

Fullerton PTA Meeting
December 12, 2022

In attendance:

- Britni Hazel, President
- Cathy Neisser, Vice President 1
(Fundraising)
- Aleshia Shiflett, Vice President 2
(Recruitment)
- Monica Offerman, Treasurer
- Susannah Ray, Secretary
- Brit Jeffries, Yearbook
- Vicki Waite, Assistant Principal
- Danielle Thackston, Teacher
- Caitlin Klimm-Kellner, LIA President
- Affrieka Kelly
- Ally Aro
- Glenda Anene
- Alyssa Miller
- Taisha Andrews
- Yesenia Romero
- Danielle Zurick
- G Fagan
- Regina Smith
- Tyies Alexander

This meeting was our first ever hybrid meeting. 10 people attended in-person. 9 people attended virtually.

The meeting started at 7:02 with the pledge of allegiance and a quick ice-breaker. Participants were asked to share one thing from this school year that is going really well or one thing about Fullerton that they are grateful for. There was lots of positive praise for our teachers and the Fullerton staff. Thank you so much for all you do for our students!

Treasurer's Report

We started November with \$20,737.58.

Expenses this month totaled \$2,931.39. Expenses included reimbursing four teachers up to \$150 for things they purchased to improve their classrooms, reimbursing two people for Trunk-or-Treat expenses, and paying \$2398.00 for our Scholastic periodicals, which teachers use in the classroom.

Deposits this month totaled \$6,418.82. This included membership dues, our Joe Corbi's fundraiser (cash and checks), cash and checks for our opt-out fundraiser, and our Panda Express spirit night.

We finished with \$24,225.01.

School Sign Repairs

Many thanks to Ally Aro and her husband, who repaired the school sign for us by replacing the plexiglass, which was scratched and yellowing. They also cleared and prepared the electrical connection so it can be turned back on. Aleshia is coordinating with someone to have BGE put in a meter back in.

Valentine's Dance

We are currently working on the logistics for a Valentine's Dance in February. Britni is waiting to hear from Parks and Rec about available dates for the Fullerton gym. All grades will be invited but students will need a parent/guardian/responsible adult to attend with them. We will be looking for volunteers to help. More details will be shared in January.

Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe

This in-school event allows children to buy small gifts for their families (but we can't guarantee that they won't buy something for themselves). Teachers will sign-up for a 20-minute time slot that works for them. Monday, December 12 is for set-up. December 13, 14, and 15 is for students to shop.

We are looking for volunteers that week to help children shop, process payments (most students need help with this), wrap gifts, and keep things organized, etc. **If you would like to volunteer, please sign-up [here](#).** Please note that all volunteers must have completed volunteer training before December 12th. To start that process, please click [here](#).

You should receive more information from your child's teacher about this, but they will need to bring in cash or checks (made out to Fullerton PTA) to shop.

Joe Corbi's

Anyone who ordered Joe Corbi's will need to pick-up their order on December 15th, as items can't be refrigerated overnight or sent home with students. Pick-up start time is still being determined, but pick-up will last until 6:30 pm that day. Pick-up will be in the Rec Room, which is next to the gym. The doors are the ones closest to the small parking lot by the football fields.

Thank you to everyone who ordered Joe Corbi's. We made \$4,395, all of which goes to benefit our students and our school.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation

We are buying breakfast for teachers and staff on Tuesday, December 20th. The food will come from Ridgely's Choice. We have purchased from there before and it's been well-liked.

As a holiday gift for teachers and staff, we are also asking for gift card donations in \$10 increments. Please sign-up [here to donate](#), then send in your gift cards in an envelope labeled Fullerton PTA. We would like to give at least one gift card to each teacher and staff member.

On January 27th, 8:30-10:00a.m., the Dunkin Cruiser will be parked at the Senior Center to give free coffee samples to teachers, staff, and parents. Aleshia and another volunteer will make sure samples are brought to teachers who don't have planning during this visit. We would also like to buy donuts for teachers that morning as well.

Fundraising

Monica is putting together a Holiday Raffle Basket. Like last year it will be Avenue themed. More information will come soon.

Cathy does not have any spirit nights scheduled for December but is working on more for the winter and spring.

Winter Concert

The winter concert for vocal club and for 4th and 5th grade students will be on Wednesday, December 21 at Parkville Middle School. Cathy is working on carnation donations from Weiss grocery store.

Yearbook Update

Brit is getting class lists from administration to make sure that all students are included in the yearbook and to begin organizing the layout. Ally and Aleshia will be helping Brit with the layout and taking pictures of events.

Ms. DeLoriers is coordinating a cover design contest for 5th grade students. The theme this year is "Soaring to New Heights."

A few teachers have been sending Brit pictures from their classrooms and daily activities, but more pictures from teachers would be greatly appreciated. Ms. Waite will add yearbook reminders to the morning announcements so students can help teachers remember.

Fifth grade teachers are organizing the baby pictures as they come in.

At the next house colors event, we would love to get a photo of the staff to include in the yearbook and online.

If anyone has pictures to include in the yearbook or would like to help with yearbook, please reach out to Brit Jeffries at FullertonES.Yearbook@gmail.com.

Principal's Report (shared by Ms. Waite)

Schools close 3-hours early on December 22nd. Winter break lasts through January 2nd. Schools will reopen on Tuesday, January 3.

Schools will also be closed on January 16 and 23 and will close 3-hours early on January 17. Report cards will come out on January 25.

Third grade students are currently finishing CogAT testing, which stretches students' minds and is one piece of data used to identify students for GT math and reading. Next up is the testing of our ELL students to see how they are progressing, and then winter MAP testing for grades K-5.

Mrs. Nossel in the front office had knee-replacement surgery and is out for December and January. She is greatly missed. Please be aware that the front office is currently short staffed.

BCPS has adjusted their snow day policy for this year. The first five snow days of the school year will be traditional snow days with schools fully closed. If we go over five snow days, we will move to virtual learning, but the exact details for that have not yet been announced.

Please send in extra clothing for students in case they have accidents/spills. Donations are welcome. Please organize them by size and then bring them to the school. You will need to check-in with the front office and then can take the clothing to the nurse.

We are excited for field trips to be back on this year. Last week, third graders had a wonderful time going to see a production of *The Nutcracker*. Next week, second graders will be going to Goucher for a show. Thank you to the PTA for helping out families in need so that their children can attend too.

Teachers sent a thank you to all the parents who visited Fullerton during American Education Week. It's great to have the community coming back into the building and the support for the school is much appreciated.

The next House Color event (which is part of Fullerton's [PBIS](#) plan) is on December 19 and will be in a *Masked Singers* format, which the kids loved last time they did it. Thank you to the PTA for donating money for costumes for this event.

On December 20th, we will be treating the Safety Patrol students to munchkins and juice as a big thank you for the work they do.

New Playground and Other School Improvements

Caitlin Klimm-Kellner, President of Linover Improvement Association and graduate of Fullerton Elementary, joined our meeting to share information about how we can advocate for improvements to our school.

Caitlin noted that the school looks exactly the same as it did when she was a student here more than 20 years ago. She has learned that things happen in communities when community associations and PTAs work together, because the squeaky wheels really do get the attention.

One option is to meet with our elected leaders (especially at the state level) and make a case for Legislative Bond Initiatives (LBIs) for our community. Sometimes these require matching funds, sometimes they don't.

Another thing we can do is start attending Baltimore County Town Hall meetings, which begin in March and discuss the budget. Caitlin has attended these and Fullerton doesn't get a lot of

attention. We need advocates from the PTA there. People coming en masse (like Towson did) gets attention.

We especially need to talk about the flooding on the playground and how it affects our students and the community as a whole. The cracked sidewalk is a tripping hazard, and the puddles on the playground can take days to drain after a big rain.

Someone also noted that we sometimes have teenagers acting inappropriately on the playground, which can negatively affect younger kids. Can we get better lighting and more regular visits from the community outreach officer?

Another concern is the zoning issues and likely overcrowding that will be created by the new apartments that will be going up in White Marsh. Caitlin will keep us updated on this issue and what we can do to make sure Fullerton is treated fairly.

Our new Baltimore County Council representative is Mike Ertel. He has just been sworn in and can share information with us about how we can advocate for a new sign and a new playground.

Someone else asked if there has ever been talk of the classrooms being closed. Unfortunately the ventilation system is not equipped for the rooms to be enclosed. What about improving the sound situation? We'll need to talk to the Board of Education. One person (a former student at Fullerton) pointed out that open classrooms are good at teaching kids to block out noise and be respectful of others. Another person asked about the safety of not having classroom doors that can lock, and a couple others pointed out the open classrooms can actually make things safer because it would be easier for children to scatter (which is something that ALICE drills teach students to do).

If you are interested in attending the [Linover Improvement Association](#) meetings, they are at 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month, every other month starting in January, at Kenwood Presbyterian Church.

Caitlin will attend future meetings to keep us updated and further our collaborative efforts.

Spanish Speaking Parents

A number of our students have parents who speak Spanish. We need to make a greater effort to provide information to them in Spanish.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting date will be on January 10 and again will be in-person and online.

Happy holidays, everyone!

