

## Farmland ES PTA Meeting

**September 13, 2022**

Elizabeth Coit called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m.  
~42 people were in attendance.

**Presidents' Report:** Co-presidents Janet Russell and Elizabeth Coit welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. They had the executive board members introduce themselves and share their roles. We will post on the PTA website ([www.farmland-pta.org](http://www.farmland-pta.org)) which executive board members lead which committee/activities, so people who are interested in volunteering can know who to contact.

Even though we have lined up chairpeople to lead most PTA activities and events, parents are encouraged to reach out if you hear about an activity you are interested in helping with. PTA is selling spirit wear (Farmland tshirts, pajamas, sweatshirts, cups, magnets, etc.) out in hallway tonight and will also be selling items (including new shirt options) at the Fall Festival on Oct. 7.

The next PTA meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 6, and it will be virtual. After that we will try to do hybrid (in person with Zoom option) for future meetings.

**Teacher Liaison:** Mrs. Weissenburger thanked everyone for the welcome back snacks for the teachers during pre-service week. The Board acknowledged that Suzanne Thorpe is the staff appreciation chair and doing a stellar job.

**Treasurer's Report:** Adi Kaner shared and summarized the budget for the 2022-23 school year. She explained that the fiscal year starts July 1. The proposed new budget increases individual teacher reimbursement by 50% and increases support to Mrs. Longest's budget needs. There is also a new budget item for the Farmland Together (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion [DEI]) committee. She moved to approve the budget. Crystal P. and Elaine S. seconded. Budget is approved.

**Secretary's Report:** Tracy Miller moved to approve the June 2022 meeting minutes. Amanda O. seconded. Minutes are approved.

She shared that we are looking for a newsletter coordinator for this year. It's not a huge time commitment – maybe 15 minutes per week – and can be done from home at your convenience. If you have skills or interest in publishing, writing, or marketing, this is a great position for you. Come talk to me after the meeting or email [FarmlandPTASecretary@gmail.com](mailto:FarmlandPTASecretary@gmail.com).

Thank you to the 100 of you who have already joined the PTA. For everyone else, please take a minute to join online – we have some forms with the QR code here on the table or you can do it online when you get home at [www.farmland-pta.org](http://www.farmland-pta.org). There will be a membership contest running through Oct. 15: The class with the most PTA memberships on that date will win a popsicle party.

Teachers will be asking for 1-2 room parents for each class. This is a great opportunity to spend time in your child's classroom and help out their teacher. Room parents help the teacher communicate with the families in the class and also plan the 3 class parties – fall party in October, kindness day in February, and end-of-the-year party in June. Please sign up to play a part in ensuring a great year in your child's class.

**VP Educational Programs Report:** Becky Phillips said the Geography Bowl is the first educational event coming up this fall. The Spelling Bee is during the winter and then STEM Week in March. We will need volunteers for all of these, so look for information in PTA newsletters and other outreach.

**VP Extracurricular Programs Report:** Becky Frank shared that we are looking for a volunteer to coordinate the school garden, so reach out if interested. Thanked Michelle Finkel for working with our sister school, Harmony Hills, and Michelle Krieger for being Farmland's representative to the county's special education committee.

**VP Ways and Means Report:** Amanda Ombrello shared that the Fall Festival is coming up. It's a great chance to get together outside. The PTA will sell pumpkins and pizza, kids can play on bounce houses and on the playground. We have a chairperson for the event but need plenty of other help.

We are looking for a chairperson for our Spring festival/fundraiser. This even is always a big hit. We are also looking for someone to shadow Elaine Spero, our yearbook coordinator, this year, in hopes they will take over next year. The Book Fair is also coming up soon and Crystal Paultre will need help with that. Let Amanda know if you are interested in any of the chairperson positions, and keep an eye out for the opportunity to sign up to help at the events.

**Farmland Together (DEI) Committee:** Elaine Spero talked about the new Farmland Together committee, whose purpose is to celebrate the community and cultures here at Farmland. Mrs. Longest and Ms. Davis-Jones are big champions for the committee and are helping with new initiatives like No Place for Hate (Rachel Lanman is the chairperson) and Study Circles (MCPS initiative). Everyone is welcome, and we need everyone's perspectives, ideas, and input.

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. April Longest welcomed everyone to back to school night. She informed us about the new Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade curriculum. Current enrollment at Farmland is about 800 students and is rising. We will be getting an additional Kindergarten teacher due to increased enrollment. The administration appreciates parent support and wants this relationship to be a partnership. Social/emotional learning continues to be a big focus this year, using the Leader in Me curriculum. This year, all teachers are on one of three committees: academic, leadership, and culture. Teachers are also creating more leadership opportunities for students. Oct. 10 will be an open house opportunity for parents to visit their students' classes – more info coming.

She introduced Ms. Aara Davis-Jones (Assistant Principal) and Mrs. Carolann Carpentier (Reading Specialist).

Be sure to read her Sunday emails to stay informed about happenings at the school. Contact the office if not getting emails, and keep your email address updated on ParentVue. She is thankful for the PTA support.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Miller, Farmland PTA Secretary