

Forest Park PTA Meeting August 28, 2017

Angie Johnson called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the first PTA meeting of the 2017-2018 school year. She introduced herself and thanked everyone who helped out the past few weeks. She also welcomed new families. Angie also went over the PTA mission statement.

Angie introduced the 2017-2018 board members. She brought up the new FP website and encouraged everyone to use it. She briefly discussed some of the parking issues from the first couple of weeks and asked if we could all politely help people out who don't understand parking and carpool rules.

Minutes

Angie moved to approve minutes from the last meeting in May. Julia Hamra approved. Ashley East seconded motion. Minutes were approved.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Ketcher introduced our new assistant principal, Lupe Pena de Martinez. She gave us a brief summary of her background and experience. She has a second grader at Forest Park. Mrs. Ketcher explained that ESSA has replaced No Child Left Behind. There will no longer be "penalties" for schools and it will be more individualized. Kindergarten - Second Grade will take assessments three times a year as a way to monitor progress. Third - Fifth Grade will continue with Aspire three times a year.

Before Angie turned it over to Lesley Roberts to discuss the PTA budget, she briefly spoke about where some of the funds have gone in the past: our part time Spanish teacher, the pavilion, the coming renovation of the garage, the garden, Bright Ideas grants, book purchases, science lab, and Fifth Grade Space Camp.

Budget

Lesley Roberts showed everyone the pie chart handout that highlights the big picture of our expenses. The bigger expenses are listed and items such as the Fifth Grade trip and Yearbook (which pays for itself) are kept separate. She hopes to have a color version soon but this will give everyone a good idea of how money is spent. Education is the biggest expense with Teacher-Staff Appreciation/Hospitality/Outreach second. Forest Park will have a zero-based budget for FY18 and we anticipate an income and expense of \$159,000. A surplus at the end of last year allowed us to use money to contribute to the school beyond what is outlined in the budget. Lesley mentioned that her email is on the handout if anyone had further questions.

Angie said an easy way to help the school is to link your Kroger and/or Amazon accounts to Forest Park and to collect Box Tops. She also said to make sure you log in your volunteer hours and that Susan McGeorge offered to collect the blue sheets to log in.

Directories

Tricia Pfeifer said that the directories are almost done and will be sent home in backpacks during the first week of September.

ROOTS Garden

Natalie Capps talked about our garden teacher Mrs. Vena and how lucky we are to have her. She said you could sign up to take care of the chickens or to help in the garden. Roots T-shirts are available on the website as well.

Hospitality

Julia Crow described the job of hospitality and talked about everything they did for the teachers before school started. They provided meals for the teachers and Le Pops gift cards. They will need help throughout the year and a sign up sheet was provided at the meeting. They will have their first meeting the Monday after Labor Day.

Southern Supper @ the Park

Sandy Henry said that the event will be Sept. 7th and the menu will be smoked chicken and side dishes. Flyers will be sent home in backpacks. You can purchase tickets or order the drive-thru option on the website. You can also put money in your child's backpack. Volunteers will also be needed.

Spirit Shop

Emily Stein described a lot of the new items that are available this year and said many of the items have a classic navy and white look. She showed examples of some of the items. The new Mom shirt has sold out but you can order that and other items such as bows, headbands, belts and "class of" shirts on the website. The Spirit Shop will also be open at the Southern Supper. There will also be a new release sweatshirt with plaid FP, new navy jackets, and a baseball shirt in green for kids and adults. She also said that they would give you items as they come in so to not be concerned if everything doesn't come in at the same time.

Pass the Plaid

Mary Margaret Wippo said that you can donate your gently used uniform items to Pass the Plaid and that all of the money goes to the PTA. So far this year they have already raised \$1085. She said to not donate items with holes or stains. Right now you may place in a box that is in the office but they are working on a box that will be placed at the entrance outside of the office. The next sale will be at the Southern Supper.

Tutoring

Morgan Smith explained how tutoring works and the need for it throughout the year. You may sign up to be a volunteer. Grandparents may help too. It is generally just a few hours a week.

Space Camp

Shelia McKinnis talked about what a big deal Space Camp is for the Fifth Graders. It will be April 25th-27th in Huntsville, AL and is such a fun experience. The first meeting will be August 30th at 6:30PM. There are many things that help offset the cost such as the Southern Supper and after school Popsicle sales on Fridays.

Mixed Bag sales will be Sept. 5th-22nd. If you are not in 4th or 5th grade but would like to purchase them, you may do so online and there will be forms available at the entrance of the school outside the office.

Pumpkins in the Park

Mary Margaret Wippo said this is our fall event that will be on October 27th from 5 - 7:30PM and will include games, bounce houses, and music. Angie mentioned that we would also be inviting potential new families. If anyone thinks of a family they would like to invite, please contact Holly-Beth Willis.

Ranger Watch

Angie said that Ranger Watch has been opened up to moms. She reminded us that grandparents could volunteer as well. You can sign up at the FP website. The shift is from 10:30-1:30. They are also thinking about assigning weeks to each grade and making it a competition between grades. Kids love it when you volunteer on their birthday.

Box Tops

Crystal Amos introduced herself. She said that only 30% of the school participated last year and we would like to do better this year. Box Tops is an easy way to give back and you can acquire a lot of them at Sam's and Wal-Mart. The FP website has all the information you need to learn more.

Stride Pride

Angie said that a meeting is coming up and we will have more information soon. This is our yearly Walk to School event. There will be music, muffins and coffee and it's such a fun morning for the kids.

Fun Run

Elizabeth Clark said that her and Sarah Davis are chairing this event. The kick off will be October 2nd and the actual event on October 19th. They are welcoming new ideas as they are just getting started. They will be looking for volunteers, especially on the day of the event.

Yearbook

Kristin Saffa said about half of the school has ordered a yearbook. After October 1st, the price will go up \$5. If you would like to submit photos to be considered, you may email them to forestparkpta@gmail.com or on instagram #fprangers. However, please make clear what event or class the photo is from.

Welcoming Committee

Holly-Beth Willis said they are already starting in the fall so to send names/emails of potential new families to her. They will be sending invites to Pumpkins in the Park. There is a Pre K mom's night out this Wednesday at By the Glass.

Angie said that Mom and Muffins is September 7th at Stephanie Bynum's house and that tickets may be purchased online.

Chess Club/Violin

Angie just received information about violin lessons and the information will be available online and in a flyer. It is a great after school activity. Piano will be coming soon too. Chess Club is on hold as Mr. Hansen is unavailable to help right now. Spanish started last week. Coding may begin after Labor Day for Fourth and Fifth Grade.

Angie said that E-blasts would now go out on Mondays.

Angie concluded the meeting.