

Farmland ES PTA Meeting

March 7, 2023, on Zoom

Elizabeth Coit called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
38 people were in attendance.

Presidents' Report: Janet Russell and Elizabeth Coit reported that volunteers are needed for the PTA for 2023-2024 – let us know if you are interested in anything.

Not sure if there will be an April PTA meeting due to the timing of spring break.

Secretary's Report: Tracy Miller shared link to the February meeting minutes (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f40237e5f15da0d5def48df/t/6407c4401c9f7742c2e89715/1678230592987/Feb+2023+PTA+meeting+minutes.pdf>) and moved to approve the minutes. Amanda Ombrello seconded. Minutes are approved.

Tracy reminded everyone about the online membership directory and Membership Toolkit app that all Farmland families have convenient access to: <https://farmland-pta.membershiptoolkit.com/login-form?r=%2Fdirectory>

Treasurer's Report: Adi Kaner was not able to attend so there was no Treasurer's Report.

VP Educational Programs Report: Becky Phillips reported that STEM Week is going on – classes are building telescopes this week in class. There will also be a virtual assembly where kids can ask questions of a panel of scientists. Thanks to Ira Thorpe and Jessica Salzwedel for planning a great week. Questions for the scientists can be sent in advance to Jessica. Teachers have a Google form where they are collecting questions and Mrs. Longest will share questions with the panel too.

International Night is coming next month – look for more information in upcoming emails.

VP Extracurricular Programs Report: Becky Frank had no new updates to share.

VP Ways and Means Report: Amanda Ombrello reminded people to order their yearbook and upload photos by the April 10 deadline. There won't be an additional opportunity to order after the deadline this year. We are looking for a chair and volunteers for the spring event (tentatively May 13).

Special Education Representative: Michelle Krieger reported that there will be a zoom meet and greet tomorrow to brainstorm ideas for advocacy and support.

WJ Cluster Reps: Dorigen Hofmann and Jen Cassell reported that the scope of the boundary study has been proposed for the reopening of Woodward High School – there will be an opportunity for comment this week with Board of Education/MCPS.

Teacher Liaison Report: Mrs. Weissenburger was not able to attend, so there is no report.

Farmland Together/DEI Committee Update: Dorigen Hofmann reminded everyone to check out the display case near the media center for monthly displays of different heritage months and other observances related to diversity in our school. We hosted a study circles activity for families – many thanks to Mrs. Longest and the MCPS Equity Office for supporting these events. We are looking for help with International Night if anyone is interested, reach out. There is a zoom meeting for this tomorrow night.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Longest thanked the parents helping at STEM Week – kids are having fun. Thanks also to the PTA and parents for clearing out the school's wish lists for individual teachers and the teacher lounge list.

Preliminary staffing for next year – projected 798 students enrolled so will be down from 34 to 33 teachers. Expecting 5 kindergartens, 6 classes each for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, 5 classes each for 4th and 5th grades. We are advocating for additional K teacher so we don't have to hire at the last minute. Our school is unique with kids coming and going and adjustments in grade-level staffing.

March 14 at 7:00 there will be a virtual presentation on inclusive literature focusing on LGBTQ+ inclusive texts. Yael Astor, MCPS Instructional Specialist, will share the “why” and “what” for including this literature in the English Language Arts curriculum.

It's Read Across Farmland Month. We will have “drop everything and read” on March 15 and doing reading tracking and incentives during the month.

Maryland Report Card coming out on March 9. Farmland is still a 5-star school! Ratings are based on academic achievement and progress, Maryland School Survey, access to well-rounded curriculum, % of students not chronically absent, and a few other measures.

State testing is in progress – 5th graders are taking science assessment, more testing coming in April and May for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Try not to schedule travel/appointments during testing. Teachers will send out more information. Also MAP testing and DIBELS for all grades – those tests help inform placement for next school year.

National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest – deadline is March 15.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Miller, Farmland PTA Secretary