

Terraset PTA Meeting Minutes 7pm Tuesday December 1, 2009

The meeting opened at 7:05pm

Present: Stephannie Randall (President), Heather Thomas (Vice President), Annette Bobby (Treasurer), Liz Falcone (Secretary), Dianne Rose, Aimee Minto, Brian Davidson, Ellen Cury, Joan Carter, Scott Logan, Rebecca Estrada.

Apologies: Faye Coddling, Suzanne Veter, Tracy Waller, Alison Stobie, Suzanne White.

1. Stephanie Randall opened the meeting and welcomed all present
2. The minutes from November 10, 2009 were reviewed. Mrs. Cury moved they were an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded Scott Logan. Agreed.
3. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
4. *President's Report*
 - 4.1. Stephanie advised that the Bylaws passed by the membership at the last meeting have been submitted to Virginia PTA and will be available on the PTA website by the end of the week.
 - 4.2. The first Tigers on the Town for the year will be held Monday, December 7th. 25% of purchases will go to Terraset PTA when the customer presents our flyer. Need to call for volunteers to hand out flyers at on the day at Kiss-and-Ride and Chick-Fil-A, particularly at the drive-through.
 - 4.3. Heather and Stephanie attended a Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) meeting.
 - 4.3.1. Dr Jack Dale, Superintendant of FCPS lead the meeting. There were approximately 75 attendees.
 - 4.3.2. The list of proposed budget cuts continues to change and is not expected to be finalized until January.
 - 4.3.3. Needs Based Staffing has been taken off the cuts list. Highlights included:
 - \$114mill in cuts listed but need \$176 million.
 - Confident \$40mill will come from step freezes in salaries for staff.
 - Require either more money or more cuts.
 - It is generally understood that Virginia has no money. Governor Kaine has intimated that he may increase taxes.
 - The school system needs funds from both local and state sources. Currently, 75% of funding comes from local government.
 - Our School Board representative is Stu Gibson. Our Fairfax County Board of Supervisors member is Cathy Hudgins and Chair is Sharon Bulova. Our state delegate is Ken Plum and our senator is Janet Howell.
 - Programs where there are fees may become means tested.

- Class sizes may be increased by two students, but certainly one.
- Fine arts programs under biggest threat. Fullday kindergarten under severe threat. Retention may be influenced by test scores and poverty level.
- Increased income could come from property taxes, restaurant taxes, gas taxes, and/or vehicle registration fees.
- It was suggested that to close the gap an increase to property taxes of 18c per \$100 would be needed.
- Board of Supervisors did not seem to be aware that support of advanced academics (formerly GT) centers is not necessarily system wide.
- There has been no discussion of cutting magnet schools.
- Important to note that there are also two at large school board members.

5. *Treasurer's Report*

- 5.1. Big receipts for the month were from giftwrap. Estimate there is about \$1400 still to come in. There was over \$1700 in receipts from spirit wear, but invoice has not yet been received.
- 5.2. There have been several bounced check, but only one depositor has responded to a request for payment to date
- 5.3. We currently have over \$20k in the bank. Agreed that we need to remind teachers about the availability of Teacher Mini Grants.

6. *Principal's Report*

- 6.1. The band and strings concert is coming up on December 15th.
- 6.2. Chorus concert has been rescheduled for beginning of Feb.
- 6.3. Staffing now settled and looking forward to a very good year.

7. *Spiritwear Store*

- 7.1. Brian Davidson suggested we should consider online spirit wear sales. Current sytem is "one hit" and does not maximize potential. An online store would support printing on demand and a bigger variety of products. Simply need to upload artwork, parents order directly commission comes to PTA. Options include zazzle.com and cafepress.com (where you can set the markup). Parents pay for shipping. We would need to provide a link from our web site. There is usually no mumimum sales requirement. Will need to check whether there are setup costs. An annual fee of about \$60 is charged by CafePress. Zazzle free with 10% commission built into the price. Our current income is a flat \$2 per item sold. Brian offered to setup a trial site.

8. *Other Business*

- 8.1. The next county budget meeting will be held Wednesday, December 2nd.
- 8.2. A parent has donated funds for 5th grade to pay for a bus for one class to go on a field trip. In order to ensure equity, both 5th grade classes will participate. A mini-grant will be submitted requesting funds to pay for the second bus.
- 8.3. The meeting was advised that the school typically participates in Barnes & Noble school support events and we anticipate that Mrs. Stanmyre will organize this again this year.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm.

Next meeting: 7pm, Tuesday, January 5th, 2010.