

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2017, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established with 14 members in attendance.

New Business

- Secretary Don Kaynor presented the February 2017 minutes, and they were approved with one correction.
- Treasurer Paula Davis presented the Treasurer's report. Highlights included income from Tiger Night and Spiritwear sales at the Honors Assemblies. Major expenses were related to Tiger Night and \$810 disbursed for Teacher Mini-Grants. After a motion by Don Kaynor and a second by Belinda Nuneviller, the Treasurer's Report was approved as written.

Principal's Report:

- Principal Chuck Miller thanked the PTA for Tiger Night and the Mini-Grants and the custodial crew for all their snow removal work yesterday.
- Ms. Sarah Thompson has won Pyramid Teacher of the Year and is now being considered at the Region 3 level for Fairfax County Teacher of the Year, and Ms. Kirstin Utterback is the Pyramid New Teacher of the Year.

President's Report:

- Vice President Belinda Nuneviller will run again for Vice President, and Sharon Gagner will serve again as the Membership Chair and Volunteer Coordinator.
- President Linda Pinkney presented the candidate Nominating Committee of Paula Davis as President and Don Kaynor and Belinda Nuneviller as members. The Nominating Committee will seek candidates for the offices of President, Treasurer, and Secretary. After a motion and second the committee was approved as presented.

Committee Updates

- Tiger Night – Co-Chair Lisa Landis reported that the March 3rd Tiger Night was very successful. Approximately 385 students attended, the staff and volunteers did a wonderful job, and everyone had a good time. If anyone is interested in chairing this event next year, please contact Lisa—she has a great playbook to walk you through planning and running the event.
- Reflections – Linda Pinkney reported that there will be a Reflections Reception one half hour prior to the May 25th PTA meeting. All 11 participants will be showing their entries, and we will serve light refreshments.

- Spirit Wear – Chair Belinda Nuneviller reported that Spirit Wear sales have gone very well. There will be no more planned events, but students and families can still order online. The online store will close temporarily during Spring Break and then will remain open until the end of the school year.
- Restaurant Nights – There are currently no planned events, but it has been a successful year, and Chair Tracy Brown is looking into scheduling one more event.
- Honor Roll Assemblies – The final assemblies will be held on May 5th.
- Odyssey of the Mind – Wendy Kaynor reported that the Mark Twain team will compete this weekend on Saturday, March 18th.
- Staff Appreciation – Wendy Kaynor reported that Teacher Appreciation Week will be the first week of May. It will last a full week, and activities will be funded by both the PTA and the school administration.
- Twain Community Night – Will be April 20th. It is primarily hosted by the school staff, and the PTA sells concessions to support the event and as a PTA fundraiser. This is an event for elementary students, particularly rising 7th graders to come see their middle school. There will be a wide array of fun activities including a teaser of the Spring drama production, Minute to Win It, and the Pick-A-Prize fundraising raffle (hopefully we will have Disney tickets!). Kim Baker has graciously volunteered to step in and serve as the PTA chair for this event, but she will need volunteers to help.
- We are still looking for a volunteer to coordinate the 8th Grade Dance—the capstone event for our 8th graders. It is a prom-style event, and this year's theme, chosen by the students using an electronic ballot, is Fire & Ice. Many people have already volunteered to help, and a planning meeting was held immediately after the PTA meeting. The dance will be held on June 9th. Please tell your kids to come—you don't need a date, and you don't have to come in a limo (although it's fine if you want to do either one).

Upcoming Events:

- April 6: Next PTA Meeting
- April 20: Twain Community Night
- May 1-5: Staff Appreciation Week
- May 25: Reflections Reception and PTA Meeting
- June 9: 8th Grade Dance

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2017, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 14 members in attendance.

New Business

- Secretary Don Kaynor presented the November 2016 minutes, and they were approved with the correction of two typographical errors.
- Mr. Schechter, Civics Teacher, gave a presentation on the TwainTV Fundraising Plan. TwainTV provides the daily news show, covers school events, produces the “Tiger Stripes” show which is played at school and is available on the web, and creates ads for Twain events. Their next steps are to produce more live, web-streamed shows and pre-recorded shows, increasing editing capabilities, and improve the technology of the daily show. The goal is to raise \$8,500 for new editing laptops, cameras, and other devices, and they are expanding into crowdsourcing to raise money—their website is gofundme.com/twaintv. The site went live today, but it has not yet been publicized. In addition to personal donations, they are hoping to sell commercial ads which they will produce to appear on the morning news. They are hoping the PTA can help with publicity.
- Treasurer Paula Davis presented the Treasurer’s report. Highlights included the payment of membership dues for county, state, and national PTA affiliations (we’re up to 317 members!); record-breaking Spiritwear sales; and Staff Appreciation expenses. After a motion by Wendy Kaynor and a second by Sharon Gagner, the Treasurer’s Report was approved as written.

Principal’s Report:

- Principal Chuck Miller reported that ESOL-related testing has just completed. Thanks to the great work done by the staff to coordinate the testing and minimize the impact to other activities.
- 8th grade SOL testing comes in early March.
- Tomorrow is the end of the 2nd quarter, and new schedules will start next week.
- Ms. Lorena Orellana, the Building Supervisor, has been recognized as the Employee of the Month.
- Ms. Sarah Thompson, a 7th grade English teacher, was recognized by the staff and nominated as the Teacher of the Year. Just today Mr. Miller learned that she has also been recognized as the Edison Pyramid Teacher of the Year.
- Ms. Natasha Saunders, an English teacher, leaves tomorrow to take an instructional coach position at Stuart High School, but we have been fortunate to find an excellent mid-year hire to replace Ms. Saunders.

Committee Updates

- Tiger Night Co-Chair, Lisa Landis, reported the second Tiger Night will be March 3rd. They have tentatively booked a DJ, there are two volunteers for concessions, two volunteers for basketball, and

other volunteers for karaoke, improv, the slushie machine, Minute to Win It, and several other activities. Tickets will be \$3.00 in advance, and \$5.00 at the door. They will use wristbands and are revising the procedures to make it easier for everyone to get in that night. They will put up signs and are working with Mr. Schechter on TwainTV ads.

- Reflections – Linda Pinkney reported that four students advanced to the Fairfax County level, and one of our 8th graders took 2nd place in Literature! There will be a reception to recognize all the participants, and they will be recognized at the end-of-the-year Honors Assemblies.
- Membership & Volunteer – Sharon Gagner is helping coordinate volunteer support to Tiger Night.
- Spirit Wear – Our Spirit Wear Chair had to resign for personal reasons, and Belinda Nuneviller has graciously agreed to step in—she is looking for volunteers to help at events.
- Restaurant Nights – The next event is three full days at Paisano's February 14-16.
- Honor Roll Assemblies – Susan Mason reported that the next assemblies will be on February 17th. They will need six volunteers for both the 7th and 8th grade assemblies.
- Odyssey of the Mind – Wendy Kaynor reported that there is one team with five students participating, and they will attend a spontaneous practice competition at Springfield Estates Elementary School later this month. The competition will be March 18th.
- Staff Appreciation – The Winter Wonderland event went well and came in under budget. The next big event is Teacher Appreciation Week in May.
- Twain Community Night – Will be April 20th. The PTA sells concessions to support the event and as a PTA fundraiser. This is an event for elementary students, particularly rising 7th graders to come see middle school. There will be a wide array of fun activities including a teaser of the Spring drama production, Minute to Win It, and a fundraising raffle. The chair for this event also had to resign, so people interested in volunteering should contact President Linda Pinkney.
- We are still looking for a volunteer to coordinate the 8th Grade Dance—the capstone event for our 8th graders. It is a prom-style event, and we have a co-chair volunteer, but we still need another co-chair to help lead the effort. The dance will be held on June 9th.
- In preparation for next year, we are looking for new officers and chairs for the PTA. We are creating a nominating committee which will present a slate of candidates in our April meeting for a vote in our May meeting.
- As shown in the Treasurer's Report, we have been blessed with strong fundraising this year, and Teacher Mini-Grant Applications are once again open. We will vote on them in March.

Upcoming Events:

- February 14-16: Spirit Days at Paisano's
- February 17: Honor Roll Assemblies; 8th Grade at 8:00 am and 7th Grade at 9:15 am
- March 1: Spring Mini-Grant Deadline
- March 16: Next PTA meeting in the MTMS Library
- April 20: Twain Community Night
- June 9: 8th Grade Dance

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2016, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

Vice President Belinda Nuneviller called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was established with 13 members in attendance.

New Business

- Secretary Don Kaynor presented the October 2016 minutes, and they were approved as written.
- Treasurer Paula Davis presented the Treasurer's report. Highlights included proceeds from Tiger Night and the award of several Teacher Mini Grants. After a motion by Don Kaynor and a second by Sharon Gagner, the Treasurer's Report was approved as written.

Principal's Report:

- Principal Chuck Miller offered his thanks to the PTA for Tiger Night. There were great activities for the kids, and it was a great volunteer effort. Everyone had a good time.
- The Veteran's Day celebration was a great success. Thanks to the veterans who attended, and thanks to all the students who so politely expressed their appreciation to the veterans.
- There was a Zero Tardy Party this afternoon, and approximately 590 kids attended!
- Honor Roll Assemblies are tomorrow.
- The Fall Drama Presentations are tomorrow and Saturday.
- Career Day is on Tuesday, and we have several volunteers who will talk to the 8th graders.
- In keeping with what has been going on around the country, there have been rumors of school walk-outs at noon tomorrow in Fairfax County. The school administration is monitoring the situation and has a plan to address things if the need arises.
- The Meals Tax did not pass in Fairfax County, and FCPS is already working to address the anticipated funding shortfall.

Committee Updates

- Reflections – Belinda Nuneviller reported on behalf of Linda Pinkney and Quisha Cherry that we had ten Reflections entries. They have been judged here at Twain, and the winning entries have been submitted to the FCPS level. Winners will be announced in the December PTA Newsletter. Thanks to everyone who submitted entries!
- Membership & Volunteer – Sharon Gagner reported we are now up to 317 members. We have asked for volunteers for both the Honor Roll Assemblies and for Mark Twain's birthday. Thank you to all of our members and volunteers for their great support!
- Spirit Wear – Tomorrow during the Honor Roll Assemblies we will be selling Spirit Wear.
- Restaurant Nights – Tracy Brown reported that the Chic-Fil-A event raised \$231.97, and they are still figuring the totals from the two days at Kumo Asian Bistro. The next event is three full days at Paisano's

February 14-16. Papa John's Pizza Cards (which includes Buy One Get One Free for a year) are on sale for \$15.00.

- Honor Roll Assemblies – Susan Mason reported that we have enough volunteers and are all set for two great assemblies.
- Odyssey of the Mind – Don Kaynor reported on behalf of Wendy Kaynor that one parent has volunteered to serve as a coach and thus far at least three students have signed up to participate. Additional announcements will go out in the morning news, and a sign will be posted at school next week.

Upcoming Events:

- November 18: Honor Roll Assemblies
- December 2: Mark Twain Birthday Celebration
- December 16: Staff Winter Wonderland Luncheon
- January 19, 7:00 pm: PTA Meeting in the MTMS Library
- February 14-16: Spirit Days at Paisano's

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2016, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established with 16 members in attendance.

The officers, board members, and members introduced themselves.

Lisa Landis, Tiger Night Co-Chair, gave an update on Tiger Night. It will Friday, October 21st, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, and planning is in good shape. It is a chaperoned even only for Twain students. Edison High School is providing nine or ten volunteers to help with games, 12 of 25 required chaperons have already signed up, and we have received great offers for food. Lisa will be traveling, so Kim Wilson, the other Co-Chair will be coordinating activities over the next two weeks. Tickets will be \$3.00 in advance, and \$5.00 at the door, they will be on sale during lunch hour, and ticket sales will start at lunch on Monday, October 17th.

Guest speaker Matt Dunne, from the Invest in Fairfax Coalition, spoke about the Meals Tax Referendum. He explained arguments both for and against the Meals Tax and answered questions.

New Business

- Secretary Don Kaynor presented the September 2016 minutes, and they were approved as written.
- Treasurer Paula Davis presented the Treasurer's report. After a motion by Don Kaynor and a second by Sharon Gagner, the Treasurer's Report was approved as written.

Principal's Report:

- Principal Chuck Miller discussed the plan for Veteran's Day presentations—the school will invite parents and family members who are veterans to talk to students about their service. Mr. Shin will lead the program, and an invitation for guest presenters will go out shortly.
- More than three hundred students showed up for today's AVID dance! It was a great success.
- FCPS ParentVue SIS will send weekly student grade reports for middle and high school students. This emailed report will only contain a letter grade, but parents can still use SIS to track student grades. Parents can choose preferences for which day they receive the report and if they want to receive notification for grades below a certain level.

Committee Updates

- We have been advertising the Reflections program though Keep In Touch, and the deadline for submissions is October 27th. Submission guidelines can be found on the county and state PTA websites, and applications are also available at school.
- Upcoming Spirit Days are all day (6:00 am to 10:00 pm) at Chic-Fil-A on October 18th, and two days at

Kumo Asian Bistro on November 13th and 14th. The Spirit Night at Ledo Pizza raised \$341.35. Papa John's Pizza Cards (which includes Buy One Get One Free for a year) are on sale for \$15.00. Cards can be purchased during Tiger Night ticket sales.

Upcoming Events:

- October 18: Chic-Fil-A day (all day, 6:00 am to 10:00 pm)
- October 21, 6:30-9:30 pm: Tiger Night
- November 14 & 15: Kumo Asian Bistro days (all day both days)
- November 17, 7:00 pm: PTA Meeting in the MTMS Library

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2016, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was established with 21 members in attendance.

The officers, board members, and members introduced themselves.

Secretary Don Kaynor presented the May 2016 minutes, and they were approved as written.

Treasurer Paula Davis presented the Audit Report, the Budget, Treasurer's report. Items of note included:

- The Audit Committee reported that no changes are necessary. After a motion by Sharon Gagner and a second by Belinda Nuneviller, the Audit Report was approved as written.
- The Budget Committee created a Budget which was approved by the Board before the school year began.
 - Due to the volume of requests last year, the funding for mini-grants was increased to \$2,200.00. There will be two calls for mini-grants, one in the fall and one in the spring.
 - Linda and Paula explained items in the budget and answered questions.
 - Most of the PTA's funds come from Spirit Nights (at local restaurants), membership dues, and After a motion by Linda Landis, and a second by Amy Duncan, the budget was approved as written.
- Paula explained the Treasurer's Report. After a motion by Don Kaynor and a second by Lisa Landis, the Treasurer's Report was approved as written.
- Membership and Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Gagner reported that we had 256 members before the meeting and others have joined this evening. All who are interested can still join, so please spread the word!

Principal Chuck Miller gave the Principal's Report:

- Thank you to the PTA and all its members—you are an important part of the school.
- The school year is off to a great start. Principal Miller will survey the community to try to improve Back-to-School Night. Eighth Grade attendance was down a little from last year, and the administration wants to look for ways to improve the event.
- The Values, Mission, and Vision Statements have not been revisited in some time, so Principal Miller has started that process.
- Principal Miller's daily message is to "Be courageous and be kind." He is starting to here it back from students, and the administration is looking to expand the message.
- Mr. Reddick reported that the Lego ELT is short of Legos, so if anyone has Legos to donate please contact Mr. Reddick!

President Linda Pinkney talked about the PTA and some of the programs we support:

- Quisha Cherry has volunteered to run Reflections. Information will come out soon a

- Spiritwear co-chairs are Bunny Valenzuela and Daphne Callendar. They have gotten off to a great start, and they will be taking orders throughout the school year.
- Wendy Kaynor is the Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator. It will start in October, and a school-wide announcement will come out soon.
- Tracy Brown is organizing Spirit Nights, and she is always looking for suggestions. The Ledo Pizza nights in September were very successful. We will have a Chic-Fil-A night on October 18th and two all-day spirit events at Kumo Asian Bistro on November 14th & 15th (and Kumo delivers to MTMS!).
- Lisa Landis and Kim Wilson are the Tiger Night Co-Chairs. Tiger Night, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Friday October 21st, is a kids only event, and the only adults are chaperons—please contact Lisa or Kim if you want to chaperon. There will be a wide range of events, including a DJ, a Wii Room, a Game Room, an Improv Room, a Minute-to-Win-It Room, and several other great activities. They need many parent volunteers so please talk to Lisa or Kim and come out to help!
- The PTA helps with all three Honor Roll Assemblies. We provide donuts and juice for parents and students. Susan Mason is our Coordinator—please consider helping.
- Twain Community Night is an evening when current and prospective students and their families can come for dinner and to see several activities going on in the school plus games, a cake walk, and a silent auction. The PTA will night helps with volunteers and selling concessions. Bunny Valenzuela and Kim Baker are our Co-Chairs, and Twain Community Night will be in April this year.
- Eunha Yang-Chang is running the Twain PTA Newsletter. It comes out the Monday before the monthly meeting, and the cut-off for submissions is the Friday prior.
- Rozey Parker and Wendy Kaynor are the Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs. Their first event was a very successful back-to-school breakfast before school began, and the next event will be a Winter Wonderland Party in December. The last event is the Staff Appreciation Week which includes daily events in May.
- The capstone PTA event is the 8th Grade Dance in May. This is always very successful, and we are currently looking for a Chairperson for this event.

President Linda Pinkney opened the floor for questions.

- Eunha Yang-Chang asked about the success of the Bookmobile. Ms. Godfrey reported that kids checked out more than 300 books, and she got 90% of them back. Participants included current, future, and past Twain students as well as several adult community members. The Bookmobile was a great success, and Ms. Godfrey hopes to do it again this winter and over the summer next year. Ms. Godfrey is also looking for suggestions of new places to go with the Bookmobile.
- Ms. Godfrey also announced that 7th Grade reading assignments are on display in the Library.

Upcoming Events:

October 13, 7:00 pm: PTA Meeting in the MTMS Library

October : Chic-Fil-A night

October 21, 6:30-9:30 pm: Tiger Night

November 14 & 15: Kumo Asian Bistro days (all day)

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2016, Mark Twain Middle School B-Wing Pod
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 19 members in attendance.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson presented the April 2016 minutes, and they were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Paula Davis presented the Treasurer's report. Items of note included:

- Excess funds at the end of the year will total between \$6000 and \$7000. President Linda Pinkney asked Principal Baek Chong to identify possible uses for these funds. He noted a need for additional laptops as well as a new initiative to run a summer bookmobile for middle and elementary students. A motion to transfer excess funds (minus carryover for next year's PTA) to MTMS, to be allocated at the Principal's discretion, was made by Wendy Kaynor and seconded. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Jon Radel and seconded. Motion carried.
- The end of the fiscal year is June 30. Paula Davis requested that all receipts be turned in by June 15, as no financial activity can occur after the end of the fiscal year until the audit is complete.
- Wendy Kaynor, Jon Radel, and Tina Schulz will serve on the audit committee.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson conducted the elections for the 2016-17 officers. In the absence of any nominations from the floor, all nominees were elected by voice vote:

- President--Linda Pinkney
- Vice President--Belinda Nuneviller
- Treasure--Paula Davis
- Secretary--Don Kaynor

Principal Baek Chong reported the following:

- A special thank you for Laura Jones for her years of service to MTMS.
- SOLs will take place over the next two weeks. Scores arrive in 2-3 days. A KIT will go out once reading scores are in to explain that students will be getting their scores in school via a procedure developed by the administration to ensure privacy and avoid confusion over retakes. Parents will receive a more detailed report over the summer.
- Field Day for 8th graders will take place on June 17.
- High School transition: On June 23 (last day of school), 8th graders who are attending Edison in the fall will have a transition visit to Edison to meet teachers and advisors. 8th graders attending Lee will visit Lee on June 20. Counselors from Hayfield and TJ will be invited to visit 8th graders at Twain during that week as well.

President Linda Pinkney introduced Sharon Gagner as the new Membership and Volunteer coordinator, which is also an executive board position.

Volunteer chair Laura Jones reported on the following:

- Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped out throughout the year.
- A signup genius will be forthcoming for Field Day; item donations are needed by June 10.
- A signup genius for the 8th grade dance on June 10 is forthcoming.

President Linda Pinkney reported on Restaurant Night in the absence of chairperson Tracy Brown:

- We have exceeded anticipated proceeds this year; many thanks to Tracy for her efforts!
- Upcoming restaurant nights:
Ledo Pizza 5/24-5 Flight 6/22

President Linda Pinkney reported on Staff Appreciation in the absence of Chair Joy Rasband:

- Thank you to volunteers and donors for Teacher Appreciation week, with a special thank you to Bunny Valenzuela for her work getting 120 Dave and Buster's gift cards donated for teachers

Tiger Night chairperson Debbie Halla reported the following:

- Almost 250 students attended, despite worries about slow ticket sales
- Two Tiger Nights are planned again for next year
- Thank you to volunteers and especially MTMS staff and high school students for helping out
- Kim Wilson will return as co-chair next year with Lisa Landis.

8th Grade Dance chairperson Tina Schulz reported on progress:

- The dance will take place on June 10 from 6:30 to 9.
- The theme is "Under the Stars"
- Sign up genius forthcoming
- Thank you to Gertrude Bailey and Bunny Valenzuela for help with donations.

Honor Roll chairperson Margie Remmers reported on the third quarter Honor Roll Assembly:

- The new use of the gym for recognition and the cafeteria for refreshments was well received.
- Adjustments need to be made to improve traffic flow through the refreshment area. Student Services Director Mr. Fitzgerald will be the point of contact for changes next year.

President Linda Pinkney provided the following additional updates:

- Thank you to Eunha Chung for taking on the PTA newsletter this year and for returning next year.
- Thank you to Laura Jones for the Reflections Reception prior to this meeting and for all of her work.
- Thank you to Wendy Kaynor and Rozey Parker for volunteering to co-chair the Staff Appreciation committee next year.
- Committee chair vacancies for next year include Reflections, 8th grade dance, and Spirit Wear. Bunny Valenzuela volunteered to work on Spirit Wear. Anyone with interest in these committees is invited to contact Linda Pinkney at MTMSpresident@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events:

May 24-25: Ledo Pizza nights

June 10: 8th Grade Dance

June 22, 6-9 p.m.: Flight Trampoline Night

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Prepared by Meaghan Dobson, Secretary

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established with 12 members in attendance.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson presented the March 2016 minutes, and they were approved as corrected.

Vice President Michelle Khoury (in the absence of Treasurer Paula Davis) presented the Treasurer's report. A motion to approve was made by Wendy Kaynor and seconded. Motion carried.

In her capacity as chair of the Nominating Committee, Laura Jones announced the slate of nominees for the 2016-17 Mark Twain PTA board:

- President--Linda Pinkney
- Vice President--Belinda Nuneviller
- Treasure--Paula Davis
- Secretary--Don Kaynor

The election will be held at the next PTA meeting on May 17 at 7 p.m. in the B-Wing, at which time nominees may also be taken from the floor.

Principal Baek Chong reported the following:

- Writing SOL scores are in. Scores increased by approximately 10 points over last year. Due to the short turnaround time in the scheduling of retests for non-writing SOL tests in May, Mr. Chong is working on a way to inform students of their scores in school. The purpose of the change is to ensure that students are informed of their testing status (pass or fail) prior to retakes and thus to avoid some unfortunate confusion that occurred last year. Look for information in an upcoming Keep In Touch message.
- The end of the third quarter is coming soon. School will close two hours early on Thursday, April 21, and students have a day off on Friday, April 22.
- Enrollment for next year is projected to be 976 students. Mr. Chong does not anticipate many staffing changes, as very few staff members are leaving this year. With this high enrollment number, however, some students may need to take a second-choice elective. Even with some staff members on extended contracts to provided more sections of popular electives, it may not be possible for all students to get their first choice.
- Media Specialist Emily Godrey is a finalist for FCPS Support Employee of the Year. Congratulations!

Volunteer chair Laura Jones reported on the following volunteer needs:

- The PTA will be selling concessions at the Solo and Ensemble Festival for strings on Thursday, April 21. (Note: The PTA will not be selling concessions at the similar band festival on April 23; this event will be a band fundraiser.)
- School Pictures take place on April 25. Volunteers, whether half-day or full-day, receive a voucher for photos.

- The Third Quarter Honor Roll ceremony will occur on May 5. Mr. Chong may try to hold the ceremony in the gym to allow more room for the reception in the cafeteria.
- The PTA will also be selling concessions at the Staff vs. Students basketball game on May 5.

President Linda Pinkney reported on Restaurant Night in the absence of chairperson Tracy Brown:

- We have exceeded anticipated proceeds this year; many thanks to Tracy for her efforts!
- The Papa John's restaurant night earned \$101.18
- Upcoming restaurant nights:
 - Kumo Asian Bistro 4/26-7
 - Ledo Pizza 5/24-5
 - Flight 6/22

Staff Appreciation Chair Joy Rasband announced Staff Appreciation Week May 2-6 and requested gift card donations, which were a huge success last year. We hope to be able to have a gift card for every teacher. She will also be asking for donations of desserts for the luncheon for teachers and staff (date TBA). Principal Baek Chong added that Assistant Principal Jihoon Shin will be the administration contact for Staff Appreciation Week.

Tiger Night chairperson Kim Wilson reported on progress for the spring Tiger Night:

- A smaller turnout is anticipated due to busier spring schedules
- Look for forthcoming Sign Up Genius
- Planning for better identification for teen volunteers as well as purchase of a karaoke machine

President Linda Pinkney reported on behalf of 8th Grade Dance chairpersons Tina Schulz and Kristyna Meyer:

- The dance will take place on June 10 from 6-8 p.m.
- Students will vote on the dance theme in Civics classes
- DJ and photo booth are confirmed
- Volunteers are welcome

Reflections chairperson Laura Jones reported:

- 9 MTMS students submitted 11 entries this year; 4 went on to the County level; 1 moved on to the Northern Virginia District level
- The PTA will sponsor a reception with the artwork on view before the next PTA meeting on May 17. All are invited at 6:30 to enjoy light refreshments and to view the art of our students in the B-Wing Pod.

President Linda Pinkney shared a request from Mr. Kniesly for leftover garden soil or a donation of large bags of garden soil for the raised beds in the farm/garden. Donations may be left in the main office of the school or donors may contact Mr. Kniesly at cakniesly@fcps.edu.

Upcoming Events:

April 21: Solo and Ensemble Fundraiser

April 25: Student Pictures

May 5: Third Quarter Honor Roll Assembly

May 2-6 Staff Appreciation Week

May 5: Staff vs. Student Basketball Game

May 13: Tiger Night

June 10: 8th Grade Dance

The next and last PTA meeting will take place on May 17 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Prepared by Meaghan Dobson, Secretary

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016, Mark Twain Middle School B-Pod
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 14 members in attendance.

President Linda Pinkney introduced special guest Karen Corbett Sanders, new FCPS School Board member from the Mount Vernon district. Ms. Corbett Sanders encouraged the membership to contact her at any time at kcorbettsan@fcps.edu. She spoke about the budget situation and funding picture, emphasizing the public hearings before the Board of Supervisors to take place April 5-7. She encouraged citizens to attend to advocate for reinvestment in FCPS. Ms. Corbett Sanders also alerted the membership to a forthcoming questionnaire about the recently granted waiver to start school before Labor Day. This waiver could affect the 2017-18 school year.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson presented the January 2016 minutes, and they were approved as written.

Treasurer Paula Davis introduced a change to the budget to include concessions at the Solo and Ensemble Festival, a pyramid event that attracts 1000 students. She proposed adding a line item to the budget under Programs for Students and Families and to earmark the proceeds for the electronic sign and technology. Laura Jones proposed moving the line item to Fundraisers and Donations. Margie Remmers moved to approve the change to the budget as amended; motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer Paula Davis then presented the updated Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve was made by Laura Jones and seconded. Motion carried.

In response to a question from the floor regarding the status of the electronic sign, Linda Pinkney clarified that Principal Baek Chong had advance \$4000 from the school budget to expedite installation of the sign, and the PTA continues to work to reimburse this expenditure.

President Linda Pinkney introduced the slate for the Nominating Committee: Laura Jones (chair), Bunny Valenzuela, and Kim Baker. A motion to approve the slate was made by Margie Remmers and seconded. Motion carried.

Principal Baek Chong reported the following:

- Third Quarter interims will be going home tomorrow, March 16.
- The office will be closed over Spring Break.
- Twain Community Night will take place on March 17; this is a great opportunity for rising 7th graders and their families to visit the school.
- The IB Middle Years Program (MYP) authorization team has been visiting for the past three days.

Community Night chairs Bunny Valenzuela and Kim Baker reported that the evening is ready to go. President Linda Pinkney is coordinating the Pick a Prize raffle with Tracy Brown.

Volunteer Chair Laura Jones requested additional volunteers to sign up for providing baked goods at the Community Night cakewalk.

President Linda Pinkney reported on the following:

- The MTMS team place third at the Odyssey of the Mind competition on Saturday, March 12. Congratulations!
- Restaurant Night at Red, Hot and Blue earned \$130. Upcoming restaurant nights include:
 - Papa John's 4/7 all day at any Papa John's in the local area. Code: Mark Twain
 - Kuma Asian Bistro 4/26-7
 - Ledo Pizza 5/24-25
 - Flight 6/22

Staff Appreciation Chair Joy Rasband announced Staff Appreciation Week May 2-6 and requested gift card donations, which were a huge success last year.

8th Grade Dance Chair Tina Schulz reported that Officer Hairston will return as DJ. Volunteers are particularly needed for concessions and decorations. Eighth graders will vote on a theme at lunch after Spring Break.

Honor Roll Assemblies Chair Margie Remmers suggested that prior to future assemblies, the chair should contact the donut volunteer in advance of the assembly.

President Linda Pinkney provided the following reminders:

- March 17: Twain Community Night/RAffle
- April 20: Staff vs. Student Basketball Game
- April 21: Solo and Ensemble Fundraiser
- May 6: Third Quarter Honor Roll Assembly
- May 2-6: Staff Appreciation Week
- May 13: Tiger Night
- June 10: 8th Grade Dance

The next PTA meeting will be on April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the MTMS Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Prepared by Meaghan Dobson, Secretary

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2016, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 13 members in attendance.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson presented the November 2015 minutes, and they were approved as written.

Treasurer Paula Davis reviewed the October 2015 Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve the report was made by Laura Jones and seconded. Motion carried.

President Linda Pinkney requested volunteers for the Nominating Committee, which needs to be elected at the March meeting. Anyone interested should contact her or another member of the PTA Board. Duties electing a chair, identifying and contacting possible candidates, and presenting the slate of candidates at the April meeting.

Principal Baek Chong reported the following:

- ELT selections took place today. This is a process unique to MTMS--one of the great things about our school!
- Many thanks for the Winter Wonderland luncheon.
- Ms. Archer has been nominated for Teacher of the Year.
- Ms. Godfrey has been nominated for Support Employee of the Year.
- Course selection will take place in March. Parents will receive their child's course selections and math recommendations. They are asked to communicate with the school in a timely fashion, as next year's staffing depends on this year's course selections.
- Mr. Chong has been visiting the 8 elementary schools that feed into MTMS. He and his team meet with students and 6th grade teachers so that everyone is informed about the course selection process. 6th grade teachers can assist parents with course selection.
- 1/18 and 1/19 are student holidays.
- The quarter ends on 2/4.
- Dr. Garza will begin this year's listening tour at Edison High School on Wednesday, 1/20 at 6:30.
- This year's budget process is likely to be a contentious one. Dr. Garza presented her budget last week at West Potomac High School with FCPS principals in attendance. More information about the budget process and how to participate will be forthcoming.
- Writing SOL tests will take place 3/2 (multiple choice) and 3/3 (short paper). Dates for May non-writing SOLs will be announced soon.

In her capacity as Reflections Chair, Laura Jones announced that all 4 MTMS entrants placed in the County competition. Julia Drennan advanced to the Northern Virginia District competition. The PTA will plan a reception for all Reflections participants later this year.

In her capacity as Membership Chair Laura Jones reported that current MTMS membership stands at 235.

Twain Community Night Chair Bunny Valenzuela announced that the event will take place on 3/17 from 6-8 p.m. This is an annual event in which MTMS departments sponsor games and activities. The PTA offers concessions; Kim Baker offered to coordinate with Chick-Fil-A. Whipple Rickman will design a flier. Linda Pinkney and Tracy Brown will coordinate the raffle. Proceeds will go to reimburse Mr. Chong for the balance of the sign; the rest will go to the PTA general fund. Anyone with recyclable cylindrical containers (e.g. oatmeal, Pringles) is asked to save them for Linda Pinkney.

President Linda Pinkney reported on behalf of Restaurant Night Chair Tracy Brown that there will be two nights of fundraising at Red Hot and Blue on 1/21 and 1/22. These are full day events, and customers must provide the MTMS flier to earn credit for the school. The flier will be available through Keep In Touch and the PTA newsletter.

Odyssey of the Mind Chair Wendy Kaynor reported that MTMS has formed one team of 7 students. Linda Pinkney is the coach. The competition will take place on 3/12.

Staff Appreciation Chair Joy Rasband thanked volunteers for their many dessert donations for the Winter Wonderland staff luncheon. May is the time for Teacher Appreciation Week; details to follow.

Vice President Michelle Khoury thanked volunteers for their many cupcake donations for Mark Twain's birthday.

President Linda Pinkney provided the following reminders:

- 2/25 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Assemblies
- 3/17 Twain Community Night and Raffle
- 4/20 Staff vs. Student Basketball Game
- 5/6 3rd Quarter Honor Roll Assemblies
- 6/10 8th Grade Dance

There will not be a PTA meeting in February. The next PTA meeting will be on March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the MTMS Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Prepared by Meaghan Dobson, Secretary

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 10 members in attendance.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson presented the October 2015 minutes, and they were approved as written.

Treasurer Paula Davis reviewed the November 2015 Treasurer's Report. She noted the major expenditure for the new electronic sign, and she explained that the PTA would continue to raise \$4,000 so the PTA will have funded the entire sign. A motion to approve the report was made by Wendy Kaynor and seconded. Motion carried.

President Linda Pinkney announced that we have had a good number of mini-grant applications submitted. One teacher has asked for assistance with scrapbooking supplies for her ELT class; the PTA is encouraging families to donate any materials such as cardstock, scissors, and ribbon. These materials may be dropped off in the main office marked "McChesney ELT."

Principal Baek Chone reported the following:

- John Halligan's presentation sparked good discussion about recognizing and preventing bullying and promoting connectedness among students and adults at Twain.
- Broadway Desserts and the Fall Production were very successful. Information about the spring musical, "Seussical," will be coming home soon.
- School pictures--information will be coming home about retakes.
- Dr. Garza has received recommendations from the budget task force, with a separate set of recommendations for \$50 million in cuts and \$75 million in cuts. The online budget tool will continue to be available through December for additional community input. Please contact School Board members and County Supervisors to make your voice heard in this process.
- Career Day will take place on November 24.

Tiger Night Co-Chair Kim Wilson reported that preparations are going smoothly. A big thank you to Mr. Pettigrew for rediscovering the Minute to Win It games. Linda Pinkney added that Whipple Rickman has volunteered to assist in making additional promotional posters.

In her capacity as Reflections Co-Chair, Laura Jones reported that we received 11 entries, a significant increase over last year. 4 students, one in each category, will be going on to compete at the county level. The PTA will plan a reception later in the year to recognize all participants.

In her capacity as Membership Chair, Laura Jones reported that we have reached 232 members, an increase over last year's total of 221. A big thank you to the 32 staff members who have joined this year. Our local and state dues are to be paid this month, totalling \$928.

Vice President Michelle Khoury (Spiritwear Chair) reported on the following:

- Spirit wear will be sold at the Honor Roll assembly.
- The new Marketplace is now up and running on the Mark Twain website. Spiritwear can be ordered online and delivered at lunch.

President Linda Pinkney reported on upcoming Restaurant Nights:

- Chick-Fil-A, December 8 from 5-8 p.m.; Red, Hot and Blue, January 21 and 22 all day; Paisano's on Telegraph Road, February 10 and 11; Flight Trampoline Night, June 22 from 6-9 p.m. Finally, Honeybaked Ham gift cards are available online, and Mark Twain PTA will earn 20% on these purchases.

Odyssey of the Mind chair Wendy Kaynor reported that she is currently recruiting students and parent volunteers for this creative problem-solving team competition. An online registration form is available on the Mark Twain website under the PTA News tab. The deadline to register is December 1.

Joy Rasband announced that December 18 will be the staff appreciation event, "Winter Wonderland." The menu will be similar to last year's, with kale salad, soups, and sandwiches paid for out of the PTA budget for this event. Joy will be asking for volunteers to donate desserts, and a few volunteers to help serve.

Staff Winter Wonderland Luncheon: Dec 18

Announcements

No Meeting in December!! Next PTA Meeting, January 12th at 7:00 PM in the Library.

President Linda Pinkney provided the following reminders:

- Honor Roll Assembly: Nov 18
- Tiger Night: Nov 20
- Twain Birthday Celebration: Dec 3 (**new date)
- Staff Winter Wonderland Celebration: Dec 18

Next PTA meeting: January 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Prepared by Meaghan Dobson, Secretary

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2015, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 11 members in attendance. Guests: Mary Porter, Junior Achievement/Finance Park; Stephen Fitzgerald, Director of Student Services; Jessica Harris, Counselor.

President Linda Pinkney introduced Mary Porter who provided an overview of the Finance Park program. This is a capstone program for 8th grade math and civics courses, and it helps to meet the personal finance requirement at this grade level. Mark Twain students will be attending Finance Park on November 11, 12, 13, and 16. Approximately 18 volunteers will be needed; please contact Mary Porter at mary.porter@ja.org.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson presented the September 2015 minutes, and they were approved as written.

Treasurer Paula Davis reviewed the October 2015 Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve the report was made by Laura Jones and seconded. Motion carried.

Assistant Principal Neal Kalso reported the following:

- Stephen Fitzgerald joins the Mark Twain administrative team as Director of Student Services. Mr. Fitzgerald was previously at Glasgow Middle School, and he is looking forward to establishing strong relationships with Twain's feeder schools. He introduced Jessica Harris, Mark Twain's new split-team counselor.
- The Turkey Trot has been postponed to spring because of cell phone tower construction behind the school.
- The quarter ends on October 30.
- The student-staff basketball game will take place on Thursday, October 29; teachers will not be available for after school help on that day.
- Spirit Week will take place Tuesday-Friday during the week of October 30.
- The transition to the new bell schedule, with new Kiss and Ride procedures and bus routes, continues to go smoothly.
- Extended Learning Time (ELT) began two weeks ago, with opportunities for both intervention and enrichment for students.
- Mark Twain's AVID program is in the process of applying for national recognition for excellence; a site visit occurred recently as part of that process.
- Mark Twain's application to the Middle Years Program of the International Baccalaureate has been submitted; a site visit will take place this spring.
- The administration is asking for input on a communication survey in order to improved communication at Mark Twain.
- Honor Roll Assemblies will take place on November 18.

Membership Chair Laura Jones reported that current MTMS membership stands at 227; last year's total was 221, so this is an increase. The PTA is especially grateful for the support of over 30 staff members who have joined the PTA. Upcoming volunteer opportunities include Health Room parent volunteers, school pictures (Nov. 5 and 6--volunteers receive a voucher towards the purchase of pictures); Honor Roll Assemblies; Tiger Night; Mark Twain's Birthday (needs include cupcake bakers/buyers, drop off and distribution volunteers).

Vice President Michelle Khoury reported on the following:

- Spirit wear is still available for purchase, with plenty of inventory on hand.
- Restaurant Nights: The first night, at Ledo pizza, earned \$412. Upcoming dates: Chick-Fil-A, December 8 from 5-8 p.m.; Red, Hot and Blue, January 21 and 22 all day; Paisano's on Telegraph Road, February 10 and 11; Flight Trampoline Night, June 22 from 6-9 p.m. Finally, Honeybaked Ham gift cards are available online, and Mark Twain PTA will earn 20% on these purchases.
- Odyssey of the Mind: This program is a creative problem-solving team competition with both theatrical and mechanical elements. Registration forms will be coming soon in a Keep In Touch (KIT) message. Coaches' training takes place on November 12.

Tiger Night Chair Kim Wilson described the preparations underway for Tiger Night on November 20. This is a fall social event with more options for students than a typical dance. Teachers are very supportive of this event and are helping out with board games, Wii, basketball, karaoke, and drama activities. A Sign-up Genius is forthcoming for parent chaperones and donations.

Newsletter Chair Eunha Yang-Chung announced that the newsletter will be published once a month before each month's PTA meeting.

President Linda Pinkney provided the following reminders:

- The Reflections deadline is October 26. Student entry forms are on the PTA bulletin board.
- Picture Day: Nov 5 and 6
- John Halligan Presentation: Student Presentation--Nov 11 with a special parent meeting on Nov 10 at Key MS
- Honor Roll Assembly: Nov 18
- Tiger Night: Nov 20
- Twain Birthday Celebration: Nov 30
- Next PTA meeting: Tuesday, November 17th 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Prepared by Meaghan Dobson, Secretary

Mark Twain Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2015, Mark Twain Middle School Library
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

President Linda Pinkney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with 25 members in attendance.

Secretary Meaghan Dobson presented the May 2015 minutes, and they were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Paula Davis reviewed the following:

- 2014-15 Audit. A motion to approve the audit was made by Tracy Brown and seconded. Motion carried.
- 2015-16 Budget. A motion to approve the budget was made by Michelle Khoury and seconded. Motion carried.
- September 2015 Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve the report was made by Laura Jones and seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Chair Laura Jones reviewed changes to the Mark Twain PTA Guidelines. These changes provide for reimbursing sales tax on purchases below \$150 and creating two new documents: *Making Purchases for the Twain PTA* and *Twain PTA Cash Handling and Deposits*. After some discussion, the changes were approved on a motion by Debbie Halla.

Principal Baek Chong reported the following:

- Kiss and Ride has been a challenge; the administration is thankful for the community's patience with the new process.
- 28 staff members have joined the MTMS PTA so far this year. Mr. Chong attributes this high participation rate to recent PTA innovations which invite more staff and community participation, such as Tiger Night, Community Night, and Staff Member of the Month.
- SIS is the new FCPS system for parent access to grades. Parents can expect to see most grades within a week of an assignment, but projects and papers may take longer to grade.
- Extended Learning Time (ELT) will begin soon. An enrichment list will go home with students on September 23, as will a Keep In Touch (KIT) message. Administrators will try to ensure that students get some of their top choices, but intervention will come before enrichment.
- The start of the school year has gone very smoothly, despite some big changes—new bell schedule, additional lunch, early start time. A big thank you to parents, students, and staff.

- Director of Student Services Stephanie Gray, a 14-year MTMS veteran, has accepted a new position in the central office. Her last day will be September 24, and she will be greatly missed.

Membership Chair Laura Jones reported that current MTMS membership stands at 212; last year's total was 221, so this is an excellent start for this year. She pointed out that joining the PTA does not require volunteering at school events. However, all volunteer opportunities will be advertised through Sign Up Genius. Upcoming opportunities include school pictures in early November, the Turkey Trot, Tiger Night and Mark Twain's birthday. Individuals may contact Laura with specific volunteer interests.

President Linda Pinkney announced the need for a committee chair for the Reflections contest. Whipple Rickman and Peggy Crescent volunteered for this position.

Vice President and Spiritwear Chair Michelle Khoury reported on spiritwear. Sales have been strong, and she will be placing an additional order soon. An order form is available on the school website, or interested parties can email her. Spiritwear orders will be delivered at lunch.

Restaurant Night Chair Tracy Brown reported that the first restaurant nights will be October 5 and 6 at Ledo Pizza in Kingstowne. MTMS PTA will earn 20% of all sales from 5 p.m. to closing. Additionally, we will earn 20% on takeout sales when "Twain PTA" is mentioned.

Tiger Night Co-Chairs Kim Wilson and Debbie Halla announced the change in date to November 20. Tickets will cost \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door. Officer Hairston will DJ. Volunteer needs include ticket sales, food and beverage donations and sales, and supervisors for basketball, selfie station, Wii games and other activities.

President Linda Pinkney provided the following reminders:

- Look for information about Odyssey of the Mind coming soon.
- Important future dates: Community Night in March; Eighth Grade Dance on June 10
- Next meeting is October 20 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Prepared by Meaghan Dobson, Secretary