Tina Kitts, Beth Dombrowsky

PES Staff: Joy Hanbury, Ann Mallon, Maquita Alexander, Anne Crismon

Attendees: Claudia Grimmel, Becky Whitacre, Susan Heath, Derrick Heath, Uzma Cherma, Stefani Roth, Terri Mercer, Irene Smith, Rema Smith, Jim Kaplan, Stacie Kaplan, Deb Hertz

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Pam Wagner, PTA President welcomed everyone to the September 2007 PTA meeting. Introductions followed.

Minutes: The August minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget: The 2007-08 proposed PTA budget was presented and approved by the PTA Board. However, the formal approval will be taken during the PES Family Picnic on Friday, September 7.

Preliminary Calendar: A copy of the preliminary calendar was distributed. The November PTA meeting is missing, Pam will add to the calendar. There will not be a PTA meeting in January.

Principal's Report: Ms. Hanbury thanked all the parents and students for a great two days. Everything went smoothly and Providence is off to a great start.

Providence is increasing the number of smart boards thanks to funds from Fairfax City. This year grades K-2 will have smart boards in the classroom. Staff has been trained to use them.

This year, Chinese will be taught beginning in grade 1.

Providences School Plan: A committee has been developed to implement Providence's school plan. The Fairfax County School Board developed this plan. Previously it only measured academic areas but this year the plan includes the schools progress in three areas:

1. Academically
2. Work Habits
3. Commitment to Community

VGLA: Ms. Alexander reported on the VGLA (Virginia Grade Level Assessment). Children in grades 3-6 with English as a second language as well as special education students were given the test. Out of 40 children, 38 passed advanced.

Jump Start Program: Jump Start was offered this summer to rising 1st graders. The students, who did not pass the PALS test, came to school two weeks early. Out of 30 invited students, 22

accepted. Students worked on math and reading. They were able to work in the classrooms, meet the 1st grade teachers and learn the 1st grade routine. They became student leaders to other 1st students.

Summer School: Ms. Crismon reported that Providence's Summer School was very successful. Ms. Crismon was the summer school principal. Students who attended were tested during the 4-week program, some student's DRA level jumped two levels. She is looking forward to next year's summer school program.

Pam Wagner thanked everyone who assisted with the following: Volunteering and/or providing food for the teacher breakfast, stuffing the Tuesday communicator, sorting and delivering school supplies and volunteering at the Open House.

Spirit Wear: T-shirt and Hoodie sales were great during Open House. Over \$1,500 worth of spirit wear was sold. Spirit Wear will be sold at the Family Picnic as well.

PTA Flyers: Pam Wagner reminded everyone to check the PTA flyer checklist when making copies for PTA related items. All PTA related flyers must be approved PTA Board and the school administration prior to being copied and sent home. Flyers must be copied on yellow PTA paper located in the copy room near the café. Copy enough flyers for each student in the class plus two extra. Flyers must be in the teacher mailboxes by Monday morning. Extra 20 copies must be given to the office.

Committee Reports:

PES Family Picnic will be held this Friday, September 7th starting at 5:30 p.m. PTA will provide water, lemonade and cookies. Families are asked to bring their picnic dinner, blankets and chairs. A lap top computer will be available for families to register their Safeway and Giant bonus cards. Spirit Wear will be sold during the picnic as well.

Gift Wrap information will be going home next Tuesday, September 11th via the Tuesday Communicator. Lisa MacCammon will need volunteers, please see Lisa if you are able to help. October 9th is the deadline for orders to be returned.

Becky Whitacre reported that PTA Membership Envelopes were sent home via the Tuesday Communicator. The goal this year is to increase PTA membership. Additional envelopes will be available at the family picnic.

Chess Club information was sent home in the Tuesday Communicator. Becky Whitacre is looking for parent volunteers, anyone interested please see Becky. A beginner level is being offered. It is open to 20 students, 7 students have registered so far.

Box Tops are collected all year long at Providence. Please put the box tops with your child's name and teacher name in an envelope and send to school. An ice cream party at the end of the year is given to the class who collects the most.

Rema Smith reported that the Art Program is off to a great start. Information was sent home in the Tuesday Communicator. This session, art classes will be offered on Monday and Wednesdays. Registration is limited to 15 students per class. Depending on the registrations, a third class might be offered.

Joan Rizak is our Special Education Chair. She will be attending quarterly Fairfax County School Board meetings. She will then report back to the PES PTA on the meeting.

The Family Sock Hop will be held on October 19th. Get ready to take your shoes off, wear crazy socks and dance to the DJ. This is great family event so parents are reminded that an adult must accompany children. Children who are dropped off without an adult will not be allowed. Anyone interested in volunteering, please see Pam Wagner.

There are several open Committee Chair positions. Pam Wagner asked anyone interested to please let her know. The following is a list:

1. Yearbook
2. Volunteer Coordinator
3. Newsletter
4. Family Events
5. Fun Fair
6. Book Fair
7. Reflections Contest

After School Programs:

Fit 4 Fun was offered last year to grades 4-6 as an after school program. Students learned fitness and nutrition. The PE teachers at Providence, Mr. Amos and Ms. Haak taught this program. PES PTA is planning on offering this program again to students.

PES PTA would like to offer Flex Language as an after school program. However, a parent volunteer is needed. Anyone interested should contact Pam Wagner.

Lucille Short is organizing the Odyssey of the Mind program. Students in grades K-6 are invited to attend. Coaches and volunteers are needed. Odyssey of the Mind information will be sent home in the Tuesday Communicator.

Evening Language for Adults is being organized. Pam Wagner and Elena Montaya are organizing English classes for parents of PES students. The PTA would like to have more families involved in PTA sponsored events but sometimes parents do not volunteer due to the language barrier. Volunteers are needed to teach ESL, anyone interested please contact either Pam or Elena.

Other Items:

Volunteers are always needed at Providence even if is a short amount of time. Please check with your child's teacher or the school office.

The autism teachers are looking for the following board games: Candy Land, Connect Four, Don't Break The Ice, Hi Ho Cherry-O. Anyone who can donate a board game, please see the teachers in Room 117.

Pam Wagner will organize guest speakers during the year to come to the PTA meetings. Parents requested the new GT teacher and more information regarding the GT program. Also what it means to be a FOCUS Math and Science School.

Suggestions were asked on what to include on the PES website. Parents requested that PTA meeting cancellations be posted. PTA meeting minutes will be posted on the website as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.