

Link to Meeting Materials and Zoom Recording: [ASFS PTA Meeting Materials \(3/9/21\)](#)

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

- Dena introduced herself, Principal Ms. Begley and Assistant Principal Ms. Jones and welcomed everyone including incoming ASFS families from Ashlawn and Taylor. Dena also provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

**II. All About Investigation Station, Computer Science, and Outdoor Education at ASFS** (*ASFS Teachers Stephanie Lin, Catie Bales, and Rebecca Ferree*)

- Ms. Lin introduced her team and went through the various ways the students are learning about STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- Ms. Lin shared photos of the classroom and explained classes such as Investigation Station and Science City.
- Ms. Lin presented an overview and highlights of our virtual Family STEM night in February.
- There are 3 clubs at ASFS to supplement STEM learning at school: Lego Robotics, Underwater Grasses and Aquarium Club.
- Ms. Ferree shared information about Outdoor Education including benefits of the class, activities during virtual learning and plans for hybrid students.
- Ms. Bales presented information on our new Computer Science course. ASFS is the only elementary school in the county offering it as a special.
- Parents seeking volunteer opportunities may be able to help maintain the outdoor space in front of the school this spring and summer.
- Ms. Begley thanked the teachers for all of their hard work and shared that ASFS students enjoy these classes.

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

- Ms. Begley thanked parents for being early in the morning, on time for pick up, and for reading and following the emails about logistics.
- Having different bus numbers in the morning and the afternoon has made bus transportation a challenge. Currently no changes to transportation choices can be made. There is a waitlist for families to change their mode of transportation that was due by 3/10.
- Parents are asked to complete the Qualtrics assessment each day to help with virus tracing. If there is a positive case, families will receive a letter with procedures to follow.
- Ms. Begley thanked the PTA for their support for students and the school.
- Ms. Jones thanked the custodial staff for all of their help preparing the school for reopening, including moving furniture.
- Parent referrals for Gifted Services are due by 4/1.
- Testing logistics for virtual students are still in process.

**IV. PTA Business**

- Dena reminded everyone electronic voting is open through EOD Wednesday,

3/10 to approve the February 2021 PTA Meeting Minutes and to approve the Revised ASFS PTA Budget 2020-21.

*UPDATE EOD 3.10.21: The ASFS PTA membership voted electronically to approve the February 2021 PTA Meeting Minutes and to approve the revised ASFS PTA Budget 2020-21. The ASFS PTA Tellers Committee confirmed quorum with at least 10 active PTA members in support of these items.*

- Rhiannon Leutner shared that the ASFS PTA Nominating Committee is currently recruiting officers for the PTA executive board, with nominations to be presented at our next PTA meeting. The committee is also looking to fill committee chair positions. For the treasurer role, a finance background is preferred but not required.
- Kristi Tsiopanas, PTA Treasurer, presented the Monthly PTA Budget Report & Revised ASFS PTA Budget 2020-21.
  - The February budget report shows ways we supported needs for the return to school with the existing budget.
  - The proposed revised budget for approval reflects more accurate estimates for income and expenses.

## **V. PTA Updates**

- Dena Porter shared the following PTA Announcements:
  - The ASFS Family STEM Night was spotlighted by the National PTA.
  - Mr. Harvey was chosen as one of the top three VFW Teacher of the Year recipients for District 10.
  - ASFS No Place for Hate pledge posters and student video are coming soon.
  - Dena thanked ASFS and PTA Volunteers:
    - Stephanie Lin and the parent volunteers for STEM Night
    - Rabia Oubenadi for breakfast treats for staff
    - Krist Tsiopanas for her work as the PTA Treasurer
    - Karrie Beaudry for school picture day coordination
- Karrie Beaudry, School Pictures Lead, provided an update on school pictures:
  - Our vendor Lifetouch has special cleaning protocols.
  - Pictures for hybrid students will be taken on 4/7 and 4/8.
  - Virtual students will be able to sign up for in-person pictures on 4/12.
  - Currently class photos do not seem to be feasible, but we are brainstorming ideas.
  - Parent volunteers are needed on 4/12 to help during picture day for virtual students.
- Dena Porter provided the following PTA Reminders:
  - The ASFS Grab & Go Library is now only on Mondays.
  - Read Across America offers 25 activities through March.
  - The ASFS Family Math Night will be held on 4/14. Interested families should register for math kits by 3/12.
  - The ASFS Yearbook 2020-21 can be ordered online, and families are encouraged to submit photos of virtual learning.
  - The ASFS PTA Directory can be used to connect with other families who have chosen to opt in.

- The ASFS Kindergarten Information Session will be held on 3/24.
- Dena Porter and Ms. Begley provided the following Return to School Reminders:
  - Parents should confirm information in ParentVUE is up to date.
  - The new email address for attendance is [asfAttendance@apsva.us](mailto:asfAttendance@apsva.us).
  - Ms. Jones is helping to coordinate Walking School Buses and Bike Trains. We want to make sure we are utilizing our new crossing guard.
  - The Dismissal Schedule was included in the presentation.
- Kristen Jeffreys, VP Community Service, shared information about a spring clothing drive for The Clothesline to support our community, including what clothes will be accepted and other notes regarding donations. Donations are accepted at drop off addresses. Drop offs are not being collected at ASFS currently.
- Olga Kasyan, VP Fundraising, shared ways to support our school through AmazonSmile, Harris Teeter, Box Tops, Office Depot, Shutterfly and Silver Diner.
- Our Colony Grill fundraiser was successful, and Olga is speaking with other restaurants regarding a fundraising event this spring.
- Leigh Rex, VP External Affairs, provided APS and School Board updates:
  - March is Equity in Education Month.
  - The budget for FY 2022 is in process, and Leigh highlighted items that may impact elementary schools in the presentation.
  - The School Board meeting on 3/11 will have some in-person attendance, and parents will also have an opportunity to present virtually.
  - APS is soliciting comment on draft policy revisions for instructional delivery options and bullying/harassment prevention. The comment periods are closing on 3/17.

**VI. New Elementary School at Key Updates** *(Claire Peters, Principal)*

- Ms. Peters shared that the new school name will be decided by the School Board on 3/11. The 2 name choices are Innovation and Gateway.
- An Organizational Meeting for the new PTA will be held on 3/16. Ms. Peters thanked Heather McIntire, the ASFS PTA Transition Lead, for all of her help so far in setting up the new PTA.
- Kindergarten registration is open, and Ms. Peters shared links to the registration page, an Information Session for the new elementary school and the APS Guidebook for Elementary families.
- More read alouds and chats with students will be offered starting March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ms. Peters shared her contact information for parents to connect.

**VII. Upcoming Key Dates**

- Wednesday, 3/24 - Virtual Kindergarten Information Session, 9:15am
- Monday, 3/29-Friday, 4/2 - NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
- Monday, 4/5 - School Resumes (Synchronous Learning Day)
- Tuesday, 4/6 - April ASFS PTA Meeting, 7:00-8:30pm
- Wednesday, 4/7-Thursday, 4/8 - School Pictures (Hybrid Students)
- Monday, 4/12 - NO SCHOOL (Grade Preparation Day)
- Monday, 4/12 - School Pictures (Optional time slots for Virtual Students)
- Wednesday, 4/14 - Virtual ASFS Family Math Night, 6:00-7:30pm