

PTA General Meeting, 7pm, 12/3/2018

Members in attendance (14): Kathryn Farmer, Candi Sparrow, Beth Keber, Brad Tobin, Alison Wines, Anna Jaeger, Staci Rijal, Bridget Baker-White, Jen Swiselberger, Nicole Durity, Abena Durity, Mateo Munoz, Carrie Lewis, Seth Kennard.

Trey Billips opened the meeting at 7:08pm

Exec Committee Reports

- **President**

- Fall Appeal - Thank you to everyone who donated to the Fall Appeal, who worked on the Fall Appeal and who made the Fall Appeal a success! We made our \$40K goal. You may continue to contribute, the link is still up online at www.cbpta.org
- Barnes & Noble Giving Tree event on 12/1 - Went really well! If anyone wants to participate, you can go to Barnes and Noble online through 12/5, enter code 12471306.
 - You can directly donate to the CBES Giving Tree online at www.cbpta.org, link at the top of the page. The Giving Tree purchases food and gifts for CBES families in need.
- PTA Newsletter - The PTA is sending out it's own newsletter separate from the Barrett Buzz. If you are not getting it, please let someone on the executive committee know. It is also posted online at <https://www.cbpta.org/newsletters>

- **Treasurer**

- Current Financial Statement.
 - Fall Appeal current net is \$40,646. We believe we will get 3K more in corporate matches.
 - Online reimbursement process - Strongly encourage people to use the online reimbursement form when requesting reimbursement. It is online at www.cbpta.org Using the online option puts the \$\$ directly into your bank very quickly, sometimes within hours of submission.
 - Request from membership to put the downloadable reimbursement form and the online reimbursement link in the same place on the website. PTA Secretary will do this.

- **Secretary**

- Motion to approve the minutes of the Nov 13, 2018 meeting. Motion approved.

- **Committees**

- **Holiday Shop, Dec 8th - 9am-noon. We need more Volunteers!** Particularly for the second shift. A link to sign up is on www.cbpta.org or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e4aaca72da13-holiday1>
- Tons of new crafts this year!

- Sugar scrubs, stenciled frames, greeting cards, lego crafts, ornaments and more!
- There will be cocoa, hot coffee and some treats from Buzz Bakery.

Principal's Report

- Family Literacy Night had a great turn-out - thank you! Next big school night event is Math Game Night in February. Start talking it up with your kids.
- ACPS budget - The proposed budget is out. Impact on CBES:
 - Looking to add a 3rd office secretary.
 - Some enrollment increases could give us a new section/teacher, but we are not sure which grade level yet (Kindergarten or 4th grade).
- Giving Tree program is underway. We give food and gifts through the holiday seasons to CBES families in need.
- City Playground Project - Met with city about the playground projects. Both playgrounds (the Rec playground and the school playground) are due to be redone over the summer. Working to make sure that our summer programs (summer school and city rec programs) have playground access. Once dates for these projects are solidified, Seth will let us know.
- Bridge project on Glebe that was set to impact our traffic flow is in flux. Seth will follow up.
- This monday our 5th graders will get to taste test pizza to help ACPS find a new pizza vendor. Our students learn to write persuasive letters as part of the curriculum and many of these letters are about the quality of the cafeteria food. So here is the result of advocacy! :)
- Questions for Seth Kennard:
 - Is there a winter concert this year? Yes, Dec 20th, only Second and Fifth grades. Kindergarten concert during school on the last day before break 12/21.
 - Should we as a community be applying pressure to get additional teachers as discussed in your presentation? The situation is currently in flux, so when Seth has more information he will work with Trey and PTA to strategize where and when to apply pressure.
 - If we added a teacher in 4th grade, would there be classroom space? Yes, there is. But it would likely impact office space/small activities spaces.
 - Is there space to fit a portable trailer/classroom should we need extra classroom space? Only space is the grassy area between the library and walkway to Rec. Not an optimal space.
 - K Prep, have they restored it to 5 days for summer 2019? Seth does not know at the moment. ACPS calendar shows that it is 5 days, but it did in summer 2018 as well and then was cut shorter. We would love for it to be a full five days.

- Any more emergency drills this month? No. January there will be a fire drill and a tornado drill. Then a review of how to walk to “safe place” (Park East) in Jan/Feb.

Margaret Lorber, school board representative and CBES school board liaison

- Parent Involvement - Urged parents to be involved with the school board and the budget process. Be vocal, work with Seth and the PTA to make your voices heard.
- CIP (Capital Improvements Budget) - This Thursday, Dec 6th at 7pm, is a public hearing for the Capital Improvements (CIP) Budget - this budget is for facilities, school building maintenance. Meeting information can be found at https://esbpublic.acps.k12.va.us/public_agendaview.aspx?mtgId=1330
 - Impact on CBES:
 - CBES has an HVAC system that needs some work, but not currently scheduled/budgeted for 4 more years. This jumped out at Margaret as something to address.
 - Seth - CIP is a bit concerning because we are not scheduled for a school building refresh for 10 years. Main part of our building was built in 1947 and if we don't maintain it it will fall apart. But our HVAC system is old. So far, it has never broken down, but it is past it's life expectancy. It needs to be remapped and rebalanced. Rebalancing is normal every 2 years. We haven't had it done in 10 years. If you want to advocate for something for CBES in the CIP budget, focus on the following:
 - Building envelope maintenance (keeping out leaks, proper drainage, etc)
 - HVAC system
- Renewed focus on education in Alexandria - With the current city council and Mayor, having kids in ACPS, Margaret believes you will see more interest in ACPS and a renewed interest in education.
- Operations budget - This is the budget that addresses spending on teachers, etc. Margaret's concerns are that as a school system we are understaffed and that there are inequities in staffing across the system.
- High School - Margaret is hearing frustration that parents haven't had a chance to talk about one vs. two high school option. People want to have a discussion about the pros and cons of having 1 vs. 2 high schools in Alexandria
 - Margaret is advocating having that discussion, but it shouldn't slow down addressing the issues at TC.
 - Margaret advocates: taking down Minnie Howard, we could take that building down and put up a new one that could immediately remedy some of the capacity problems at TC Williams.
 - Then if a second high school is the option that is pursued, we follow the process to find a site and build a new building.
- Questions:

- What's the best way to show force/advocate as parents? Reasonable, sensible, articulate letters/emails. When you submit it to the board online, it also goes directly to the Superintendent. It's quite effective to have a letter with many, many signatures. The parental voice is important.
- New board members, will they get copied on online letter submissions? Not yet, they take office in January.
- Any information regarding Amazon HQ2 and putting a new school in Potomac Yards? No, not at this time. There are many discussions about the Virginia Tech campus that is supposed to be part of the HQ2 deal.
- Redistricting, how does that play out now that we might see increased enrollment due to HQ2? Unknown at this time.
- Contact Margaret Lorber: Please feel free to contact Margaret at any time margaret.lorber@acps.k12.va.us
- District B School Board members - Cindy Anderson, Margaret Lorber, Veronica Noland
For more information, please visit <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/domain/41#anderson>

New Business - none.

New president elect: Anna Jaeger!!

Please email Trey Billips regarding any PTA issues (not Seth Kennard) or things you'd like to see in meetings, things we should be talking about: cbptapresident@gmail.com Or contact any member of the board: <https://www.cbpta.org/meet-the-team>

Next meeting is January 7th @ 8am. We are working on getting the ACPS Superintendent Dr. Hutchings to be our guest. This is a morning meeting! Drop off the kids and come on into the Library!