**Minutes of the Tuesday, December 13, 2016**

**Gunston Middle School PTA Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Lori Wiggins, Principal, Sal D'Itri, PTA President, Irene Liebman, Vice President Communications, Joanne Burd and Yara Maestre, Vice Presidents Fundraising, Meg Riley-Jamison, PTA Secretary, Cindy MacIntyre, Hospitality, List of parent attendees attached.

**Guests:**

Susanna Herada, Parent of Arlington Tech Student

Roxanne Lindholm, Parent of Arlington Tech Student

Pam Nagurka, Secondary STEM Specialist, APS

1. **Approval of the Minutes by Consent** – Minutes from the November 15, 2016 PTA meeting were approved.

2. **Arlington Tech**

Susanna Herada and Roxanne Lindholm led parents in a presentation about Arlington Tech High School which began in September 2016 with a class of 40 students. Arlington Tech is a comprehensive high school program, centered on project based learning, **which prepares students to succeed in college and in the workplace through collaborative problem solving. The plan is to expand the high school both in enrollment (100 students per grade) and to build a third level on the building.**

 **Students receive the same curriculum and credits for classes as all other APS high school student and as required by the State of Virginia. Electives are classes such as, Computer-Assisted Drawing (CAD), Forensic Technology, Engineering, Digital Photography, etc. Students from other high schools are eligible to take electives at Arlington Tech and are bused from their home school.**

**This is a lottery school. Applications are accepted through January 31, 2017. Additional information on the curriculum, schedule options, application process and earning college credits on the website at:** <https://careercenter.apsva.us/arlington-tech/>

3. STEM

 Pam Nagurka, Secondary STEM Specialist with APS, discussed her role in integrating STEM with 6th – 12 grade teachers throughout the county. One of the initiatives she oversaw and assisted teachers in preparing and presenting in December was for the day of coding.

 She showed attendees how to find Parent and Student Resources, such as the monthly STEM calendar on the STEM pages on the APS website. Go to [www.apsva.us/stem](http://www.apsva.us/stem) for her contact information, the challenge of the week and the resources mentioned above.

**4. Giving Campaign**

Sal D'Itri announced that the PTA met the goal to raise $6,000 for the Giving Campaign. The goal was to purchase $25 Giant cards for the 50 families in need within the school and to provide all 168 teachers and staff of Gunston a gift card for the holidays. Additionally, some funds will be used for a teacher appreciation breakfast right before the holiday break.

**5. Update from Dr. Wiggins**

Dr. Wiggins shared that the trailers are now occupied with two classes: HILT Math and HILT English Language Arts. She also thanked the PTA for the upcoming Giving Campaign.

6. Adjournment at 8:10 pm.

**Parent Attendees:**

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| **Parent Name** | **Student Name(s)** | **Grade(s)** | **Email** |
| William Cook | Sloane Cook Escobar | 4th |  |
| Lauren Ford | Ameila and Anna  | 7th, 4th | Laurenperryford@gmail.com |
| Steve Meyer | Anastasia | 8th | spmeyer@me.com |
| Emma Schons | Christian | 6th |  |
| David Gardner | June  | 6th |  |
| Harriett Morgan | Joanna Wahl | 6th | hmorgan@wahl-morgan.com |
| Rosa Rocho | Jail Fernandez | 8th | Rocharosa12@gmail.com |
| Sarah Evans | Elise & Cara Richard | 1st, 4th |  |
| Vanesa  | Renee Whiffen | 8th | vanesa@junica.net |
| Stephen Duall | Sebastian, Alex | 8th, 7th | sduall@mac.com |
| Peter & Ina Dedalino | Afiran, Azra, Allya | 8th, 6th, 6th | heiwaiiap@gmail.com |
| Adora Williams | Maddie Martin | 6th |  |
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