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

**Gunston Middle School PTA Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Lori Wiggins, Principal, Sal D'Itri, PTA President, Courtney Holmes, Vice President Social, Joanne Burd, Vice President Fundraising, Jim Oliver, Treasurer, Meg Riley-Jamison, PTA Secretary, Tiffany McAvoy, Hospitality, Julie Kluge, Volunteer Coordination. List of parent attendees attached.

**Guests:**

Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair, Arlington County School Board and Liaison to Gunston, John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities & Operations, Luis Matos, Activities Director

1. **Agenda and Introductions -** Sal D'Itri opened the meeting with introductions of the PTA board members present.
2. **AC Update -** Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Arlington County School Board Member, and John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities & Operations, provided an update on the AC issues at Gunston. Dr. Kanninen stated that Board was aware that issues existed in the system for some time and apologized for the frustration. John Chadwick stated that because of more than one expansion of Gunston over the years, the system was built in stages. At the time of the meeting, the main system in the building is working properly but other systems (mainly the 8th grade wing) are waiting for parts to arrive to get them working correctly. The repairs made over the past week are the short-term solution. It was also announced that the system will be replaced, but because of the size and disruption that it would cause to the school, it was be completed over the next two summers. Additionally, Mr. Chadwick explained that a consultant is being brought in to conduct a study of all systems within the building. It will be compared to the study completed 2 years ago to determine what other systems need to be addressed. Dr. Wiggins told parents that the current hot spot in the building was in the 8th grade hallway. The APS range of temperatures should be 60 to 85 degrees. When it falls outside of that range, the class will be relocated, which is what has happened with some 8th grade classes.
3. **After School Activities –** Dr. Wiggins introduced the new Activities Director, Luis Matos. Mr. Matos is responsible for afterschool sports, activities, clubs and late buses. He was formerly with the Community Center. Mr. Matos is still finalizing logistics for some sports and clubs, and will begin sending the Weekly Activities Email to parents this week through School Talk. Additional information will be sent when applicable through Peach Jar and/or the PTA. Students have been getting information in the morning announcements. The Late Bus started on September 12. Students can go to the community center or after school library to wait for a late bus when between PM1 and the late bus. Purple passes are needed to take the late bus.
4. **PTA Survey -** Sal D'Itri discussed the survey distributed at the meeting and encouraged all attendees to provide feedback.
5. **Proposed PTA Activities –** Sal D'Itri discussed that the PTA has already put on a teacher appreciation Breakfast, a 6th Grade Orientation and a Teach Welcome Back event. Back to School night is September 20 and the PTA will be present. He stressed that with these and future events a goal is to support and raise morale of Gunston teachers.

Sal D'Itri also discussed future plans and needs of the PTA this year:

a. Two positions still need to be filled: Spanish translator and ACI. Rachel Rodriguez volunteered at the meeting to assist with Spanish translation.

b. Fall Festival will be moved to later in October.

c. A reminder was given to link grocery cards to GMS. Gunston raised $200 through this last year while other schools raised $7,000.

d. Spirit Wear will be announced shortly so that parents and students can show their school pride.

e. Topics for future PTA meetings – please email Sal D'Itri.

1. **Guide to Middle School –** Sal D'Itri discussed his goal to organize a Parent's Guide to Middle School. Components will focus on social, academic and technology opportunities and challenges in MS. There will be monthly topics at PTA meetings.
2. **Treasurer's Report –** Jim Oliver gave the Treasurers report and budget presented. The Gunston PTA approved a budget for fiscal year 2017 (school year 2016-17) as follows:

71 % of income to be spent for Teacher and classroom support;

17 % of income to be spent for Student activities and support;

7 % of income to be spent for community support;

5 % of income to be spent on Association operations.

The association set a budget income of $19,000 and a budget expense of $19,000.

1. **Relocatable Classroom Update –** Dr. Wiggins stated that the two relocatable classrooms are not yet occupied and there is not yet a timetable on when they will be set up and ready for use. The two classes slated to go into them have been temporarily meeting in a community center classroom and in Theatre Two. Both are on loan from the county.
2. **PTA Goals –** Sal D'Itri relayed that the goals of the PTA this school year are: 1.) Develop the Guide to Middle School, 2.) Show Gunston Pride to increase teacher morale, 3.) Rebuild the Organization and identify a president successor.
3. **Bus Arrival Times –** Parents addressed concern on the bus stop pick up and drop off time at Gunston. Dr. Wiggins said that she was aware of a bus arriving early and she confirmed that students are now allowed to access the building before 7:35 am. Parents relayed that APS Transportation has said they will assess bus stop pick up schedules after two weeks of classes to determine if times should be moved later.
4. Sal D'Itri adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

**Parent Attendees:**

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| **Parent Name** | **Student Name(s)** | **Grade(s)** |
| Carolyn Fuqua | Mae Fuqua | 7 |
| Christine Tiernay | Amelia & Dorianne | 8 & 6 |
| Lana Pendergast | Emma Huther | 8 |
| Renee Gutshall | Ava & Marlena | 7 & 6 |
| Eve Koopmann Odar | Finaly Odar | 6 |
| Julie Udani | Tara | 6 |
| Audrey Handy | Mallory | 6 |
| Bridget Morrison | Aidan | 6 |
| Adora Williams | Madeleine Martin | 6 |
| Stephanie Kutler | Madeline  | 6 |
| Jayne Mejia | Audrey | 6 |
| Joelle Kivi | Olivia | 6 |
| Dana Dougherty | Garrett | 7 |
| Kristen Walker | Will | 6 |
| Harriett Morgan | Joanna Wahl | 6 |
| Kathryn Utan | Haley Armstrong | 6 |
| Bev Enochs | Natalie  | 7 |
| Becky Garza | Jacob | 6 |
| Fred Garza | Jacob | 6 |
| Diana Garrison | Jason Arrington | 6 |
| Audrey Gowda | Kellam & Anya | 8 & 6 |
| Oscar Hernandez | Ella  | 6 |
| Susan Honaker | Carolina | 6 |
| Luann Wonders | Lucy | 6 |
| Catherine Giacomo | Joe | 6 |
| Meredith Wearing | Dylan | 6 |
| Jennifer Grove | Oliver & Charles | 8 & 6 |
| Erica Snyder | Lorenzo | 7 |
| Raquel Rodriguez | Luis Matos | 6 |
| Lois Koontz | Lucy | 6 |
| Elizabeth Wirick | Sarah Ralston | 8 |
| Celeste Garrio | Mairly Alvarez | 7 |
| Nancy Carey | Rachel Azucena | 6 |
| Beth Hicks | Kaya DeMarco | 6 |
| Kerry Ploetz | Jack | 6 |
| Bill Gillen | Kate | 7 |
| Suzie Kamashiro | Jack & Anne | 8 |
| Camilla Hicks | Jackson | 8 |
| Maria Hernando Dalton | Sydney & Noah | 8 & 6 |
| Edwina Martins | Caroline Roy | 7 |