

**Arlington Science Focus School**  
**PTA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
*Tuesday, August 31st, 2021 7:00-8:00pm*

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

- Dena welcomed everyone to the new school year and thanked them for joining. Dena thanked the board members for their work over the summer to prepare for this year, as well as the many volunteers who have stepped up to help. She thanked the school staff for a great start to the school year and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC:** Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 at ASFS
  - Thank to Carrie Hill and Puja Valiyil for coordinating!
  - Volunteers are needed – please sign up to run a station and/or bring individual food donations (see the EFF for links).

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

- Ms. Begley began by acknowledging the interesting and unusual start to this school year due to the fact that children have not been in full day school for a year of half. Therefore, there are lots of adjustments.
- Ms. Begley thanked the parents for all of their help and patience, especially during dismissal. She loves seeing so many faces during these times.
- Ms. Begley reviewed the dismissal plan, stating that Kindergartners will be walked out with their teachers for the year. First graders will be walked out for now – but will eventually come on their own. Extended day students will go directly there and parents can pick them up beginning at 4pm.
- The theme for this year is E.I.A. which stands for Equity, Inclusion and Achievement. Two parts of achievement include literacy and numeracy.
- Ms. Begley briefly reviewed the Standards Based Report Card that ASFS uses. Students will not receive a number grade but rather a letter that describes their achievement (Not introduced, developing, mastered, etc.). Kindergartners will not receive a report card until January. Sarah Putnam (Director of Curriculum and Instruction for APS) will do a presentation on Standards Based Report Cards at the October PTA meeting.
- Ms. Begley discussed the lunch process and noted that all classes have the option of eating inside or outside. She has requested a tent from central office in hopes of expanding outdoor options, especially when raining.
- Kindergartners are eating in their classrooms this week at the request of the teachers, so they can help them with routines and opening lunchbox items. They will move to the cafeteria or outside soon.
- Ms. Begley thanked the teachers for all of their hard work in preparing for this school year.
- Ms. Jones (*ASFS assistant principal*) also thanked parents for their patience, especially with transportation. She noted that things have become smoother each day and will continue to.
- Ms. Begley answered several questions from PTA members:
  - *Safety:* Ms. Begley noted that children are doing a terrific job of keeping their masks on. They are allowed to take them off while eating and while outside.
  - *COVID testing:* School-based testing is in the planning session. Updates should come from Dr. Duran soon.
  - *Quarantine:* The plan is still evolving for this year. Students can't be moved

to virtual learning during the school year; however, they can access lessons on Canvas if they are out.

- *Inclement weather and dismissal/dropoff*: Continue as is. This year ASFS only has 6 buses (as opposed to 12) so it is less busy. ASFS doesn't have room for a car line – they have unsuccessfully tried in the past.
- *Snack time*: Yes, all classes have snack time – some in the morning and some in the afternoon, depending on their lunch time.
- *iPads*: All students should have iPads – if they are new to APS (including Kindergartners), they will receive new ones. Students should bring charged iPads to and from school each day.

### **III. PTA Business** (*Dena Porter, PTA President*)

- Thank you to everyone who has joined the ASFS PTA this year. We already have over 130 members.
- To join the 2021-22 PTA online, visit: [asfspta.com](http://asfspta.com). There are PTA membership sponsorships available.
- Vote by the end of the day on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> on the August 3<sup>rd</sup> ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report** (*Jay Kaveeshwar, ASFS PTA Treasurer*)

- Jay reviewed how PTA funds are used: 48% Instructional Support, 23% Community Events, 22% School Facilities and 7% General Expenses.
- A full and detailed budget can be found in the PTA Meeting Materials folder.
- The ASFS PTA Budget Report for August 2021 will be posted in the PTA Meeting Materials folder, after the month closes on 8/31/21.

### **V. Fundraising Report** (*Olga Kasyan, ASFS PTA VP Fundraising*)

- We met our goal for the Summer Mural Fundraiser - thank you to all of the supporters!
- The No-Frills Fundraiser is currently open - 100% of your donation directly supports the ASFS PTA. No selling or buying 'stuff' – it is tax deductible.
- The Annual Auction is ASFS's largest social and fundraising event. We still need volunteers to chair this event. It is typically held the end of February or early March.
- ASFS is planning to have one dine-out option per month where a % of sales are given back to our PTA. October's dine-out option will be the Silver Diner. Look for details in the EFF soon.

### **VI. ASFS PTA Updates**

- Back to School Reminders:
  - Join the ASFS PTA
  - Opt Into the ASFS PTA Directory
    - As part of the APS AOVP process in ParenVUE
  - Complete the ASFS Family Survey
    - By Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – thanks to those who have

- o already submitted their input!
  - o Donate to the ASFS PTA No-Frills Fundraiser
  - o Submit your ASFS PTA Volunteer Interest Form
  - o Sign Up for ASFS Rewards Programs
    - Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and link to ASFS
    - Visit [asfspta.com/donate](https://asfspta.com/donate) for more ways to support ASFS
- Volunteer Opportunities: we are still looking for the following ASFS PTA roles so that we can host these programs and event this year:
  - o Auction Chair(s)
  - o CCPTA Co-Chair
  - o Holiday Helpers Lead
  - o Odyssey of the Mind Lead
  - o Reflections Contest Lead
  - o School Picture Day Chair
  - o SEPTA Liaison
  - o Volunteer Coordinator
- Enrichment Programs:
  - o Berlitz Before-School Spanish Enrichment – thank you to everyone who has registered. We have two K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes for the fall, beginning Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Barody After-School Enrichment – classes set to begin the week of October 4<sup>th</sup> on MWF from 3:45-5pm. Registration is open from Sep 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – visit: [bc-arl-asfs.jumula.com](https://bc-arl-asfs.jumula.com)
- KidsGiving Program – new to ASFS this year, KidsGiving is the focus of the PTA’s community service efforts. KidsGiving teaches students the importance of philanthropy through the partnership with local non-profit organizations. Monthly activities will come via email. Please join by clicking this link: <http://tinyurl.com/ASFSKidsGiving>
- ASFS Kids Store: new to ASFS this year. Fifth grade students will be running the store on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (8:30-8:55) beginning on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The store will be located in the multi-purpose room. Lots of great school supplies will be available to purchase!

**VII. Upcoming ASFS Dates:**

- **Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL
- **Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** – Virtual ASFS Back to School Night
- **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** – ASFS Back to School Picnic, 4-6pm (Rain Date: **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** 4-6pm)
- **Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** – NO SCHOOL (Yom Kippur)
- **Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** – EARLY RELEASE (1:26pm)
- **Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** – ASFS PTA Meeting, 7:00-8:00pm
- *Coming Soon* – Stay tuned for dates & details:
  - o Fall Parent Coffee Chats
  - o Fall Grade Level Events