PTO Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday March 12, 2019, 6:00 pm, Minutes taken by Secretary, Melissa Chernovsky

President's Report (Elizabeth King)

- Variety Night - Discussion about the event

Principal's report (Shira Dowling)

- Outdoor Spaces
    - The outdoor spaces committee met and are working on developing the plan for the space by the cafeteria was 1st priority
    - There will be 3 tables added to the 1 that is there and boulders added around to use as seating for 32 children
    - The area will include see through planters to give separation
    - If money remains will work on the courtyard to add creative play options
    - Premise of the cafeteria space is low-maintenance
    - In about two weeks a sketch will be available
- Parent Teacher Conferences occurred on March 5th
- The 4th grade Arlington Echo meeting for volunteers was yesterday March 11th to review the heavy volunteer commitment of 2 days and 1 night
    - The meeting was to gauge whether families are comfortable with an overnight field trip
    - Teachers continue to advocate to continue the field trip
- Science fair projects are coming into the school – to be shown at the upcoming Science Night
- The Bookfair is coming up in April
- Discussion regarding participation in band and the instruments selection
    - AACPS policy introduces string instruments in 3rd grade, and wind inst. in 4th grade
    - Rolling Knolls students can participate in both the string and wind bands in 4th and 5th.
    - Most other elementary schools do not have the opportunity to choose both bands in 4th and 5th grade; elementary schools share teacher resources
    - There is a 6 hour field trip for band students with 15 leaving class, with separate field trips for string and wind instruments – time away from class adds up
    - Consideration is being made to remove the option to participate in both bands at once; an idea that if the elimination was made that students have ability to re-select midway through the school year (1/2 way point).
- Rolling Knolls is considering "Departmentalization" for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.
    - Premise is to reduce the amount of curriculum and associated planning load for the teachers as means to increase teacher retention
    - The curriculum and rigor would remain the same for the students
    - Each teacher would retain guided reading in homeroom, and have either 3 mathematics, 3 social studies, or 3 science classes

- There will be a teacher shortage across Maryland next year, where Maryland does not graduate enough teachers/educators to fill the Maryland school positions. Maryland recruits from PA, NY, MI.
- Departmentalization will not be made for K, 1 or 2, although those grades will continue to trade for guided reading
- Teachers declare intentions for next year in Mid-March and final decisions are made by July 31st.

VP report (Audrey McGuire)

- Teacher Appreciation: March event – Smoothies

Treasurer's Report (Kim Augusterfer unable to attend)

- A balance sheet was provided and available. Total assets are currently $28,370. of which $9291 is earmarked for the Backpack Buddies program.
- A Volunteer for treasurer next year is available

Volunteer Coordinator (discussion on behalf of Lauren Miller)

- Backpack Buddies program is an opportunity for middle and high school student volunteers, and can count toward AACPS school volunteer hours requirements.
- Race for Education has a few volunteer sessions and there are not a lot of participants for the one evening session, which would be a good opportunity for high school volunteers.
- Mids for Kids Program: although they are on break this week, the program is in need of regular drivers for pickup and return to the Naval Academy grounds. There is a Signup Genius. There will definitely be one more year of the program at Rolling Knolls, which is good as the teachers and students have positively responded to the program.

Special Events Coordinator (Catherine Bishop)

- No updates

Race for Education Committee (Lisa Lyman)

- Discussion regarding the distribution of t-shirts for the students. Consensus is that sizing the children's shoulders after lunch on stage with a wide selection is better than forms. When using forms, need to figure out who didn't respond and guesstimate the shirt sizes to order.
- Event being planned for April 26th, with the rain date April 29th.

Secretary (Melissa Chernovsky)

- Box Top Collection winner with the largest tally was the 4th grade. It was discussed that it would be best to schedule the student selected events prior to PARCC exams which start April 30th.

RKE Staff Report (Mrs. Dowling)

- Teachers are appreciative of the PTO support and enjoyed the February soup bar for the teacher appreciation
- Topics mostly covered in the Principal's report

Next General Membership meeting is on Tuesday April 16th 2019.

Adjourn ~7:30pm.