



Arlington Science Focus School
PTA Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 5th, 2022, 7:00-8:30pm

I. Welcome (*Dena Porter, ASFS PTA President*)

- Dena welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the agenda.

II. Gifted Identification Process at ASFS (*Raphael Villacrusis, ASFS Resource Teacher for the Gifted (RTG)*)

- Mr. V gave an excellent presentation on the gifted program at ASFS. His entire presentation can be found [here](#). Some of his topics are listed below:
- The NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children) recommends that every school provide:
 - Access to curricular resources designed for gifted learners
 - Systematic and substantial professional development for all teachers
- APS Collaborative Cluster Model:
 - Grouped in cluster in their classroom to daily differentiation
 - Well-researched approaches
 - Cluster, homeroom teachers are responsible for planning and delivering
- Referral Process
 - Automatic Referrals
 - Teacher Referrals
 - Parent/Student/Community
 - Characteristics of Gifted Learners
 - School-Based Identification Committee
- Mr. V provided a list of parent resources
- Gifted Services Advisory Committee (GSAC) – parents can join the committee if they have interest in doing so.

III. Overview of Dorothy Hamm Middle School (*Ellen Smith, DHMS Principal*)

- Mrs. Smith gave an overview of the history of the school and how it was the first integrated school in Virginia. The school is named after Dorothy Hamm who advocated for her son to attend the school.
- Mrs. Smith reviewed the 6th Grade Courses and elective options.
- She provided an example of 'A day in the life of a student.'
- There are several after school activities and she encourages every student to pick at least one.
- Mrs. Smith reviewed the safest options for getting to and from DHMS.

IV. Principal's Report (*Mary Begley, ASFS Principal*)

- Mrs. Begley thanked all 16 people who came to the first in-person meeting this year. She acknowledged that it is a big transition from being home to in-person. She thanked Dena for moving forward with opening up and mentioned that there will be many more opportunities for coming

inside after spring break.

- Mrs. Begley spoke to the importance of volunteerism in our school. She acknowledged that it doesn't come easy and that it came easier before the pandemic as we were in the building much more. She also noted that we all have competing items for our time – however, it is so important being a community at our school, especially in elementary – a time when your children want you to be a part of the school. She enjoys seeing parents at dismissal but doesn't want that to be the only time we see each other. We really need to increase our volunteerism. We must step up - now is the time. Children benefit greatly from all the activities/opportunities – but they require parent volunteers to continue.

I. PTA Business

- Congrats to Ms. Oman, Special Education Teacher at ASFS, who has been awarded the Arlington Public Schools Teacher of the Year!
- National Library Week – Thank you to Ms. Schryver and Mr. McGuire
- Assistant Principals Week – Thank you to Ms. Jones for ALL you do!
- Vote by the end of the day tomorrow – Wednesday, April 6th on:
 - March 8th ASFS PTA minutes
 - ASFS Pond/Stream Deep Cleaning Project and the corresponding amended FY21-22 ASFS PTA Budget
- *Update EOD Wednesday, April 6th: The ASFS PTA Membership voted to approve both items with electronic voting and a quorum of at least 10 active PTA members.*
- ASFS PTA Nomination Report – ASFS PTA Nominating Committee
 - Every executive officer is filled, except for the President
 - Amanda Sutton – VP Community Service
 - Steve Leutner – VP External Affairs
 - Olga Kasyan – VP Fundraising
 - Samantha Ofori – Secretary
 - Jay Gunasekera – Treasurer
- Anyone can nominate themselves through Wednesday, May 4th and their name will be added to the electronic ballot.
- Voting will be held electronically from May 10th-11th.
- The complete ASFS PTA Nomination Report can be found [here](#).

V. PTA Updates

- **Treasurer Report** (*Jay Kaveeshwar, Treasurer*)
 - o 50K income vs. our \$105K goal – expenses are in balance.
 - o Full focus on the spring auction - Over \$4K raised so far from sponsorships and ticket sales.
 - o What does all this fund?
 - Education and Instruction; Community Events; Staff/ Curriculum Development; School Habitat

- **Fundraising** (*Olga Kasyan, Fundraising Chair*)
 - The Auction catalog is live! Take a look at all the wonderful items available.
 - Grade Level Baskets – each grade did a wonderful job putting together very impressive and fun themed baskets! Raffle tickets are on sale through the Auction site. The grade level that sells the most raffle tickets will win a jammie day and extra recess.
 - Please buy your tickets now – we are really looking forward to a night out with our ASFS community.
- **Community Service** (*Kirsten Jeffreys, VP Community Service*)
 - KidsGiving – Thank you to everyone who donated and helped to put together 176 hygiene kits for Comfort Cases!
 - KidsGiving – We are looking forward to partnering with EcoAction in April. Students and parents can sign up to help clean up Hayes Park on April 30th from 9-11am.
- **APS and School Board Updates** (*Steve Leutner, ASFS PTA VP External Affairs*)
 - No boundary process this fall, however, part of ASFS’s boundary is open to an optional transfer to Innovation Elementary. The on-line application closes on April 15th and families must confirm or decline (if accepted) by May 13th.
 - Proposed 2023 Budget still planning to reduce class size by 2.0 in ES.
 - Debates on the current Capital Improvement Plan for the Career Center. It is a huge and very costly project, should the money go towards schools with greater need?
 - Still waiting on results from the Bell Schedule Study, they will be presented to the board on May 5th and voted on on May 19th.
 - APS is most likely adding 10 minutes to the school day to match neighboring counties instruction time.

VI. Upcoming ASFS Dates

- Wednesday, April 6th – ASFS Class Picture Day
- Monday, April 11th-Friday, April 15th – NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
- Monday, April 18th – NO SCHOOL (Grade Preparation Day)
- Tuesday, April 19th-Friday April 22nd – ASFS Habitat Week
- Saturday, April 23rd – ASFS Auction, 5:00-9:00pm (The Pinemoor)
- Friday, April 29th – 3rd Grade Xylophone Concert, 9:15am
- Monday, May 2nd-Friday, May 6th – Teacher Appreciation Week
- Tuesday, May 3rd – NO SCHOOL (Eid al-Fitr)
- Tuesday, May 10th – ASFS PTA Meeting, 7:00-8:30pm