

Robert Frost PTSA Meeting

1/12/2016, 7 pm

Attendees: Weiming Qi, Vidya Thirumalai, Katie Yu, Joey N. Jones, Ursula Ratcliff, George Sellers

Media center – request for funding

Mrs. Yu, Media Center Specialist requested funding for the following programs at the media center:

Maker Space – the program makes STEM learning fun. It teaches kids to create rather than just consume. The program will include science and engineering principles. The options reviewed for the program are Snap Circuits and Makey Makey.

Also a Lego Wall is planned at the media center. Mrs. Yu is requesting donation of base plates from the families.

Total cost of Maker Space - \$584.

Mrs. Yu requested funding for Book Wars, an Interscholastic Reading Competition. Three teams from each grade level participate in the competition. Total amount for this funding request is \$125.

Mrs. Yu also discussed bringing the author, Ellen Oh, author of “Prophecy Warrior” to meet with students. The cost involved is \$500 for 2 hours.

Delegate Report – George Sellers

Wootton renovation is currently scheduled for July 2019 to August 2021. The planned capacity is 2400 students, currently there are 2200 students. Auditorium will be ADA compliant, with capacity of 800, with more storage for band/music. Student parking will be affected during construction. Heating/cooling will be geothermal power, the wells will be near the current baseball field.

A roundtable was held about Magruder, Gaithersburg, and Wootton clusters. Under-utilization of elementary schools was discussed. Gaithersburg ES is overwhelmed currently. The new standard for elementary schools is 740 students. Two or three elementary schools in Gaithersburg cluster are above 740. Part of plans to renovate Dufief is to increase the capacity upto 740, part of Rachel Carson ES will go to Dufief. The meetings between clusters will continue through the year with the next meeting scheduled in February.

Changes in county PTA by-laws – expand people running for board elections (county council of PTA), consider experience at local PTA board or county PTA level, trying to find balance between experience and the size of the pool of available candidates.

Budget Advocacy – Amount of spending per student is going down back to 2007 levels. It is from a combination of overall budget numbers coming down and increase in student population. County

contribution for education is going down. Action Day is coming up, and families are encouraged to go to Annapolis to support PTA.

Book fair – Amy Bryan

It will be held at Frost during the week of Feb 22nd. Amy Bryan has been the chair for this event, Amy will not be at Frost next year, so Sue Potts is co-chairing this year with the plan to chair this event going forward.

Fri 2/19 setup 1pm

Mon 2/22 Teacher breakfast 7:30

Monday-Friday 7:30am-3pm

Thursday 2/25 Family night in conjunction with Academic Arts Fair

Friday- half day/breakdown fair at 12:30

Budget report – Ursula Ratcliff

Ursula gave an update on the budget. There is about \$6K left in the budget to spend for this year – this will cover the insurance, admin expenses, staff appreciation week, end of the year luncheon, field trips (band trips included), geo bee, Wootton post prom, and beautification. Mr. Reddington has requested \$2300 for TV studio, PTA has received \$558 in direct funding so far.

Bylaws update

Ursula Ratcliff, Kellie Reynolds and Weiming Qi will work on the bylaws update.

Eagle Run:

Eagle run is scheduled for 5/19 (Thursday).

Principal Report

Principal Parent breakfast is scheduled for 1/22. J. Darius Green, Dean at University of Maryland will be discussing the college admissions process.

A group of teachers from South Korea will be visiting Frost. It is part of a county wide initiative involving 6 middle schools and 8 high schools. Two social studies teachers and 1 science teacher will be at Frost for ten days, starting 1/26 to 2/10. They will be shadowing 3 teachers at Frost – Mr. Anton, Ms. Redden and Mr. Garbic. Their visit will also include a field trip to the entire system including food processing, bus system, etc.

The meeting ended at 8:28 pm.

Minutes recorded by Vidya Thirumalai, PTSA Secretary