

TRAILSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PTA MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 7:00 p.m. TMS Library

1. Welcome

Greg Ogorek (President) opened the meeting at 7:04. He welcomed more than 40 parents and staff, and introduced the following board members:

Vice President - Bob Wright

Vice President - David Goodfriend

Treasurer - Lisa Weber

Secretary Jean Ault

Principal - Bridget Beichler

Staff representatives: Felix Colaciello and Denise Soukup

2. Special Guest – Felix Colaciello – Google Classroom Introduction

Mr. Colaciello provided an overview of Google Classroom from both a teacher's and a student's perspective, then showed how parents can stay involved by using Google Classroom. Teachers can post notes, study guides, and assignments. The most recent posts will be shown first. Students receive alerts when something has been posted, just like they do on Instagram. They must have alerts/notifications active (on) on their device. Students can type back and forth with other students, discussing assignments or collaborating on work. They also can submit work and receive immediate feedback from teachers.

Parent/guardians should have been sent an email by one of your student's teachers. Look for one that begins "You have been invited to join Google Classroom." Always press "Accept" unless the name is not that of your student. Only one teacher will invite you. Once you accept you will be registered for all of your student's classes. Parents can see what assignments have been turned in and graded and what is due the next week. Make sure your child has enrolled in all classes. Multiple guardians can join Google Classroom.

Students login through "locker.lcps." Parents cannot access this student login and thus the parent cannot inadvertently submit a student's work. This also keep comments and collaborations among teacher/students only. There was a question as to how parents can see a students completed or graded work. At present, that is not available, but Mr. Colaciello encouraged parents to provide input to Google Classroom so that they might address parent's needs.

Parents had questions about why not all teachers are using Google Classroom. Some of the more experienced teachers have well-established websites or may have been using Vision and are slower to transition to Google Classroom, but most are using it. Mr. Colaciello is training all teachers so that they may be comfortable using it.

3. Treasurer's Report (7:25 p.m.)

a. 2015-2016 Audit Report Review

An independent audit was conducted on August 1, 2016 for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, and the budget was found to be in good standing with a balance of \$23,648.11.

b. Budget Review and Vote for Approval

Lisa Weber presented the 2016-2017 budget. Most items are consistent with last year. The amount for the cancelled picnic was subtracted. There are new line items added for teacher training (\$2,500) and the purchase of a sound system (\$500). From the 2015-2016 budget, \$7000 was spent to provide 10 outdoor picnic tables. This was approved at the June 2016 PTA General Meeting. A motion was made to approve the budget. It was seconded and the motion passed. A suggestion was made to leave in the line item for the picnic with a \$0 budget, so that it will not be forgotten next year. Mr. Ogorek reminded all that the goal of the PTA is to raise and spend money for the benefit of our students and teachers.

4. Committee Updates (7:33)

a. Spirit Night – Marna Gettleman – Chair

There is a planned spirit night for October 25th at Fuddruckers.

b. Staff Appreciation – Mary Gubler/Lynn Hall – Co-Chairs

Mary Gubler coordinates the First Fridays, where teacher's receive small gifts on the first Friday of the month. Lynn Hall coordinates the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

c. Dances

i. 6th grade Dance – Jennifer Wesson – Chair.

Mrs. Wesson reported that the dance will be held December 2. They have had one meeting so far. Check the "Volunteer" section of the PTA website if you would like to help.

ii. 7th Grade Dance – Mary Reilly – Chair

Mr. Wright reported that the dance, held September 16th, was a success with attendance of approximately 205 kids. They enjoyed the DJ, dancing, and photo booth.

iii. 8th Grade Dance – Virginia Kennedy – Chair

Mr. Wright reported that they had a committee of three and are progressing toward the date of October 28th.

d. Volleyball – Lisa Figueroa – Chair

Mrs. Figueroa reported that Farmwell Hunt Middle School will host this year's staff volleyball game on February 4th. Students participate by designing T-shirts, selling tickets, and promoting the event. Some proceeds from the bake sale are given to schools with need. Last year, we gave \$300 to a sister school in Sterling, where they have 70% of students on reduced lunch pricing.

e. Musical – Kim Ogorek – Chair

Mrs. Ogorek is still nailing down the audition dates for December. Rehearsals will start in January, and the shows will be in April. There will be a parent meeting before auditions so that they and the students understand the commitment involved. Rehearsals can be 3 times or more per week right after school.

f. Reflections – Saige Burns – Chair

Mr. Wright reported that this National arts program is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents in the arts, such as writing, film, photography, visual arts, music, and dance. The program issues honors and recognition for their submissions. There is also a special needs category. He encouraged parents to check out this free opportunity. Music and Arts teachers will also inform the students about this opportunity.

g. Teacher Grants – Margorie Lee – Chair

Mrs. Lee explained that any teacher can apply for a grant by December 17th. She could use volunteers on the committee to help select recipients for the grant money.

h. Volunteer Committee – Toni Hansen – Chair

No report.

i. MSAAC (Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee) – Colleen Mullen – Chair

Mrs. Mullen reported that no meetings had been held yet. The committee is focused on equality in education for minority students. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in the Academic Building.

j. SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) Joanne Aceto/Aundrea Foster – Co-Chairs

Mrs. Aceto reported that there was a “meet and greet” with the County Special Education Coordinator. The meeting meetings are posted on the website.

k. LEAP (Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents) – David Goodfriend – Chair

Dr. Goodfriend reported that the Principal of the Academies of Loudoun presented at the last meeting. Minutes will be posted.

5. Principal's Report (7:49 p.m.) – Bridget Beichler

Mrs. Beichler described the Personalized Learning Program for which TMS was selected to participate. Trailside is one of 15 Loudoun Schools selected (5 middle schools). Personalized Learning is aligned with the Loudoun 2020 Vision and One For the World, preparing children for jobs that possibly don't yet exist. Trying to meet diverse needs and teaching kids the skills they will need to make meaningful contributions in the world – skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Principal Beichler showed a video, which described how they program encourages students based on their interest and can be used to tailor a student's work based on where they are in their mastery of that topic. It meets each student where they are instead of teaching to the middle. Kids with learning gaps will have access to significant content. Kids that have shown basic subject mastery will continue to be challenged. There will be no ceiling on a student's learning.

6. Adjourn (8:18 p.m.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.
