

Patriot Oaks Academy General PTO Meeting Minutes

1/13/2015 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Durbin Crossing South Amenities Center

Attendance:

Board Members: Robyn Lilac, Amy Mendheim, Diane Thompson, Amy Kaminsky, Jenn Neuman, Jennifer Sicilian, Jenny Mahne, Emily Harrison. PTO Members signed in on membership list.

**Also in attendance, Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board and Patriot Oaks PTO member. Patriot Oaks Business Partner, Janet Gonzalez from Huntington Learning Center.

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Patriot Oaks PTO was held in the Social Hall of the Durbin Crossing South Amenities Center on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. President Robyn Lilac called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. Jenny Mahne will record minutes for this meeting.

Heather West made motion to approve the minutes from November 18, 2014. Tonya Porter second the motion. Minutes approved.

Reports:

❖ President: Robyn Lilac - Welcome/Call to Order

➤ District News

- 2015-16 Calendar has been released: August 10 start day.
- Updated 2014-15 Calendar:
 - Testing dates:
 - March 2-13, 2015 - FSA ELA Writing Component (Grades 4-11)
 - March 23 - May 8, 2015 - FSA ELA and Mathematics (Grades 3-11)
- The district now has an app: MySJCS
- Character Counts 6K/3K run:
 - Saturday, February 7 @ 2pm, held at Palencia Elementary School \$20-\$25
 - www.racesmith.com/races/CHARACTERCOUNTS.html
- Red Sable Art Project:
 - Canvases are being collected to create a mosaic for 450 anniversary of St. Augustine. Canvas must be purchased through Red Sable for \$5, deadline March 4
 - Proceeds benefit St. Johns County Education Foundation
 - www.theredsable.com
- Inscribed Bricks: The Visitor Information Center creating memorial patio. \$20 of each brick sold supports students and teachers in St. Johns County, you can also save 10 percent by using the code EDUCATIONFOUNDATION. (\$100-300) www.colonialstaugustine.org
- The 35th Matanzas 5K & Fun Run: January 24, 2015
 - Downtown St Augustine
 - Proceeds from this event go to support cross country teams at St. Johns County high schools and middle schools with a prize to the school with the most entrants
 - www.matanzas5k.com

➤ Patriot Oaks News:

- A limited number of oak leaves available starting January 15. The goal is to have this showing in a place that can be easily read.
- Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! January 26-30:
 - Ms Demartino is planning literacy based activities and a book swap. (Thursday and Friday of the week, PTO will need volunteers to assist with book swap)
 - Mr. Greco is planning a Lego character building contest.
 - Other activities during the week include: funky socks, drop everything and read, Cozy reading day (in PJs for elementary), Hats off to Reading for Middle School.
 - Recommended reading lists:<http://www.fl DOE.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/recommended-reading-lists/celebrate-literacy-week.stml>
- ❖ **VP Fundraising Report: Diane Thompson**
 - Fun Run went well and we were able to give 10% of classroom fundraising back to each individual classroom/teacher for use in their classes.
 - Holiday Shop was a huge success. Thank you for your volunteer hours and support!
 - Working now to come up with ideas for additional fundraising ideas.
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report: Amy Mendheim**
 - Financial Update: Current balance As of 1/13/15:
 - Checking Acct balance: \$77,689.51
 - YTD Income: \$113,449.85
 - YTD Expenses: \$36,881.01
 - YTD Earnings: \$76,568.84
 - Holiday Boutique profited \$2323.49
- ❖ **VP Membership Report: Amy Kaminsky**– One new membership this calendar year already! Just want to ask that if you have any new neighbors, please tell them about the PTO website and direct them to it to join the PTO.
- ❖ **Vote to approve the 2015 – 2016 PTO Nominating Committee:** Jennifer Sicilian, Tonya Porter, Tammy Panczuk. This committee will reach out to community and bring names back to the PTO meeting for nominees for open Board Positions at the PTO meeting in March. Voting on the PTO Board will take place at the April PTO Meeting.
 - Unanimous approval of proposed nominating committees. Committee approved.
- ❖ **Teacher Appreciation Committee Update – Heather West**
 - February 13th event: working on a possible Hot Chocolate, Coffee, and Tea bar for the teachers and staff day. Will send out a sign up genius for donations and help.
 - February 2nd: Business Partner will be offering.
- ❖ **Business Partners Update:** please show support to our Business Partners. All funding goes to continuing education funding and technology \$19,000 from these funds

❖ **Principal's Report: Mrs. Emily Harrison**

- Welcome and thank you for coming to Mrs. Beverly Slough from the St. Johns County School Board.
- *Visible learning*: important process that all teachers are going through to promote accountability and leadership in our students. Next VL leadership day is January 29th. February 2 will be another school-wide leadership training for the teachers.
- In addition to the recent parent survey that went out as part of the Visible Learning initiative, students are also being surveyed (as the community) – the results are reflected on and used for process changes/improvement. It's a great way for the community to give feedback on what is working, as well as offering ideas and suggestions.
- The Visual Learning survey that went out recently to parents is not to be confused with the SAC survey. This will be coming out soon and the our school needs to have 80%. Reminders will be sent out until we reach that goal... 80% participation is required in order for our school to receive 5 Star status.
- Preparation for next year has begun as we add an 8th Grade class, teachers, etc.
- Thursday night is the next Digital Technology night (Pilot Next Steps and School Wide Initiative of the Visible Learning process). Insurance options will be explained and made available. We will also do a brief overview of Visible Learning at this event.
- Pillars of Character Awards Program is this Friday.
- Mrs. Harrison introduced and asked Mrs. Slough to give an update.

❖ **Community/Member Comments:**

- Beverly Slough
 - Thank you to volunteers for getting Patriot Oaks off to a great start!
 - Start date next year is August 10th, but last day is May 26th. The school district recently put out a survey about possible calendar dates next year; the common thread among feedback from the surveys was the expressed concern (and requests) that exams happen before the winter break. That was the key driving factor in needing to set the start date earlier than previous years. Additional factors included a statute that the District had just become aware of that required a certain number of days prior to/after holiday.
 - Thanksgiving Break will only be Thursday and Friday in the 2015 – 2016 school year.
 - GROWTH: Plans are being made to include 12 portables at Patriot Oaks next year. Will not be taking up P.E. space to do this, as it was planned for ahead of time. Goal is to have those on campus prior to school being out for planning purposes and to make that planning easier for the School Administration. The portable classrooms will include cover. The school will be determining who/what grades will be utilizing those portable classrooms.
 - The Governor is proposing an increase for education budget, however will only go into Operations, not for building. Parents help bring a voice to our funding

needs by reaching out to your Legislators and asking them to remember our growth and Capital needs.

- Right now the Legislative requirements require every single subject area to be tested individually. The time and cost of this is large. Parent/constituent awareness and communicating concerns with elected officials helpful.
- Hoping to have a Town Hall Meeting again soon to cover topics. One topic that is being discussed right now with the Legislative Education Committee Meeting is frequency of tests.
- Warned that parents may need to brace for potential differences in test scores with the new tests. It is common when introducing a new test for performance to change greatly. This has been seen in other areas where new tests were rolled out last year. SJC school district has requested to the State that there be a 2 year grace period for any consequences that come out of the new testing to give schools time to adjust to the testing style and results.

Next Meeting Date & Time:

Friday, March 06, 2015 **EVENING meeting at **Patriot Oaks Academy** – in conjunction with Ice Cream with Teachers and Book Fair.

Meeting Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.

Submitted by,
Jenny Mahne
Recording Secretary
Approved: _____