**Minutes of the Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

**Gunston Middle School PTA Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Lori Wiggins, Principal, Sal D'Itri, PTA President, Courtney Holmes, Vice President Social, Libby McNulty and Yara Maestre, Vice Presidents Fundraising, Meg Riley-Jamison, PTA Secretary, Cindy MacIntyre, Hospitality, List of parent attendees attached.

**Guests:**

Kimberly Pearson Resources Teacher for the Gifted

Sara Gortenberg, Second Chance Arlington

1. **Approval of the Minutes by Consent** – Minutes from the October 11, 2016 PTA meeting were approved.

2. **Gifted and Talented Program**

Kimberly Pearson described her roles within Gunston as: 1) Providing daily differentiation for gifted learners; 2) Providing training to teachers; and 3) Assessing teacher effectiveness. As part of the gifted team in the county her role is to help develop policies and programs within the school system.

Ms. Pearson routinely collaborates with teachers on items such as: assessing grade level content, whole group or team teaching, co-planning, small group programs, teaching outside of the classroom (ex. Science Fair projects), and clustering teams within classes. APS uses the K-12 Critical Creative Thinking Models and an example of this are the recent Socratic seminars held within the 8th grade. Teachers within the county are trained in both professional development seminars held throughout the year. Additionally, many teachers within the school system have completed 40 or more hours of gifted services education through graduate school.

The referral form for Gifted Services assessment can be found under Programs/Gifted. There are links to additional information and resources there, as well. Please contact Ms. Pearson for any additional information or questions.

3. **Second Chance Arlington**

Sara Gortenberg with Second Chance Arlington gave an overview of the program funded by the Arlington County Board and Arlington County School Board. Second Chance is a free, three-day early intervention education program available to teens in grades 6-12. It is designed to help students who have a first time offense using alcohol, marijuana or other illegal substances. There is a three-hour required parent component and a “booster session” for both the teens and their parents/guardians six to eight weeks after the initial session. Students who successfully complete all three components may avoid suspension from school and court involvement for this offense.

Ms. Gortenberg relayed that 88% of students who complete the program do not have another substance abuse charge through high school. Referrals can be made by a school resource officer, the court, school administration, a parent or by students themselves. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact her at [www.secondchancearlington.org](http://www.secondchancearlington.org).

4. **Sports Loaner Equipment**

Sal D'Itri relayed that the PTA has received a request from the PE teachers to fund sports equipment that they can loan out evenings and weekends to students to practice on their own. The teachers supplied a list of equipment that they would like to have. A suggestion was made that a list of equipment be circulated to parents to see what new or nearly new items may be donated.

A motion was made to seek donations and then to purchase remaining items with PTA funds up to $200. The motion was seconded and passed.

5. **Committee Reports**

A. **Social, Courtney Holmes**

Fall Fun Fest - While the PTA spent $1,200 more than it raised at the festival, feedback was that it was very well received by students at all grade levels.

5. **Committee Reports (continued)**

**B. Fundraising, Libby McNulty and Joanne Burd**

* 1. Proposed Read-A-Thon – Sal D'Itri discussed the outline of a read-a-thon to be held for 2 weeks in January. He showed the Read-A-Thon.com website and suggests that prizes will be given to the top TA's. The PTA will ask Mr. Kostner to help with a video to promote the fundraiser.
  2. Chipotle Fund Raiser - Libby McNulty reported that the check from Chipotle was received for $558. She is looking for suggestions for other restaurants to approach to set up another fundraiser.

Additionally, Chipotle sent 250 BOGO (Buy One Get One) cards to the PTA along with the check. Discussion took place on how to distribute and Dr. Wiggins was asked if the teachers would like to receive them. They will be put in mailboxes before the Thanksgiving holiday break.

* 1. Update on Grocery Cards – Gunston has raised approximately $600 from Harris Teeter and Giant grocery card programs so far this school year. Please continue to get the word out to parents to link their cards.

6. Funding requests

A. **HILTA Student Thanksgiving Meal** - The PTA has historically funded a Thanksgiving dinner with the High Intensity Language Training (HILTA) group. The PTA will again organize and support it at a cost of approximately $160. Sal D'Itri is looking for assistance to set up and organize the meal.

B. **Teacher Armchair for the Holidays** - Sal D'Itri would like to give families in need and teachers/staff (approximately 140) at Gunston a gift card toward the holidays. He projects approximately $5,000 would be needed to cover the cost of gift cards. The discussion supported holding an armchair fundraiser. Sal will be sending around a draft.

7. Adjournment at 8:19 pm.

**Parent Attendees:**

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| **Parent Name** | **Student Name(s)** | **Grade(s)** |
| Dilip Ghate | Shalin Ghate | 6 |
| Alix Beith | Stefan Regelia | 6 |
| Emma Schons | Christian Schons | 6 |
| Jason Papacasma | Charlotte Papacasma | 6 |
| Harriet Morgan | Joanna Wahl | 6 |
| Kendra Briechle | Harrison Greenberg | 6 |
| Carlos Delajucera | Guliana | 6th |
| Munkhtuya Adiya | Temuulen Bulgantsogt | 6 |
| Whitney Wilkin | Kyle |  |
| Dee Bertke | Mike | 7 |
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