

**Forest View Elementary**  
**[Virtual via Zoom](#)**  
**PTA & Steering Team**  
**January 12, 2022, 6:30pm**  
**MINUTES**

**MEETING TO CALLED ORDER: 6:33 P.M.**

**WELCOME - Liz**

First I would like to thank the teachers and staff at Forest View for working through the latest challenge COVID has thrown at them in the form of staffing shortages. All the teachers are having to work around staff absences. Special shout out to our office staff for coordinating coverage and our IAs who have been out of their own classrooms a lot.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Liz**

Minutes reviewed on screen and they were also posted to the membership via MemberHub and announced in weekly newsletter.

Motion to approve minutes was made and properly seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously via voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Barbara**

Report shared on screen and was also posted to the membership via MemberHub.

Reviewed checking and money market balances.

Had an excellent fundraising and exceeded our goal by \$7600.

Had lots of donations to staff gift cards during holidays.

Reviewed budget categories on screen to share current status of accounts.

Encouraged teachers to request reimbursement if items have been purchased and also encouraged teachers to utilize the \$100 grants available to all teachers.

**RE-BUDGET - Liz**

The Unfundraiser was a huge success and we have had more money come in even after it ended.

People have been really generous and I think we have the ability to fund a bigger project.

We could probably fund something for \$5,000?

Some possible thoughts we have had

- An extra piece of playground equipment for the new playground or get the K playground a replacement of the play house and play car.
- re-vamp of the courtyard. Look into the possibility of an easier to maintain garden that could be done.

- Anything needed to support the outdoor learning tables DPS is supposed to provide. Do we need gravel laid for ease of maintenance?
- PTA paying to have an outdoor celebration with bouncy houses or something in the spring if we can't pull off something more like our normal fall fest games.
- Having another round of grants for the teachers. Perhaps make it an application for one big grant instead of many smaller ones.
- Playground equipment was supported verbally and mentioned in chat.
- Climbing wall and climbing boulders.
- Second Basketball goal.
- Recess equipment

#### Principal Sledge

We have had issues with our schedule flow this year because we cannot have more than two grade levels on the playground at one time. I have approached DPS about adding a third playground.

Has already met with DPS and walked the current playground. The exploration phase is moving well.

Q: Do you think this is a 3-year plan or 5-year plan?

A: No idea! They do have funds to update some playgrounds. They came out to meet and she shared her rationale.

Q: Is there anything parents can do? Sign a petition? Contact anyone?

A: I have already told DPS our PTA is supportive and will do fundraising if needed. They did share concerns dealing with equity from school to school. At this point, I did not hear a "NO". Also we have concerns/rationale from a student learning perspective. I do believe the request is being seriously considered.

Liz - If there are any other ideas or suggestions about more immediate needs please email the PTA.

#### **PAAC - Tony**

Discussed and presented upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events in our community.

- Dream Big MLK Day - Book Harvest
- UNC at Chapel Hill - MLK Jr. Celebration events - [diversity.unc.edu](http://diversity.unc.edu)
- Events at Duke - [MLK.duke.edu](http://MLK.duke.edu)
- Durham Tech also hosted a virtual event.

Mrs. Graves - At Forest View we do have a Book Harvest donation bin at Forest View so you can bring your donations to us as well. The bin is right outside of the library.

### **THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER EVENTS - Liz**

Once again we are not sure what the future will hold in our ability to gather together but there are still some events we hope to have in some capacity.

- Together We Soar week. For those that are new this is our annual Disability and Inclusion Awareness week where we organize to have discussions about how our community is stronger when everyone is given the opportunity to be a contributing and participating member. I think this week has been in March.
- I am also hoping we can put together some kind of spring festival since we were not able to do the fall. Might have to be fully outdoors.
- Other things that usually happen at the school in the second semester are
  - Bedtime stories around the world (usually Jan/Feb) - This is being considered.
  - Week at the Creek - Being discussed by teachers and staff.
  - Black History (usually Feb)
  - Multicultural festival (usually Feb/March)
  - Book Fair/ Science Fair - Both are being considered.

Liz - Just want to make sure plan as well as we can so we do not have competing events.

Principal Sledge - Met with staff and her superintendent about options for events in the spring. The superintendent is OK with outdoor family engagement events. Our staff is also aware of planning events that are important to our community.

That being said, nothing is planned. Currently in survival mode. Talking with teachers about class coverage and emergency planning if teachers are out.

Staff is tired! However, I did ask that team leads go back to their staff and discuss ideas for events. I am sure we will provide something for families and students for Black History Month. Also there are ideas formulating around Earth Day that could be an outdoor event in April.

The main thing for Soar Week is to make sure we are not conflicting with testing. I will follow up with the testing schedule.

Liz - Just wanted to get this out there. It is good to get ideas out there and decide what to focus on. If that is one thing because that is all we can handle that is fine. But I know it is more interesting and more fun for the kids and the families when they can have some extra little things to focus on, and of course we're here as a resource for the teachers if they need, you know us to put together things more or anything like that.

### **PRINCIPAL UPDATE - Principal Sledge**

We can move forward with planning outdoor spring activities but everything is day to day.

We received a grant from the DPS Foundation for outdoor tables. They have been ordered.

Discussed MAKO testing - We have 275 people registered and that includes students and staff. Out of everyone who tested last week we only had 1 pool that was positive. First, thank you to parents for adhering to protocols.

When we came back from Thanksgiving, there was an increase of calls home about COVID even if the student did not come to schools. In many cases, the student was not actually in school. The school is required to report the positive case even if the student has not been in the building.

One of our goals this year is to maintain our "C" status. Over my first five years I have a goal of achieving a higher letter but this year, still working through a pandemic, our goal is to maintain.

Our fourth graders were highlighted because of the growth they made on the End of Grade testing. I want to highlight this because teachers are doing a lot and student learning is happening in all the grade levels. Everyone is working hard. Please spread the word to thank a teacher. Also kids are really happy.

We are working hard to give our teachers planning day but omicron threw a wrench in those plans. Planning is difficult because they are trying to figure out what kids missed and how to fill in the gaps so students can be successful.

We are hanging in there and we appreciate all of the support.

Q: How is attendance and did we get any new students in January?

A: We had 18% of our kids who did not return after break. Our average is around 5%. Other schools are in the high 20s and low 30s.

When kids were able to be vaccinated parents wanted to come back to Forest View. Our 2nd grade is busting at the seams. We do have a 2nd grade teaching position posted as well as other positions. All second grade classes are at 18 students.

Q: Is it possible for DPS to change MAKO testing to "opt-out" as opposed to an "opt-in".

A: I don't know but I can ask the question. We are encouraging it so we can get a better picture of what is happening at our school.

Liz - It was a nice piece of mind to know my kids were tested before the holidays.

Q: Do we think some parents think they are "opted-in" and just don't know?

Discuss - Not sure. Should we set up more information sharing about testing to remove any barriers. For instance volunteers can sit out front to publicize. Still would be hard to reach bus riders. Maybe we could send a paper note home in folders.

We are not sure what percentage of families actually use Seesaw. We have gotten feedback that it is overwhelming and too much information, so they ignore it.

Ms. Simpson - I have had more traction about leaving information in the communities we serve. Such as in office complexes or having a volunteer in community locations.

Ms. Sledge - We will bring this up to the Admin team.

Liz - Just one more thank you! We really appreciate what you are doing!

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:25 P.M.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Mon, Jan 17th - Wed, Jan 19th - NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / teacher work day

Fri, Jan 28th – Responsibility Spirit day “Get your (full night of) sleep on” (wear your pajamas)

Wed, Feb 9th- 2 hour early release

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Feb 16th 2022

March 16th 2022

April 20th 2022

May 18th 2022 (if needed)

June 8th 2022 (last meeting elections for next board)

Link to join PTA newsletter

<https://tinyurl.com/y56ujkvm>

PTA email address

[ptaforestviewelementary@gmail.com](mailto:ptaforestviewelementary@gmail.com)