

**Garrisonville Elementary PTO
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023**



Meeting Call to Order at 6:03pm by Meghann Gillette

Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer's Report by Jessica Whiteley

- November
 - ASE - Teacher fees and expenses checks issued
 - Category that says “new check”
 - We ran out of checks so those are printed checks from the bank
 - Holiday Festival prep
- December
 - Received spirit checks and deposited - YTD: \$2,508.11
 - Lifetouch
 - Paid deposit for yearbooks
 - Called to make sure account was up-to-date and was told that we did not need to pay a deposit
 - Lifetouch refunded deposit
 - **Clarification - yearbook orders are not currently open. This was a “good faith” deposit that we would usually pay prior to ordering, that we no longer need to pay because we order so many year to year
 - 12 Days before Winter Break expenses
 - Holiday Festival expenses
 - Petty cash was re-deposited with the cash from Holiday Festival
- Holiday Festival
 - Some income still pending (deposited after statement date)
 - Income
 - \$1,493.97 as of now
 - \$2,144 recent deposit
 - \$3,637.97
 - Budgeted \$3,500
 - Loss of about \$85 (with about half of Elf Shop products leftover to sell next year)****
 - Expenses
 - \$3,722.86
 - Budgeted \$1,200

- 12 Days Before Winter Break - Staff Appreciation
 - Spent - \$896.88
 - Budget - \$1,100

******EDITED AFTER MEETING: No loss on Holiday Festival. Silent Auction payments made online, during the 2 weeks following the event date, were not transferred from our PTO Paypal account to our bank account, so are not reflected in our December transactions. Payments totalling \$1,270.24 have since been transferred and will be included on our January bank statement. Holiday Festival will have brought in approximately \$1,185.35.**

Holiday Festival Wrap-up

- Overall, the event was well received by the community. Vendors, students, and families really enjoyed it.
- Survey Results - not inclusive of all responses, just relaying comments that came up repetitively
 - Glows:
 - Students loved that they could shop for their families. Elf Shop got a lot of kudos!
 - Volunteers all did an amazing job. Families were especially impressed with how friendly and helpful all of the high school volunteers were. Kids loved having a personal shopper.
 - Singing gators sounded great, the sound was at a perfect volume with the large audience and it was fun to see them on stage.
 - Variety of things to do and the flow with things being spread out and that it felt organized and welcoming
 - The selfie method for reuniting parents with kids in the elf shop
 - Grows:
 - Having a staging area inside before the event for families who had students in singing gators or other family members who needed to be there early to volunteer, instead of having them wait outside
 - Having a different or larger waiting area for the adults because the hallway got too crowded and it was hard to tell if it was a line, specifically by the gator dome/elf shop
 - The long lines and how crowded it was in general - trying to figure out a way to alleviate some of that
 - More seating
 - Adding some festive gear to Wally for photos
 - More games, crafts and activities and more things that the kids would be interested in
 - More selection of options in the elf shop
 - Better signage directing where things are

- Coordinating the date with the Stafford county parade because many who were attending that couldn't come to the holiday festival
- Food
 - Costco gave us double of everything because it was not communicated that their catering was buy 1, get 1 on bakery items, so we ended up with a lot of leftover concessions and will adjust quantities for future events.
 - Extras were put in the staff lounge and most of it was eaten during the week. It provided teachers a nice extra treat.
- Idea Suggested
 - What about a cookie kit that can be pre-ordered next year, instead of the food? Families could decorate cookies as an option in the event.

After School Enrichment

- The ASE date has been pushed back. We waited to open teacher registration until after winter break.
- New timeline:
 - Teacher Registration will be open today through Thursday, January 12th
 - Classes will be announced to families on Monday, January 16th
 - Student Registration will be open beginning at 6:30pm on January 18th and stay open until January 27th (or sooner if all class spots have been filled). Individual classes will close as available spots fill up.
 - Classes will be from 3:15pm-4:45pm on 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, and 2/22.
 - Make-up session will be on 3/8, if needed. (We are not doing 3/1 since that is Gator Patrol Day during Gator Week.)

Spirit Nights

- Over \$400 from Sams in November - Thank you to everyone who continues to come out for our spirit nights!
- January - Panera Spirit night tomorrow 1/10 from 4-8pm— bring your flier (went home in folders today) or use the online code! We get 20% back.
- February - Zibibbo Pizza Kits
 - Orders will open next week on our website
 - We'll make \$2 off of every kit sold
 - Pickup will be on Feb 13th from 4-7pm at Zibibbo - they will not be delivered
 - Fun activity for families to do together!
- March - Panda Express
- April - Fredericksburg Nationals

- They are most likely not giving schools weekend night dates this year, so right now we are hoping to secure Sunday, April 23rd for the day game (1:35pm)
- Singing gators to hopefully have the chance to sing the national anthem again
- Tickets will be sold online - will be sold “at cost” like last year. We will be given a section or sections of seating like we were last year.
- Excited about continuing this event, as it was a great success last year!
- More information to come.

Family Sweethearts Dance

- Scheduled for Friday February 10, 6:30-8pm
- Committee of 4th grade parents forming now. If there are additional volunteers who are interested in planning and setting up/cleaning up and running the event, please reach out and let us know!
- The first item to address will be the logistics of numbers in the cafeteria, since we cannot use the AGW gym this year. Potentially we could request that families sign-up in advance?
- The cafeteria capacity is 850, so there will be more to come regarding this!

Family BINGO Night

- This is tentatively scheduled for March 31st; however, we still need a chairperson and committee for the event! If you or anyone you know is interested in helping coordinate, plan, and volunteer at the event, PLEASE let us know ASAP!
- New state guidelines
 - We are in the process of filling out and submitting the new VA state-required application to host BINGO schools per state guidelines.

Principal’s Report by Ms. White

- Mid-Year Screening Assessments
 - Our Gators will be taking a few different county/state issued screening assessments over the next few weeks.
 - Purpose is to give information on growth to help us determine how to best provide instruction
 - Look at the areas of literacy and math
 - Families will be provided with reports once assessments are completed but please know that it takes a bit of time for us to run all of the information to get it home to you

- It also allows us to see where our Gators are compared to the beginning of the year and allows us to compare to Spring 2023 scores to ensure growth.
 - There is no studying to be done or anything needed to "prep for" these assessments.
 - If you have any questions about these assessments, please reach out to your classroom teacher or our Reading and Math Specialists.
 - Links with more information
 - PALS - <https://palsresource.info/parents/>
 - AMC - <https://www.assessingmathconcepts.com/>
 - MAP - <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/>
 - VA Growth Assessment - https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/test_administration/growth-assessment/index.shtml
- Budget Season for SCPS - could use support by attending these meetings!
 - SCPS Town Hall Meetings
 - Opportunities to connect with the superintendent and division leadership to learn and/or discuss ways to elevate SCPS
 - Upcoming dates - January 17, 2023 6pm at Hartwood ES and January 27, 2023 10:15am in the Mountain View HS Wildcat Café
 - SCPS Community Meetings
 - To discuss the addition of the new schools being constructed. Specifically the start of construction on a new elementary school, referred to as Elementary School 18.
 - To address the growing numbers in SCPS and other plans with the process.
 - Meetings are scheduled for: January 18 6:30pm at Rocky Run ES and January 30 6:30pm at T. Benton Gayle MS.
 - Potential class-size reduction, which will result in additional classrooms at certain grade levels
 - Do we have room? Not ideal, but we have enough physical classroom spaces. Will need to adjust spaces for extra services.
 - Proposal for modular classrooms in a couple of years

Staff Presentation by Miss Altschuler on Report Card Revisions

- SCPS upcoming report card revisions

- Each grade level will have their own specific to their standards and strands
- Layout (less strands being assessed)
- Wording will be more parent-friendly
- There will be a cover page with explanations
- Parent/Guardian website (that will explain standards and strands in detail)
 - Examples of expectations vs what your child brings home
- Life Readiness Skills instead of Work and Study Habits (these will be directly correlated to the profile of a VA Graduate and will include things like the 5C's, communication skills, working with others etc.)
- Will begin use for 2023-24 school year

Open Comments/Questions/Input

- Emerging Requests (when will they be funded?)
 - Soon! This is being discussed regarding if we will purchase directly or if the school will purchase through their vendor and we will reimburse
 - We should have more information forthcoming in the next few weeks

Upcoming Events

- **Jan 10** — Panera Spirit Night 4pm-8pm
- **Jan 17-30** — Zibbibo Pizza Kit Orders open (online only)
- **Jan 18-27** — ASE Student Registration open (6:30pm on 18th)
- **Feb 1** — ASE 4-week session begins
- **Feb 10** — Family Sweethearts Dance 6:30pm-8pm
- **Feb 13** — Zibbibo Pizza Kit Pickups @ Restaurant 4-7pm
- **Feb 27** — PTO Budget Meeting/Executive Board Nominations Open

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30pm

Meeting Attendance (In-person and Online):

1. **Aisha Sefati**
2. **Alexis White**
3. **Amanda Leonard**
4. **Betty Fitzhugh**
5. **Bridgette Farrell-Kuzma**
6. **Caroline Collier**
7. **Cynthia Baisch**
8. **Cynthia Childress**
9. **Debi Allen**
10. **Erin Altschuler**
11. **Garrisonville Gators**

- 12. Haydee Castro**
- 13. Jaimie Brandt**
- 14. Jenny Hale**
- 15. Jessica Whiteley**
- 16. Jodi Odlum**
- 17. Joanna Brown**
- 18. Jordan Lee**
- 19. Kate Shifflett**
- 20. Meghann Gillette**
- 21. Michele Golles**
- 22. Milissa Roseberry**
- 23. Nicole025**
- 24. Omar Nezam**
- 25. Parwana**
- 26. Sharon Stoeckel**
- 27. Stephanie Sonnenberg**
- 28. Tracy Brokesh**
- 29. Todd McLean**