

## **Farmland ES PTA Meeting**

**May 2, 2023, on Zoom**

Elizabeth Coit called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.  
23 people were in attendance.

**Presidents' Report:** Janet Russell and Elizabeth Coit reported that we will try to have a quiet activities room at all our future activities, including the upcoming Spring Fling, since it was so popular and well-received at International Night.

The June PTA meeting (last of this school year) will be June 6. We will vote on adopting new bylaws and have elections for next year's PTA board.

**Secretary's Report:** Becky Frank shared link to the March meeting minutes (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f40237e5f15da0d5def48df/t/64514007147bda0479fa8c28/1683046407552/March+2023+PTA+meeting+minutes.pdf>) and moved to approve the minutes. Amanda Ombrello seconded. Minutes are approved.

Tracy Miller reminded everyone to read the draft of the revised bylaws that was shared in the PTA newsletter. It adds a Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) to the board with the goal of making sure everything the PTA does considers a DEI lens/perspective.

Please also look at the list of open volunteer positions for next year and reach out if you have interest in or questions about a volunteer role. We would love to have you involved with the PTA!

Please donate to the much-loved staff appreciation week snack table, which will be set up next week.

**Treasurer's Report:** Adi Kaner shared the latest report on state of the PTA's funds and highlighted that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration team has raised almost \$4,000.

**VP Educational Programs Report:** Becky Phillips thanked everyone for participating in a great International Night.

**VP Extracurricular Programs Report:** Becky Frank shared that Kindergarten Orientation was great and after-school activities for the spring are wrapping up. We are looking for volunteers to help the school with after-school activities and getting the word out about Kindergarten registration next year.

Michelle Finkel thanked everyone for the April donations to fill an urgent need at our sister school, Harmony Hills. We will have one more donation collection coming up. Please check the lost & found because those items that are not claimed are washed and then donated to Harmony Hills as well.

**VP Ways and Means Report:** Amanda Ombrello spread excitement about the upcoming Spring Fling party and silent auction coming up on May 12. Buy tickets online in advance. We need a volunteer or two to coordinate the yearbook for next year.

**Teacher Liaison Report:** Mrs. Weissenburger thanked the 5<sup>th</sup> graders for doing a great job with their various jobs around the school, including straightening up the lost and found. She thanked the PTA for a great International Night and for supporting the 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion efforts. She said every week feels like staff appreciation week at Farmland and teachers appreciate our support and it means a lot.

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Longest shared that the Pie a Staff Member fundraiser was a lot of fun. 5<sup>th</sup> graders had great student dialog sessions that focused on a "speak up" strategy to combat racism as well as other issues. 5<sup>th</sup> graders also had a presentation from author Maya Klinger, who spoke about her book *The Photographer's Son*.

The Farmland results from the MCPS anti-racism survey and audit will be shared at the June PTA meeting. Thank you to all the parents who filled out the articulation survey form to give feedback for next year's teacher assignments/class formation. Email your child's teacher if you did not get to fill it out. If you know anyone who will be coming to Farmland next year, please tell them to enroll right now since decisions about staffing/number of teachers will be made very soon. A couple teachers are leaving/retiring and updated numbers/plans for staffing will be shared when they are available.

Don't forget there is a donation bin next to the school near the car rider loop - the school makes money based on the weight of donations there every month.

Thank you to Rachel Lanman for coordinating the quiet activities room at International Night and to all the families who shared parts of their culture with the school community.

Ms. Davis-Jones gave updates on the testing season, including MCAP tests (results will be shared with parents next year), and also shared about 2<sup>nd</sup> grade gifted and talented identification.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Miller, Farmland PTA Secretary