**Minutes of the Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

**Gunston Middle School PTA Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Lori Wiggins, Principal, Sal D'Itri, PTA President, Irene Liebman, Vice President Communications, Courtney Holmes, Vice President Social, Joanne Burd and Libby McNulty, Vice Presidents Fundraising, Jim Oliver, Treasurer, Meg Riley-Jamison, PTA Secretary, Cindy MacIntyre, Hospitality, List of parent attendees attached.

**Guests:** Katharine Hale, IT Coordinator,Carolyn Clark, , Assistant Vice Principal Marcelo Flores, Assistant Vice Principal, and Carl Seward, Assistant Vice Principal

1. **Approval of the Minutes by Consent** – Minutes from the September 13, 2015 PTA meeting were approved.

2. **Dr. Wiggins – School Board Redistricting**

Dr Wiggins discussed the overcrowding projected for 3 Arlington high schools in 2017-18: W&L (437 students over), Yorktown (150 over) and Wakefield (150 over). The Arlington County School Board is in the process of reviewing neighborhoods boarding each of those schools to identify 100 students to redistrict over the next 4 school years or through 2020. Attendees were encouraged to look at the online tool which shows all of the planning units for high school. It is at [www.apsva.us/APS-Boundaries](http://www.apsva.us/APS-Boundaries). It was noted that while this process is taking place now for high school, it will shift to middle school and then elementary schools accordingly. Attendance zones for middle and elementary school are also available through the online tool.

3. **Katharine Hale, IT Coordinator**

– Ms. Hale shared with the group examples of how the iPad is used as an enhanced learning tool within the school and has been a way to personalize learning for each student. She showed the current App Catalog and informed the group that all apps that have been vetted before being included. Ms. Hale discussed the current security and filters in place. When using the APS internet, filters are in place to prohibit sites and content.

- She discussed that currently teachers can use both Blackboard and Google classroom for assignments.

- She demonstrated uses on some of the tools, such as calendar, Reminder, Notes, Photos and InClass as an agenda.

- There was discussion on the status of ipads when they have been damaged. Ms. Hale referred to the instructions on the handout, GMS Parents iPad Cheat Sheet (attached) which says that iPads in need of repair should be dropped onto the cart outside of her office with a note.

- She announced that the next Appy Hour is scheduled for November 15 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

4. **Results of Sept. PTA Survey** – Sal D'Itri will email the results of the PTA survey to the PTA listserv.

5. **Committee Reports**

A. **Treasurer, Jim Oliver** - Jim discussed the need to drive membership.

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

- Grocery Cards – Discussed ways to increase participation in linking grocery cards.

- Chipotle – Discussed communication efforts to promote the Chipotle fundraiser on Monday, October 17. The restaurant will donate 50% of food sales from anyone who gives the flier or identifies as being there for Gunston from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

- Other Venues – Joanne and Libby are working on additional restaurants for future dining out for Gunston nights.

C. **Social, Courtney Holmes**

- Fall Fun Fest – The fun fest is Friday, October 28 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the gym. Activities include inflatables, a DJ, a Food Truck, henna tattoos, a photo booth, pop corn and cotton candy. Tickets will be sold in school from October 24 – 28 and are $5 in advance. At the door individual tickets are $7 and families are $15. Courtney is seeking volunteers for the activities and will be sending out a sign up genius.

D. **Communications, Irene Liebman** – The website updates are completed. The PTA is looking into a Facebook page for the Gunston Community. There was discussion of other communication tools: School Talk and Peach Jar. There was a request to post the notices circulated by Peach Jar on the Gunston website. The PTA will look into archiving those on the website.

6. **Announcements**

- **6th Grade Mixer** – Sal D'Itri will be contacting the parents who indicated that they would be interested in organizing and attending a mixer for 6th grade parents.

- **Next meeting** – The next PTA meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 8, which is Election Day. It will be moved to Tuesday, November 15, 2016.

- Sal D'Itri asked that topics for future PTA meetings be sent to him.

7. Adjournment at 8:26 pm.

**Parent Attendees:**

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| **Parent Name** | **Student Name(s)** | **Grade(s)** |
| Carolyn Clark | Jordan Clark | 8 |
| Victoria Brantley | Rachel Brantley | 6 |
| Lois Koontz | Lucy Koontz | 6 |
| Virginia Huth | Jeremy Melocik | 6 |
| Mia Stephens | Gianna Stephens | 6 |
| Raquel Rodriguez | Luis Matos | 6 |
| Adora Williams | Madeline Martin | 6 |
| Bushra Hamid | Khalid Hamid | 6 |
| Hanim Magzoub | Khalid Hamid | 6 |
| Nancy Carey | Rachel Azucena Carey | 6 |
| Harriett Morgan | Joanna Wahl | 6 |
| Whytni Kernodle | Jackson Frederick | 6 |
| Robert Frederick | Jackson Frederick | 6 |

**GMS Parents iPad Cheat Sheet**

*draft*

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| **My child sometimes struggles with…** | **What can we do?** |
| Keeping Up with Homework | Teach them different strategies: Google Classroom post, Reminders app, Calendar app, Take photos in Notes, in Class app, Clock Alarm |
| Reading | Settings > General > Accessibility > Speech > Turn everything ON |
| Taking Notes | Teach them different strategies: Pinnick app, RecorderHQ app, Take pictures and mark up in Camera app, Use Siri, Explain Everything app, Sketch in Notes app |
| Always on the iPad | Look over their shoulder, Look at what other apps are open, Look at Safari history, Look in folders, Look at body language, Set curfews, Charge iPads outside bedrooms, Give "this or that" choices |
| iPad Repair or Lost? | Check every class and look in iPad Lost & Found basket in main office. Turn iPad issue to cart outside Ms. Hales's office with a note. Students must check back in the cart for fixed iPads. IPads re available to "use" in library. Google Classroom can be accessible form any computer – classroom.google.com |

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