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**General Membership Meeting
February 20, 2018
Library, 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Barb Waldmiller. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Barb Waldmiller, Christine Smith, Neil Angelotti, Terry Angelotti, Carolyn Fuss, Ashish Deshmukh, Jenny Rudo, Donna Rogers, Amy Balint, Sonya Anyanwu, Abdi Salah, Anand Raman, Carol Hendrickson and Isabelle Dolan.

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 2018 General Membership Meeting were presented. Christine Smith motioned to accept the minutes and Sonya Anyanwu seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: Neil reviewed Treasurer's report. We are doing fine, balances are \$16,420 in ANGP and \$22,907 in PTSA account.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No new members. The directory will be out soon.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Barb attended the PTA Advocacy Convention. Countdown to Graduation is on March 1 at 7 pm in the cafeteria. Deadline for PTSA Scholarship is March 8. It is time for a Nominating Committee for next year's PTSA Board. The committee would consist of three members, Jenny Rudo, Heather Bridgman and Robin Costanza. Barb asked for them to be voted in as one group. Carol Hendrickson made a motion to approve and Donna Rogers seconded the motion. No one opposed. Thanks to the committee. If you are interested in a position on the board or a committee chair please come and speak with Barb or Jenny after the meeting.

ANGP/MULCH REPORT: The mulch sale is April 20-22. Website, cvhsmulch.org is live, please order your mulch. Money raised goes to the ANGP and scholarships. We need volunteer to deliver mulch. ANGP is June 8. We have sold 119 tickets already. Last year 300 attended and the goal this year is 350. We will need volunteers for this event.

SPEAKER: Barb introduced speakers for the evening: Tom Wilson and Elizabeth Schultz both who represent CVHS on the FCPS School Board. They will each be given ten minutes to make an opening statement and to respond to the following question:

Many of the legislative goals of the Fairfax County School Board and the priorities of the PTA are very similar (elimination of the cap on school support staff funding, expanding at-risk add-on programs, legislations that grants local school boards to make their own decisions regarding instructional and operational issues-including setting own calendar, initiatives to attract and retain highest quality teachers and instructional personnel of diverse backgrounds, state resources devoted

to programs and staffing of school psychologists, nurses and social workers).....All of these priorities require money. We can no longer keep slicing up the pie. The solution is we need a bigger pie. How do you propose we get that bigger pie?

Tom Wilson: Thanks for coming out. With a school system this large it is hard for school board members to have contact with everyone. He was educated in FCPS and graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School. His four children went through FCPS. How do we get a bigger pie- Most people in our area voted for the meals tax but county wide people did not. We need to do a better job explaining to county citizens that they deserve a bigger pie. He stated that Dr. Brabrand, the new superintendent, is 100% optimistic that FCPS will do better in with the Board of Supervisors budget this year. His focus is on teacher pay to attract and retain staff. He is asking for 6% increase, we usually only get 3%. Once we know the number we will have to fit the budget into the number we get. The budget will be finalized in May. When we spend more on education we send the message that we are going to take care of our teachers. Cutting off raises for teachers without a Master's degree was a mistake. Cuts to teacher pensions is not a good idea.

Elizabeth Schultz: She represents the Springfield district which also includes Chantilly High School. The FCPS operating budget is \$3 billion which is larger than the GDP of 100 countries. 70% is locally funded, 1.6% is federally funded and the rest is from the state. There is a local composite index that is based on an ancient formula so that wealthier communities get penalized. Out of every dollar that is paid in taxes to the state only 18 cents comes back to the county. It is unlikely that the state legislature will change this. We need to be more thoughtful about spending the money we have. We have the sixth highest percentage of unaccompanied youth, they tend to have no literacy or numeracy in English and sometimes in their native language. ESOL numbers are starting to go down but costs are going up because the needs are so great. ESOL takes longer to change practices in how to deliver services. We have fewer teachers in ESOL and fewer minority teachers, partly due to the cost of living in the county. Teacher retention is critical in this area, we need to ease the workload retain teachers. Please contact her anytime, she welcomes parent input.

At this time Amy Balint, Assistant Principal, representing Dave Jagels and Mr. Trapp, CVHS Safety and Security, were introduced and the meeting was open to questions to School Board and CVHS staff members.

Q: What is the role of School Board members?

A: They are the policy makers that help the system, example-putting cameras on school buses. The composition is 9 members representing the 9 magisterial districts, 3 members at large, and 3 employees-the Superintendent, The Auditor and the Clerk of the Board.

Q: How do we retain teachers?

A: School board wants to focus on teacher salaries at key places in career (the middle years). In the first five years our retention is typical of the nation, the 7-15 year retention is not as good as surrounding jurisdiction. Nationwide and in Virginia there are not enough young people going into teaching. Ms. Schultz has supported subsidies to buy houses in the county, other board members have not.

Q: What do we do with empty buildings? Is there land in the area for a new high school to relieve overcrowding?

A: The student projection is that CVHS and CHS will be short 11,000 seats in four years. We need a boundary study in this area and we need to balance the numbers. 75% of residents in the county don't have children in FCPS. Ms. Schultz would like to outsource bus driving, meals and custodial services.

Q: What is being done with school security?

A: Board is going to look into it. There are solutions to be found, we need to listen to the school safety personnel. Mr. Trapp-We have four retired law enforcement members on staff at CVHS. He has made professionalism with his staff a priority when he was hired 18 years ago. Virginia gives safety officers authority to carry a firearm. Everywhere in Virginia other than FCPS allows them to carry. Uniformed officers are armed. He read the letter that Mr. Jagels sent via email to all parents with safety information. Officers say relationships with kids and intelligence that is gathered via students is critical. Administrative staff greets all students at the door. Visitors to school must press buzzer and be observed on camera before being allowed in the building. It is possible visitors will be questioned before being let in the building. Ms. Schultz said we need to have a comprehensive conversation and we should look at arming our teachers and how can volunteers be used to augment security, such as perimeter patrols and monitoring park nearby.

Q: What about volunteer committee at each school to assess safety risk at each school-lighting, safety in gyms, parking lots, etc.?

A: Mr. Trapp-We need to address drug problem as well, it is a safety issue and one that touches our students and is a bigger threat than a mass shooting. Ms. Schultz said that the stress placed on students leads to mental health issues. Mr. Wilson said that vaping is not allowed and has serious consequences. Encourages volunteers, especially fathers, at ANGP. Most weapons found at CVHS have been in backpacks, purses or vehicles.

Q: What about having standing metal detectors?

A: Mr. Trapp said it is not practical and they have hand held metal detectors and will wand students when necessary.

Barb thanked our speakers for attending and sharing information. The next PTSA meeting will be on March 20 and the theme is Project Aware: Social and Emotional Health.

Adjournment 8:40 pm.

The minutes were approved on April 17. The motion was made by Christine Smith and seconded by Barb Waldmiller. Sharon Stemme, Recording Secretary

Note: There was not meeting in March due to inclement weather so that is why minutes were from February.