

Forest View Elementary
Virtual via Zoom
PTA & Steering Team
August 25, 2021, 6:30pm
MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31 P.M.

Welcome – Liz Snyder (PTA President)

Introduction of PTA Board, Teachers, and Administrators present

Approval of June Minutes

Minutes reviewed on screen.

Motion to approve, properly seconded

Minutes approved

Treasurer Report – Barbara Goettsch (Treasurer)

Presented current account balances on screen and posted in MemberHub

Budget presented on screen and posted in MemberHub

Proposed 2021-2022 Budget main categories were discussed as well as Board's rationale.

- As usual our largest expenses are classroom support (\$100 for each full time teacher), Staff grants (which allows staff to write a grant for something to benefit their class/grade/the school), extra support for our specials, CAPS which supports arts field trips (may be virtual this year) and teacher appreciation
- retail rewards were adjusted to match last year
- some items are in an out like fall fest and field trips so even though they are uncertain we put them in
- added back in and are hopeful about outdoor events like marathon, field day, week at creek
- Art and science have been reduced by \$200 each b/c they made end of year purchases last year to prep
- counselors support reduce to amount usually used
- added in a new category to give support for cultural event support
- both 5th grade graduation and teacher appreciation have extra money to cover a late written check that crossed into the new year but that is already spent so they are at normal levels.

Questions answered verbally and via chat.

Elmo's Spirit Night was discussed and reasons why the restaurant may or may not participate this year. Amount of money allocated for the 5th grade field trip and the location of the trip were discussed.

Principal Sledge announced that no field trips are currently planned. This money in the budget is to facilitate grades raising money to help offset field trip costs. It is only spent if it is raised.

Motion to approve budget, properly seconded

Voice vote and visual vote via Zoom
Motion carried unanimously.

Encouraging Walking/biking – Sarah O'Brien (Forest View Parent)

Discussion led by Sarah to work with the PTA to encourage walking and biking to school. There is a lot of information through the City of Durham and other locations to educate people about the value of walking or biking to work.

IDEAS DISCUSSED:

- We could possibly start a walking school bus within the neighborhoods.
- Maybe "gamify" it and have awards or incentives for students and families to participate.
- Maybe do an event with the City and go big!

This is a bigger issue than just the increased traffic. We can use this as an opportunity to educate our kids about other ways to move about their community besides being in a car.

Do 5th graders have community service hours or projects they do? Maybe have them as walking bus monitors?

PTA will look to a subcommittee to talk about ideas.

PTA & School Volunteer needs - Liz Snyder (PTA President)

We are looking for two volunteers to help with our annual financial review.

Anyone who is available please come Thursday (8/26/21) to help set up tents for outdoor eating around 5:00 p.m. would be helpful.

We are still looking for outdoor lunch monitors. We also need more buckets. There is a call out for more buckets to Lowes.

Longer term needs:

Advocacy Chair
Spanish translators
UnFundraiser committee
Media Center volunteers

Please email the PTA if you have questions or to volunteer.

UnFundraiser

For those who are new this is our one main fundraiser for the school. Rather than have an event or sell things we just ask people to give what they can. It will probably start Mid-September.

Spirit Nights

We have one coming up at Jersey Mike's.

They will donate 50% of customer receipts who mention Forestview Elementary, ALL DAY LONG.
At the Patterson Place Location 3219 Watkins Road, Durham, NC

Principal Update – Principal Sledge

We are happy to be back in school and working with you and your children.

Our early focus this year is on relationship building. We are trying to accommodate the social and emotional needs of students.

Teachers were asked to call parents within the first two weeks of school.

Planning a curriculum night for parents to learn about our academics this year as well as how to use Seesaw, PowerSchool, etc.

Hot topics

1. We are still an out of capacity school. We have approximately 715 students and the school is built for 600. The Superintendent has walked the campus with Ms. Sledge to address needs. 4th grade is our second largest grade. The module units have the same quality of air filtration as the building.
2. Outdoor lunch – The Courtyard is great and that is thanks to parents. We need to look for better sitting during outdoor lunch for K-1 students because the buckets are a little tall. We are happy to work with the PTA to get additional tents so we can make this more systematic. The other issue is the heat because most grades have lunch and then go to recess. Currently based on our schedule the kids are outside for a long time so we have to watch that they don't get overheated.
3. We are looking for mutual trust with parents and the school to take care of students. We have their best interest at heart and will do our best to take care of them every day.
4. Traffic patterns - There is a significant increase in car riders across the district
FVE usually has 13 full buses and we are down to 8 and they are not full.
FVE had a bad traffic pattern before COVID and we are trying to improve it with are changes.
On 8/25/21 we counted over 250 cars.
The school welcomes all ideas to help with traffic.

Questions about traffic...

Staggered pick up time?

A: If we start dismissal early we are reducing instructional time so we want to avoid that because of the learning loss students are already experiencing.

Also we are not that far off of our normal carline end time. We are currently about 10 to 12 minutes longer than normal.

Q: What about having a Police Officer or a Sheriff to help direct traffic?

A: It is a paid position to have someone there regularly and the officers assigned to the area that we've asked to come by to monitor the area in the past have not wanted to do it.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Teachers wanted to thank parents for working with their kids and teaching them how to wear masks and to listen to the teachers.

Jill spoke to how caring and conscientious teachers were last year and how that was one of the reasons she chose to join the board as VP of teacher appreciation.

A parent asked to be notified if there was a change in outdoor lunch plans. Ms Sledge said that wasn't possible because last minute decisions have to be made and there are too many families to contact. She asked parents to trust that she had the best interest of the students in mind.

Save the dates

Monday, September 6 — NO SCHOOL, Labor Day

Wednesday, September 15 — Early release, 1:45

Wednesday, September 15 — Spirit fundraiser at Jersey Mike's, all day

Thursday, September 16 — NO SCHOOL- Teacher workday

Future PTA meetings

Sept 22nd

Oct 20th

Nov 17th

Link to Join the PTA

<https://forestviewpta.memberhub.com/store>

Link to join PTA newsletter

<https://tinyurl.com/y56ujkvm>

PTA email address

ptaforestviewelementary@gmail.com

MEETING ADJORNED: 7:40 P.M.

ATTENDANCE ON NEXT PAGE

ATTENDANCE

Stephen
Kathleen
Evelyn
Liz
Sara
Barbara
Jenni
Jill
Elizabeth
Felicia
Patrick
Dana
Tomika
Emily
Jen
Jennifer
Sarah
Cristina
Kristina
Ashley
Katherine
Elizabeth
Quincey
Tony

Sotolongo
Hill-Graves
Hallan
Snyder
Miller
Goettsch
Rosen
Stuart
Solorzano
Sledge
Walker
McCarty
Freeman
Thrasher
Meldrum
Gierisch
O'Brien
Damiani
Baldrige
Van Noppen
Neal
Van Voorhees
Farmer, Ed.D.
Patterson