

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
PTA Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2011

START: 7:05

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The October Meeting Minutes were voted on and approved. A motion was also made to raise the PTA dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00. This motion was voted on and approved.

PTA MEETING TOPIC – PTA Fitness Month: Becky Domokos-Bays, the Director of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) for ACPS, presented an overview of the services provided by her Department. FNS serves over 10,000 meals each day, provides over 4,000 free snacks for children in after school programs and distributes mid-day snacks of fresh produce for all Kindergarteners. Ms. Domokos-Bays explained the main FNS processes (i.e., planning the menus, ordering and receiving the food, preparing the meals, etc.), highlighted efforts to recycle and reduce waste and discussed improvements to the menu options and labels for children with food allergies or restrictions. She concluded her presentation by answering questions from the parent community.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Thompson indicated that MacArthur is one of 13 ACPS schools to earn the EPA's Energy Star certification. She then reported on the Walk for the Homeless that took place on Oct 31, the RIF book distribution on Nov 4 and the PTA sponsored "peacemaker" shows held this past month in the multi-purpose room. She reminded everyone that Election Day is tomorrow (Nov 8) and asked parents not to drop off in the parking lot. Several important educational events are coming up. The 2nd grade team held its "math night" on Nov 6 and grades 3, 4 and 5 will have theirs on Dec 7. Information on the TAG program and Literacy 101 will be presented on Nov 15 starting at 6:30. She then welcomed Courtney Goldfinger who started at MacArthur today. Ms. Goldfinger will be teaching Kindergarten and taking over Ms. Lea's class. Mrs. Thompson concluded with an update on the steps that have been taken to address the water problems in the school, particularly in the Kindergarten classrooms.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

- RIF – The PTA funded book distribution took place on November 4. The next one will occur in March.
- Tutor Program – To date, 29 students have been matched with tutors. At least 14 students still need a tutor. Contact Emily Straight at ewstraight@gmail.com to volunteer.
- Reflections – 59 entries in 4 categories were submitted based on this year's theme: "diversity means". Most entries were in the visual arts category.
- Entertainment Books – The fundraiser raised about \$9,500.
- Thanksgiving Feast – So far, over 250 people have indicated they are coming. We still need volunteers from 12:30 to 2:30. This year's menu features turkey, sweet potatoes and broccoli.
- Book Fair – In addition to the usual events, the Book Fair will include a "grand" event on Thursday morning for grandparents. The community has donated a large number of books that will be sold for \$1.00 or less. The committee hopes to top \$14,000 in sales which translates to \$8,400 in books for the school.
- Staff Appreciation Cookie Swap – The swap will take place on Dec 8 (Thursday). Volunteers are needed to help bake!

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kate O'Sullivan reported that money is still coming in from dues and donations. Ad sales will cover the cost of the school directory. Finally, we have about \$25,000 remaining in our bank account following the final turf payment. Our next financial goal is to write a check for technology purchases.

ADJOURN: 8:20