

Forest Edge PTA Minutes Of September 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Jeannie introduced our new Assistant Principal, Sabra Lowery. Then she introduced the members of the PTA board and the PTA Past President – Lisa Schonfeld, Nancy Nunan Flood, Yolanda Maldonado, Kim Giebel, Mary Fountain, and Mary Pope.

The June 5, 2007 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Nancy presented the proposed budget for 2007-2008.

Kim Giebel told everyone about the Back to School Picnic on September 26. Fliers went home today.

Principal's Report:

- Back-to-School night is split over 2 nights in order to handle the amount of people attending. Stu Gibson will be coming to talk. There will be presentations by PTA as well as time in the classrooms. Please do not park in front of the neighbors' driveways.
- Mr. Bensinger explained how flexible groupings work. The teachers must assess students before putting them in groups. The groups are dynamic.
- Parents 24/7 (also sometimes called Blackboard): They are trying to roll this out by Back-to-School Night. The goal is to give parents easy access to information about all of their children.
- Homework guidelines for Fairfax County are supposed to be 30 minutes per night up through Grade 3, and 60 minutes for Grades 4-6. Please let Mr. Bensinger know if you run into any problems with this.
- We have a new Cafeteria Manager. Mr. Bensinger explained what happens if a child does not have money when he/she goes through the cafeteria line.

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Sherman

- On behalf of the teachers, thank you for the back to school breakfast and goodie bags.

Committee Reports

- Rebate Programs: There will be forms at Back to School Night to sign up for these programs with companies such as Harris Teeter and Giant. You can also sign up online or at the stores.
- Clothing Exchange: Will be held November 5 and 6. In advance we will accept washed, gently used clothing. The clothes are offered free to the community.
- Book Fair: It will be held the first week in November. We will need volunteers to help with this. All of the money raised goes directly back to the library.

- Yahoo Communications/Committee Chair Communications: Information is sent home via Tuesday folder fliers and email from our Yahoo Group. This year we also set up a new email distribution list for committee chairs.
- Gift Wrap Fundraiser: Catalogs went home today in the Tuesday folders. More volunteers are needed to help with the fundraiser.
- Fun Fair: In the past it consisted of a Silent Auction, a used book sale, games for the kids, trash and treasures, a 50/50 raffle, class baskets and food sales. Plans are being made for this year. It will be Saturday, March 8.
- Dining for Dollar\$: We will have events in October and November. We have tentatively scheduled an event with Potbelly in Reston for October 2.
- Market Day: You can order food online and then pick it up at school. A percentage of the sales is donated to the school, based on a sliding scale. This event will start in October.
- Cultural Arts: Some of the things planned this year include Dixie Trio, Theater 4, Chinese Acrobats, African Drumming Group, Franklin Institute – Weather Shows, and things to support Colonial Day.
- PTA Membership: We will have the regular PTA membership. “Friends of Forest Edge” is being renamed “Invest in Your Child” and will be promoted this year. “Invest in Your Child” is tax deductible and 100% of the money goes to the school. Some companies also have matching gift programs.
- PTArt: Once a month, parent volunteers learn about an artist and then teach it in the classrooms.
- After School Clubs: Many are run by teachers who volunteer their time. Jeannie gave a run down of the after school clubs. Most of them are free.
- We now have a Special Ed representative who is a resource to the parents.

Kiss and Ride: We are still working out the kinks. We hope to move to a numbered system like was used over the summer.

We are looking into using the South Lake Honor Society to provide child care during PTA meetings.

The next meeting is October 9 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.