# **VL Murray PTO Meeting**

Date | time 9/9/2018 3:30 PM| Location Meriwether Springs

Attendance:

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| Lindley Stakem (President)  Liz Licht (Vice President)  Chapell Turner (Vice President)  Elizabeth Contiliano (Treasurer)  Luljeta Santugini (Secretary)  Ellen Patterson (Teacher Representative) | Stephanie Snider  Meg Bryce  Elena Tuerk  Julie Bowersett  Carrie Cooper  Liz Manson | Teller Stalfort  Allie Hill  Mindy Foster  Nicole Group  Lauren Thravey  Katie Fusco  Traci Polk |

## Minutes

Meeting Called to order at 3:30 by Lindley Stakem

* Welcome
* Principal's Report

As mentioned during Back to School night, the start of the year has been smooth, arrival/dismissal has been going well. Good start so far.

* Budget Review -Elizabeth Contiliano

Review Special Grants. $1,100 worth of expenses out of $4,000 that is budgeted. It was noted that the only staff that doesn’t have stipend is the librarian.

* + - 3rd Grade Scholastic Newsletter approved
    - New Books for upper hall – content and level appropriate
    - Mini Freezer for nurse/ice packs so she doesn’t have to leave the office with students in there.
    - Keva blocks for library
* Fundraising Revisited
  + Lindley Stakem introduced the initiative of going back to paying for some events that were free the past two years- have recommended donations.
    - Fundraising for a Cause – Survey through Murray Matters of improvements, items our community would like to see. Looking for small group to help prepare that survey.
* Fall Fund Drive – it was suggested we advertise in the lobby and online how much we need and how far we have come in order to create awareness. Traci Polk suggested using horseshoes to give to donors.
* Committee Request - Website Content Update
  + Lindley suggested that each committee gets its own webpage in order to help people know what they do and what they need. Looking for an intro/ short description that will live with a list of all events we offer, but then also a longer description that will be used to create a new page on the website.

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| Events & Program Updates | Primary Contact |
| 1. **New Family Reception**: Scheduled for Sept. 14th in the teacher’s lounge from 1:45-2:30pm.  Sending out a sign-up genius to get donations of food and drink and many of those people attend the event as well to answer questions and meet new families. | Jenn Winslow  jennhwinslow@gmail.com |
| 1. **Flick on the Field. Sept 28th** (Rain date Oct 5th)    1. Movie chosen by students – PG, under 90minutes, new within the last year.    2. Call for volunteers/ raffle item    3. Update on event | Mindy Foster  mindy.foster05@gmail.com |
| 1. **Cultural Enrichment:** 2018-2019 events scheduled:    1. Festival of the Book to host Author, Jarrett Krosocska, on March 20th at 8:10 am at VLM. Author of the lunch lady series and Star Wars: Jedi Academy and many other children's books.  This is something that the Keuter family asked for me to pursue and it was a lot of effort to pull it together, but we got him!  The Keuter family and my family are contributing money for his per diem, and we are going to use $1500 of my cultural enrichment budget.  The Festival of the Book is paying for the rest of his per diem and dealing with his travel and hotel arrangements.  He will also speak at two other schools and at Henley Middle School.    2. hosting Bright Star Theater for George Washington Carver and Friends on 2/6/19.  That will take up all but $200 of by budget, which was reduced this year by $500.    3. Normally, the Richmond Ballet performs for us in the fall for free using a grant from PVCC, but that grant is no longer available.   The ballet said I could write a grant to have the fee reduced, but we will still need to pay $420.  When I get the final info from the ballet, I am going to submit that to PTO as a special grant.  We will not be able to host an acapella group this year or have the Under the Sea visit again.    4. When I was discussing our lack of funds with Christine Keuter, she said she would ask Oliver Kuttner to come to the school to speak about his work with Edison 2 and the development of the Very Light Car.  This would be free and a cool way for the kids to be thinking about science and engineering.  If anyone has any ideas about a free music experience for the school, please forward them to me.    5. Suggested during meeting that we have a specific fund raiser for Richmond Ballet. | Jenn Winslow  jennhwinslow@gmail.com |
| 1. **Cash Back & Box Top Programs:**     1. Cash Back **–** looking forideas on how to make it more profitable and get more people involved. Harris Teeter/Kroger, Amazon Smile       1. Liz Manson reported that number has gone down over the years, from 270 to 75 participants. Many Murray families don’t know they need to relink every year. Also, only 10% reads Murray Matters. It was noted that it is not easy to read on the mobile. There was a discussion on how to reach more parents. Traci Polk suggested a poll to see what works best for most parents. Chapell Turner suggested we show clearly the progress made through the program. Allie Hill suggested Murray Matters could be mentioned in one of principal’s phone messages       2. Alternate – more partnerships with restaurants, gyms, ‘day of proceeds’ events    2. Box Top – prior conversations about nature of items available, concerns for healthy choices, but also preventing food insecurity       1. Teller Stalfort reported lifetime earnings have been over 13,000 dollars. Over the last year it was about $500.       2. She voiced some parents’ concerns that this program might be pushing them to buy low nutritive value foods. It was suggested that ice cream parties for the class with most Box Tops be replaced with dance parties. Liz Licht suggested part of the reward can be for a student to announce his class as the winner during morning announcements. Mr. Green suggested taking a video of the winning class.       3. Group discussion led to decision that Traci Polk would create/decorate a “Golden Horseshoe” that could be placed around the door of the classroom with the most participation rather than total quantity of tops. | Cash Back – Liz Manson  liz@lillap.com  Box Top – Teller Stalfort  tstalfort@gmail.com |
| 1. **Foxfield Fall Family Day Races. October 7, 2018**    1. Tickets purchased through their site, using promo code “VLM” will provide donations back to PTO.       1. Invitation Ticket & Parking = 10%       2. Green Rail Reserved Parking & Infield Parking = 5% | Kirsten Rhodes  Foxfield Ticket Manager & Sales. kirstenrhodes@foxfieldraces.com. 434.293.9501 |
| 1. **Fun Run**    1. **Moved to Fall.** Scheduled,Friday Oct. 19th.  No rain date, as Oct. 26 Kathy T-H says 4th grade has a field trip and Friday Nov. 2 is no school.   Carrie Cooper reported this event has been moved from Spring to Fall. Suggested donations are $5 per family. Volunteers are needed to make some items, instead of buying them. Looking to find yards of bright green fabric to make arm or head bands to cut costs. | Carrie Cooper  carrielcooper@gmail.com |
| 1. **Fall Fundraiser**    1. Key is online fundraising and/or swipe credit card. Exploring possibilities with (Bank of American) BOA, Square swipe.    2. Possibly looking for table at gym pick-up for 2 weeks for swiping cards    3. Looking for potential volunteers to coordinate |  |
| 1. **Party Parade** – Traci Polk asked whether we want this to be a fund raiser or community event. Coordinating an adult party at someone’s house can raise more money than many community events where we charge $2 a person vs. one grown up party that can raise $13,000. Will continue to line up events for adults and looking for volunteers to host and plan. | Traci Polk  traci.polk@hotmail.com  614) 364-6616 |
| 1. **Talent Show:** Marie and John are coordinating again, but this is their last year. Looking for assistant this year, ideally to shadow for rehearsals and the big night explain what has and has not worked for us in the past years.  * February 22: Audition * March 1: Rehearsal #1 * March 8: Rehearsal #2 * March 15: Talent Show | Marie Powers Ellis  marie@ivypianostudio.co |
| 1. **Landscaping**    * Have $1,000 to spend this fall. Priorities?    * County is clearing the ever greens down the back sidewalk, along the building. Likely late fall.    * Day of Caring?    * Bulb or plant drive to raise funds and improve appearance? | Katie Fusco  katiefusco85@gmail.com  434-825-2719 |
| 1. **Mind Murray Magic (M3)**    * Allie Hill reported the need for volunteer parent to help check in the kids. Would be 2:15-3:15 during the sessions to ensure kids make it to the right locations. Would be nice to have parents commit by day of the week for the entire session. It was suggested that we add a check box for parent volunteers in the M3 registration form. Many just want to sign-up rather than reach out. |  |

## New Business

**NEW Concept Teacher Wish List:**

* 1. Dedicated page of items teacher could use in the classroom. Would be updated as needed. Possibly Sign-Up Genius or Google Doc to avoid duplicates. Mrs. Patterson suggested the need for something less public and more personal. PTO will continue to explore ideas.
  2. Lindley Stakem reported that kindergarten teachers would like to have rainboots for their classes. Lauren Thravey volunteered to help coordinate the donation effort for Kindergarten.
  3. Event in the Lobby: concept is to create ‘Giving Tree’ in the school with Teacher Wish List of items under $20 prior to fall conferences in November. As families come to school for conferences, they can grab an item for purchase. PTO is looking for a volunteer to help set-up and manage.

**Murray Logo Creation as Fundraiser**

Serves as community builder and fundraising for spring 2018. Develop single logo for Murray Elementary to use throughout collateral. Themed events and designs could still use own, but for yearbook, directory, bumper stickers, websites, letterhead, notices, etc. Team approved concept, but needs more time to evaluate and determine path forward.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm