# **VL Murray PTO Meeting**

Date | time 8/25/2019 3:00 PM| Location Crozet Pizza

## **Agenda**

* **Welcome /Introductions:** Alison Dwier-Seldon, Carrie Cooper, Lindley Stakem, Heidi Stone, Elizabeth Contilano, Ayse Korkesez, Suzie Cobleigh, Katie Shepley, Nicole Group, Ann Marie Park, Elena Tuerk, Mabby LaVoy, Kira Graff
* **Principal's Report**
	+ Updates from Mrs. Alison Dwier-Selden:
		- Start of school: the first three days have gone well. Largest issue was a bus substitute on the first day which has since been sorted out.
		- Over the summer the breezeway project was completed.
			* “Fidget walk-way” that will allow children to burn energy/frustrations and refocus
			* Shed and new benches have been put into place
			* Murray accomplished one of the highest academic awards (Exemplar Performance School award)
				+ Only school in Albemarle to accomplish this
			* September 5: Back to School night🡪parents only.
				+ Ms. Dwier-Seldon will address school and present findings from parent survey.
			* New teacher: Holly Fox (VAP- VA Alternate Assessment program)
				+ All other teachers have returned.
				+ Linda Gervin has retired but her replacement has been hired and is being on-boarded.
			* **Question:** *What is your background?* Ms. Dwier-Selden comes to Murray from her work with curriculum at central office. She has been principal at two other Albemarle schools. Principal Dwier-Seldon would like to have parents know that it is her practice is to be as open and available as possible. Please reach out to her anytime.
			* **Question:** Is there a new social program in Kindergarten that is done during the first 6 weeks? Ms. Dwier-Seldon will look into it.
			* **Question:** How has drop-off and pick up gone thus far? Logistics for drop-off and pick-up are going well. ACAC bus is coming to Murray this year.
* **Budget Review:** Elizabeth Contilano: $59,000 in accounts right now
	+ Very successful Fall fundraiser 2018🡪picnic tables and benches, shed
	+ Each year there is a suggested donation dollar amount per child requested.
	+ Last year’s goal was $22,000 for Fall Fundraiser which was about $75 per child requested donation.
	+ We do not have PayPal or electronic money system due to the fees and financial loss that would entail.
		- There will be further investigation and discussion around whether or not to charge a convenience fee and open these portals.
* New business

## **New Business**

* **First Funding request –** Mr. Healy & Mrs. Broadus looking for Lego education packs for group learning in 1st grade.
	+ Building Lego robots; Introduction to coding; other educational/instructional benefits
	+ ***FYI: Requests under $500 can be voted on by the executive committee.***
	+ **Elizabeth Contilano presented motion to approve spending for Lego education packs.**
		- **Suzie Cobleigh 2nd.**
		- **All in favor; Motion passed.**
* **Favorite Things – Kelli Coffin**
	+ How was that received? Helpful enough to update again?
		- Many parents loved it.
		- Recommend addition of birthdays
		- Link in Murray Matters🡪 reference during holidays etc.
		- Ann Marie Park🡪 Teacher per week highlight suggestion.
			* Compile 5 generic questions which each teacher would answer for this highlight
* **Volunteer Needs?**
	+ **Fun Run** (spirit event) – Barkley Lang confirming, but she and Kathy have tentatively planned for 10/18.
		- 1PM to end of the day
		- Are you available to help? Please message Carrie Cooper (carrielcooper@gmail.com) if you can help! We really need parents!!
		- Possible that there will be a suggested donation at this event.
	+ **Flick on the Field** – 9/27, rain date is the following week.
		- Chic fila available as pre-order
			* Chic fila will have a price increase from last year.
		- Students vote on the movie
		- Need volunteers: decorations, posters, food distribution etc.
		- If you are interested then please e-mail Lindley Stakem (Lindleyhs@gmail.com)
		- Bring flashlights to the event.
		- There will be 8th graders there to help crowd control.
		- There will be security at the event
* **Update on Playground Equipment Improvements**
	+ Obstacle Course Updates
	+ Ropes course: Ms. Tillar-Hughes is working on it. Approvals from the county are needed.
		- Previously approved $200 for equipment
* **Teacher School Spirit Apparel**
	+ ~70 teachers/staff: $40 = $2,800
	+ The desire is to promote Murray Elementary pride
	+ Multiple other county schools have done something similar.
		- Add dollar amount to the suggested amount for yearly PTO donation.
		- For now this will be tabled until the next meeting
	+ Teacher survey will be conducted to determine what type of item they would most appreciate and use.
	+ Should this item also be offered as a school fundraiser?
* **Logo Development/ Fundraising Opportunity**
	+ Create committee around logo design
	+ Students can vote on the options that are developed
	+ Create bumper stickers, water bottles etc.
	+ Do you know anyone that does graphic design/logo design? Would they be willing to donate their time and effort?
	+ **Elena Tuerk presented a Motion that $400 be allotted for logo development needs.**
		- **2nd: Nicole Group**
		- **All in favor; Motion Passed**
* **5th Grade Fundraising Chair: Candice Love**
	+ Annual trip to VA Beach🡪 paid for entirely by fundraising efforts
	+ If 5th grade does not raise the funds then PTO covers residual. Current budget allotment is $4000
	+ Checks: VL Murray NOT PTO
* **Helping Hands Updates:**
	+ Volunteer pledge- trying to cultivate desire to give back to the community
		- Have students vote on what causes they want to support.
	+ Add updates on opportunities to volunteer to the website
	+ Multiple opportunities over year
	+ 3 hour commitment to the clean-up efforts behind the school near the nature path
	+ Handprint cut outs on the wall for visualization of accomplishments.
* **Any other updates?**
	+ Elena Tuerk presented an idea for Parent Topic meetings at the school
		- Early in the school year: Presentation/Panel discussion on bullying/appropriate social interactions
			* How parents can help promote appropriate social interactions at school.
		- Principal Dwier-Selden was very supportive of these parent meetings. She offered any assistance she can and will allow for the school to be open to host these important meetings.

**Outstanding Committee Chairs**

Social Events/ Party Parade:

Leads efforts planning adult or family focused events that are typically fundraisers for PTO and help us get to know each other better, building our community. Events have ranged from small cocktail parties, themed adult dinners (Octoberfest), wreath making, and more. Efforts are spread out through the year based on availability and schedules. Being a host is not required, but being creative to plan social events that support our community is!

Fundraising

* Kira Graff has volunteered to chair this event!
* Kid’s night out
* Gym movie night at the school
* “Amazing Race” mock parents night
* If you have an amazing fundraising idea and are willing to chair/organize the event, please volunteer.

Talent Show:

Each spring around March, Murray students spend about 1.5hrs showing off their skills and talents on a Friday night. Looking for someone to interested in organizing kids, and performances to create committee to work on stage decoration, a program and getting audio/visual executed. Current chair, Marie Ellis is available to talk further though idea and available to help next year, but not lead. The kids really enjoy this event and it is awesome to see this build their stage confidence.

* Nicole Group volunteered to help with Talent show the night of event
* Katie Shepley also volunteered to be an assistant chair/lend aid to a primary chair volunteer.

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| **PTO Council Position** | **2019-2020 Chair** |
| **President** | Carrie Cooper |
| **Vice President(s)** | Lindley Stakem |
| **Treasurer** | Elizabeth Contiliano |
| **Secretary** | Heidi Stone |
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| **Committee** | **2019-2020** |
| **Bingo Night** | Rueijen Fan |
| **Book Fair** | Erin Moore and Susannah Fuller |
| **Murray Nature Trail** | Allie Hill |
| **Box Tops** | Teller Stalfort |
| **Cash Back Programs** | Carolyn Sheffield |
| **Communications/ Murray Matters Weekly Email** | Mary Rutherford |
| **Cultural Enrichment** | Meg Bryce |
| **Field Day** | Mrs. Tillar-Hughes |
| **Flick on the Field** | Mindy Foster & Lindley Stakem  |
| **Fun Run** | Barkley Laing |
| **Helping Hands** | Elena Tuerk |
| **Hospitality Committee/ Teacher Appreciation** | Erin Tracey, Kelly Kaufman |
| **Landscaping** | Katie Fusco |
| **Literary Magazine** | Caroline Hirst, Liz Licht |
| **M3 Enrichment Programs** | Liz Manson & Jessicah Collins |
| **New Family Hospitality** | Heidi Stone, Allie Hill |
| **Parent Council Representative** | Rueijen Fan |
| **Party Parade** |  |
| **School Directory** | Sonnia Kesser |
| **Social Media** | Elena Tuerk/ Rebecca Gibson |
| **Sustainability** | Elena Tuerk |
| **Talent Show** |  |
| **Website Development** | Bridget Donaldson |
| **Yearbook** | (typically 5th grade parent) |
| **Teacher Representative** | Ellen Patterson |