

PTA Meeting 11.1.2022

In attendance:

- Britni Hazel, President
- Cathy Neisser, Vice President 1 (Fundraising)
- Aleshia Shifflett, Vice President 2 (Recruitment)
- Monica Offerman, Treasurer
- Susannah Ray, Secretary
- Brittany Jeffries, Yearbook
- Candace Salkowski, Principal (via Google Meet)
- Vicki Waite, Assistant Principal
- Tara Jones, Teacher
- Morgan Edwards
- Fawn Lindsey
- Alison Aro
- Kimberly Simmons-Lee

The meeting started at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a quick icebreaker. Attendees introduced themselves and shared a favorite Thanksgiving food or a favorite thing about fall.

American Education Week

November 15, 16, 17, and 18 from 9:40 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day. A flier has been sent home with students. If you plan to attend, please complete the pre-registration form and return it to the school. Parents can attend without completing the pre-registration, but the pre-registration helps with Fullerton's planning and reduces lines to get into the building.

If parents are new to the building and have not had their IDs scanned by the office since COVID, please try to stop by the school's main office before American Ed Week, as this can also reduce your wait time.

Two PTA volunteers are needed to help welcome parents in the cafetorium on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Many parents drop their children off at 9:05 and stay until the classroom visits begin at 9:40. The PTA will provide light refreshments, but no hot coffee as it can't be taken into the classroom. The PTA will also use this opportunity to meet parents and encourage them to sign-up for PTA communications and membership.

The school will provide parents with a paper that includes tips on what they can do at home to support their children's learning, as well as space to make notes about the lesson they observe.

Four PTA volunteers are needed to help with the Scholastic Book Fair on Friday, 9:40-11:00, when the Fair is open to parents. All students will have time to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair during their scheduled library team that week.

Britni will start a Sign-Up genius for these volunteer opportunities. It will need to be completed a few days in advance of American Education Week so that Ms. C can confirm who is BCPS

volunteer trained and work with those who need to complete the training. All volunteers for American Ed Week must complete the [BCPS volunteer training](#) for this year.

In addition, the PTA would like to show their appreciation of the teachers and staff (70 people) during American Education Week. A number of ideas were proposed, such as providing a boxed lunch on Friday (Chick-fil-A? Graul's? Dominick's?) or a daily breakfast/snack (Panera bagels? pre-packaged trail mix with a cute saying on it? Ridgely's Choice breakfast?) or coordinating a mindful meditation activity/opportunity.

Can parents make/bake food for teachers? Yes, but be aware of potential dietary concerns, and make sure that it is clearly labeled as only for teachers (baked goods cannot be shared in the classroom). Opportunities to sign-up for this can be added to the Sign-Up Genius for American Ed Week.

Elementary Conference Day

Monday, November 21, schools will be closed for all elementary and Pre-K students. Tuesday, November 22, schools will be closed for all Pre-K students.

Teachers will communicate with parents about conference times, which may include dates and times before the official conference day. Many teachers will hold these conferences online or via telephone.

Penguin Patch

December 12–16, students will be able to shop for holiday gifts at school. Parents set a budget for their children and students can buy small trinkets, toys, and other gifts for their family and friends. Kids really love this event, but the PTA will need volunteers to run it. More information and a Sign-Up genius will be posted on Facebook in the coming weeks.

Fundraiser Updates

Joe Corbi's started this week and runs through November 18th and is often a big fundraiser for us. Please look out for that information in your child's backpack and on [Facebook](#). Also, volunteers will be needed to help with organizing and distributing the orders when they come in. Cathy will share more about this volunteer opportunity as that date draws near.

Spirit Nights have been a success. So far, we have raised \$159 from Kona Ice, \$283 from Chick-fil-A, \$311 from Frank's Pizza, \$58 from Panda Express.

We have also raised \$220 through the Opt Out fundraiser, \$140 through shirt sales, and \$60 through the sale of '21-'22 yearbooks.

For the [new shirt designs](#), we will add options for long-sleeve shirts and sweatshirts and possibly some more colors, and information will be shared at American Education week.

Monica, Aleshia, and Ms. Jones are coordinating on the house colors shirts and making those available again, potentially with an updated design, and in such a way that the PTA can make a profit on them.

October Expenses

We paid \$1302 in expenses in October. These covered operating expenses (paper, new website), Red Ribbon Week, and reimbursements to teachers for their classrooms.

Trunk-or-Treat

This was a big success. Thank you to everyone who contributed! We will be doing it again next year on the Thursday evening before the MSEA conference. We will also have a committee to plan it, so that we can repeat what was successful, add some additional great ideas, and address any areas of concern.

Planning a Student, Family, and Community Event for the Winter

A committee will be formed for this as well. The current proposal is for a paint night. Be on the lookout for the Sign-Up Genius for this committee.

Yearbook

Please sign-up if you are interested in helping Brittany with the yearbook. For example, one person could be dedicated to working on the 5th grade spread (which is traditionally baby pictures) or a special page for the teachers.

Website

The PTA has a new website at www.fullertonespta.org. Thank you to Susannah for putting that together and to Ms. Jones for updating the links on the Fullerton Elementary School website.

A Word from the Teachers

They are really excited about the creativity, organization, and communication from the PTA this year and are looking forward to more.

Winter Concert

The Vocal Club and the 4th and 5th grade students will be putting on a Winter Concert on December 21st (Wednesday) at 7:00 pm at Parkville Middle. More information will be shared with students and parents via their music classes.

PTA Volunteers will be needed to help manage the event and to sell carnations. More information will come at our next PTA meeting.

New Playground Proposal

Ms. Salkowski is not really sure what is happening because Capital Playgrounds is not getting back to us. She will follow up with them again.

Fullerton's School Sign

PTA owns the school sign but there is no warranty on it and no company connected to it. The light has been turned off for a long time, and no one is quite sure why. We do have money in the budget to pay BGE for the electricity to the sign, but perhaps we should set it aside each year so that we can eventually buy a digital sign (which costs \$20,000 or more).

The plexiglass on it has been scratched and needs to be replaced. Allison's husband might be able to fix it for us.

Field Trips

Field trips are back! As long as BCPS does not limit them again, we will return to regular field trips. 2nd grade has one coming up but information hasn't been sent out. There are also things in the works for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade.

The biggest challenge is transportation as BCPS cannot provide buses right now. The other options are to work with Harris Bus Company (which often contracts with BCPS) or a charter bus company, but these options significantly increase the costs of the field trips.

The PTA can help by paying costs for students whose families are experiencing financial hardship. Students who are classified as homeless are paid for by BCPS, but other students with financial need are traditionally helped via the PTA. In addition, the PTA can help reduce the overall cost for all students.

Upcoming Meetings

Our next meeting is on December 6 at 7:00 pm in the Fullerton Teachers Lounge. We love the camaraderie and brainstorming that comes from meeting in-person, but understand that virtual works better for some families and teachers, so our next meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Those who want to join us online will be able to do so through Google Meet. More information will come as that date approaches.