

SCA Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2016

President's Update (Lisa Loudon) – Thank you for coming. We will continue the \$25 gift card raffle this year for all those attending SCA meetings. Please sign in attendance and at the end of the school year names will be chosen. We aim to keep meetings short and focused this year. Discussed the possibility of reducing the number of meetings per year and creating topics of interest for meeting discussions. Possible discussion for the next meeting-exploring online school supply ordering. Pomptonian ordering is now online. The first day reception was very nice. It only costs \$75 but it's a nice way for people to reconnect after the summer and for new Kindergarten parents to meet other families. The Class Parent meeting went well. Hot lunch sign-ups will go out soon via sign up genius. Shoparoo is a great way to raise money! You just need to download the app and start taking pictures of your receipts.

VP Programming/Co-President (Jennifer Zimmer)– Verona SCA calendar with town wide SCA committee information went home via backpack as did the Forest Avenue phone book. Both books contain a lot of very useful information. We'll only be asking new teachers for their wish lists for holiday/end of the year gifts. We'll use the lists from last year for the rest of the teachers. We do not collect dues for the SCA anymore as we are now a 501 C3. We can still accept donations however.

Secretary (Kristen Donohue) Many thank you notes from Forest Ave. teachers for classroom start-up contributions and Teacher Appreciation week.

Treasurer (Kendra Zalweski) Still going through the packet checks and numbers. Will have an update by the next meeting.

SCRIP Accountant (Andrew Santamaria) Last year's profit \$6,408.75. Current cash balance is \$18,364.04

Principal's Report (Mr. Monacelli) –Most relevant information was discussed at Back to School Night.

- **Lunch Aides:** We are still in need of lunch aides. We'd like to have six people in this position. Please see the bulletin for more information.
- **Library:** Mrs. McAuliffe is leaving. Alissa Freida is a Verona parent and our new librarian. We had a great committee who hired her. She's already met with Mrs. McAuliffe regarding the transition. Mrs. McAuliffe will stay through

the end of September. The library has been put back together after work was done this summer. Thanks to everyone who helped out with this. Thursday is Ms. Freida's first day.

- **Security:** Less glitches with the license sweep. It's starting to get easier. It's easy to drop off items for children. You just leave them on the shelf outside of the office. If you need to come inside the office/school, you must bring your driver's license to sweep.
- **SCA:** Much thanks to the SCA. There are so many things that we're able to do due to the hard work of our volunteers. Forest's budget mostly stays the same but costs do go up-we appreciate the help.
- **Rainy Days:** parents can still enter the gym through the back doors on rainy days. Parents cannot walk through the building though. They must go through the front door and be properly screened due to the new district policy.
- **Volunteers:** Now that we have the license swipe, it might resolve the problem of needing volunteers to have background checks, etc. Library volunteers do not need background checks at this moment but that could change. Any parent volunteers in the school are never alone with children. There is always a teacher present.

Verona Municipal Alliance Committee (VMAC) (Lisa Loudon) This is a great committee. We need a rep from the elementary schools. Focus is on alcohol awareness. They sponsor a town-wide Family Night, where families are encouraged to spend time together. No homework or sports on those nights. There is one in October and one in March. They have meetings once a month. They are doing a fundraiser for California Pizza on Monday, October 10th.

Sportsware (Karen Jandoli) done through Academy Apparel. She does it all online. There will be periods of time when it's open for purchasing (two week time spans). It will be open again around Election Day and then around the holidays. There will be updates on apparel each time.

Walk to School Day (Amanda Weil, Andrea Santamaria) We're in the process of coordinating this event. Parents and students will meet on the two corners of Pease/Forest and Gerdes/Forest for a safety talk before walking to school as a group. Set for October 5th.

Verona Fights Hunger Week (Erika Grothes, Kristen Donohue) Bags are going home on Friday, October 5th to the youngest student in each family. The bags may be returned through October 14th. The Verona Juniors coordinate this food drive. The first year, they collected 800 bags. The second year it was 1,600! With

your help, they hope to collect even more this year. On October 15th at Town Hall (9:00-10:30 a.m.) we will meet to collect and load the bags onto the trucks.

Heavenly Hats (Melissa Algieri) This is a fundraiser that raises money for people who lose their hair due to illness. On Friday, October 14th, students can wear a hat in school if they bring a \$1 donation. For more information, please go to www.heavenlyhats.org.

Picture Day (Kelly Burke) They are ready to go! Pictures are scheduled for September 27th. We need to make sure to get the disc after for the Yearbook.

Kid Stuff Books (Andrea Santamaria) Our profit at this point is \$875. We've sold 70 books.

SCRIP (Christine McGrath, Jacqueline DeLorenzo) The survey helped with focusing how we motivated parents to participate in this program. We are projecting a \$9,000 profit. 60 orders changed in the first week, 15 new orders (mostly K parents), and 29 increased the amount of their SCRIP. Participation is still under 50% so we'd like to work on that. More teachers are participating this year which is great. The average SCRIP card went from \$107 to \$144. We piloted Whole Foods over the summer with 11 families. 5 are now super users. We made a \$217 profit from June through today. We now can accept payment through PayPal. There is a \$.15 fee per transaction. There's still time to sign up for SCRIP. Contact forestavenuescrip@gmail.com if you're interested in participating in this simple and easy fundraiser. Classes will be competing for different prizes throughout the year. See the bulletin attachments for more detailed information.

Box Tops (Karen Ibold, Eileen Irwin-Michael) Remember to clip and save your box tops! The school earns money with each one submitted.

Class Baskets (Kara Conklin) All money has been collected and distributed to all grades - \$120 across the board. The committee will be visiting local businesses for donations and will draft a letter to present to them. There will be a 50/50 at the Election Day basket tricky tray.

Cultural Arts (Alexis Ambrosio) Snakes and Scales –Through Another's Eyes is an anti-bullying assembly set for October 4th, coinciding with the district-wide "Week of Respect." They use animals to illustrate personality and behavioral differences. We are well under budget and will be able to do more in the Spring-- Looking at "Bash the Trash."

Festival of Jack O Lanterns (Lisa Petruzzi) – Families will carve pumpkins to display at Forest Avenue School at the end of October. At the festival, glow sticks will be given to children. Donuts and small bottles of water will also be provided. Be on the lookout for more information!

Secret Shoppe (Kristen Millar) We're still looking for people to help run this event. The kids love it. Any help would be appreciated!

UNICEF (Kendra Zalewski) Boxes will be distributed the week before Halloween with a write up in the bulletin.

No new business

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 3rd at 7:30 p.m.