

Farmland ES PTA Meeting

February 7, 2023, on Zoom

Elizabeth Coit called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
28 people were in attendance.

Presidents' Report: Janet Russell and Elizabeth Coit thanked PTA volunteers and reminded everyone that we have volunteer opportunities that are longer term or shorter-term/one-time. Shared that PTA Board met last week about new initiatives. Next PTA general meeting is scheduled for March 7 but might change.

Secretary's Report: Tracy Miller shared link to the December meeting minutes (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f40237e5f15da0d5def48df/t/63e2ced8b6c0df267927c093/1675808472624/Dec+2022+PTA+meeting+minutes.pdf>) and moved to approve the minutes. Adi Kaner seconded. Minutes are approved.

Staff appreciation snack table for Kindness Week is coming up next week; be sure to drop off your items to Suzanne Thorpe if you signed up.

Thanked our room parent coordinators and room parents for the upcoming Kindness Week parties next week. We know it's a lot of work and we appreciate you.

Treasurer's Report: Adi Kaner reported that skate night was a great event but we only make \$100 because of the way it's set up with the rink. A few new members have joined the PTA halfway thru the year. 5th grade promotion team is far ahead on collecting money compared to this time last year.

VP Educational Programs Report: Becky Phillips reported that the spelling bee is tomorrow and STEM week is March 6-10. Details for STEM week are being worked out. We will need volunteers – look for emails for volunteers for in-class activities and possible guest speaker.

International Night will be in April.

VP Extracurricular Programs Report: Becky Frank reported that skate night had bigger turnout than expected (250). Thanks to Michelle Finkel for coordinating the donation drive for Harmony Hills – let Becky or Michelle know if you have anything additional to donate.

School garden – if you want to work on it or have ideas, let Becky know. Mrs. Weissenburger has also been checking with teachers on this to see if they want to incorporate the garden into any class activities.

VP Ways and Means Report: Amanda Ombrello reported that group photos are coming up for yearbook. She reminded families to take pictures around school and upload them. We are still looking for an event chair and auction chair for the spring social event – reach out to Amanda if interested.

Teacher Liaison Report: Mrs. Weissenburger thanked everyone for the support at Community Service night. Said teachers are looking forward to the spelling bee and Kindness Week as well as spirit week and thanked the room parents. Staff would like to help with the spring auction and offer experiences like lunch w/a teacher, etc. for families to bid on. Reminder to 5th grade parents to provide their students' info for the end-of-year promotion activities.

Farmland Together/DEI Committee Update: Dorigen Hofmann invited everyone to the meeting tomorrow at 7:30 – committee meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 on Zoom. Tomorrow's meeting will include info about Family Study Circles happening at end of month – look for a flyer coming out for 3rd/4th/5th grade families. The committee is always looking for more people. Reach out to Dorigen to join.

Rachel Lanman and Dorigen Hofmann talked about the upcoming chalk-in for positivity – need 6 volunteers per recess period so more slots are being added tonight. Community chalk-in also happening Sunday from 2-3.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Longest thanked the families who helped fulfill the school's wishlist – they even received the microwave! Thanked the DEI committee for the display board near media center. It's National Counselors Week – thanks to Ms. Mann and Ms. Mason – we appreciate them! On March 14 at 7:00 there will be a virtual session with an instructional specialist from MCPS who will talk about inclusive literature. Kindergarten orientation is April 19 and 20, no school for Kindergarteners those days throughout MCPS. K enrollment starts on March 27 in ParentVue portal.

WJ Cluster Reps: Dorigen Hofmann and Jen Cassell started introducing Woodward HS info. They shared a frequently asked questions document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IUPa-xSYykw6dPi3P4np3K9pnJUZBmi/view>.

Emily Beckman, cluster coordinator for Walter Johnson high school cluster (includes Tilden middle school, North Bethesda middle school, Walter Johnson, and feeder elementary schools), spoke to the group. There will be times over the next 2-3 years where the cluster will ask the community to reach out/advocate to MCPS or Board of Education in large numbers to make our voices heard.

Woodward high school is scheduled to open as holding school for Northwood, then open as a new high school in fall 2026 (would affect current 7th graders and younger). Unclear what will happen with traffic on Old Georgetown Road – no coordination between MCPS and Dept of Transportation who put in bike lanes. Not determined if it will be a magnet school or not, though it will have an extensive performance space. So it might be partially magnet but not entirely. Purposes of new school: alleviate crowding at WJ and Downcounty consortium high schools, and possibly be a performing arts magnet HS. Goal enrollment is 2100 students, only a portion would attend arts magnet if it does end up at Woodward. At least 18 months before school opens, they will do a boundary study/scope. That will be a time for the community to

advocate. We don't know if it will include middle/elementary schools – will know when the scope document comes out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Miller, Farmland PTA Secretary