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**General Membership Meeting  
February 21, 2017  
Library, 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Barb Waldmiller. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Barb Waldmiller, Sharon Stemme, Christine Smith, Melissa Coughlin, Stephanie Sursi, Peter Sursi, Annette Koklauner, Helen Martin, Amy Balint, Jim McIlwee, Tom Wilson, Karyn Cram, Vanessa Spiller, Jennifer Hughes, Donna Rogers and Ken Waldmiller.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the January 2017 General Membership Meeting were presented. Annette motioned to accept the minutes and Helen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Melissa reported that we are took in \$2,140 in ANGP income and the only expense was Girls State grant. The 2015/2016 audit is complete and has been submitted to VA PTA. We have had 19 members since 12/1 and the additional membership dues have been paid to the state.

**ANGP:** Karyn stated that 140 students have signed up so far. There are about 550 in the senior class. 62 yard signs have been sold. She is working with Talk of the Town to borrow the money machine to have at lunch to promote mulch sale and ANGP party. Mulch ordering opened on 2/12 and it is being advertised in the local HOA newsletters, Wildcat Weekly and via email to those who have ordered in the past. Need volunteers to work, a KIT will be sent this week. Posters with the QR code will be put around school for students to sign up. Signs will go out in neighborhoods at the end of the month. Clubs will be able to volunteer at mulch sale and get money for their club. We have 49 orders so far.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** In order to prepare for next year we need to have a nominating committee to fill the Executive Board positions. Three PTSA members have volunteered for the committee. We will do a voice vote for each person.

Annette Koklauner-motion by Christine Smith, second by Melissa Coughlin, all in favor.

Jim McIlwee-motion by Karyn Cram, second by Melissa Coughlin, all in favor.

Helen Martin-motion by Christine Smith, second by Sharon Stemme, all in favor.

Barb thanked the three committee members for volunteering. All executive board positions are open. The slate of officers will be presented in April and voted on in May. If you are interested in running please contact any of the committee members.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** 474 members. 161 students, 286 parents, 26 faculty and 1 community member. We received \$180 in No Fuss donations.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Senior Parents-save the date of 3/6 for the Countdown to Graduation night. There will be information on ANGP, mulch sale, lawn signs, school staff to check for outstanding fines, Balfour and much more. See flyer for more details.
- Scholarship deadlines-VA PTA is due on 3/1 and has to be sent in the mail, CVHS PTSA is due on 3/10 by 3 pm

## **PROGRAM:**

Barb introduced the program for the evening-Tom Wilson, Sully District Board Representative and Alice Wigington, Director of Budget Services, FCPS.

Tom stated the School Board met with the Board of Supervisors and there will be some tough conversations. The board wants to meet the step, pension and healthcare needs but the school board budget exceeds what the county is proposing for FCPS. Several topics have already been discussed as far as cost saving measures, nothing is set yet and he encouraged all to utilize your voice and speak up to express what you feel strongly about. Some of the suggestions so far are charging or increasing fees for certain items (athletics, parking, community use, IB/AP tests), increasing the floor of class size across the county, elimination of programs (strings in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, immersion classes). The county is not inclined to raise the tax rate again this year. He believes in a first things first approach-we need to attract and keep great teachers, if we lose the battle and teachers go to surrounding counties due to pay we will not have the best teachers. Please contact him at [tawilson@fcps.edu](mailto:tawilson@fcps.edu) if you have comments. The entire budget presentation is on the website, he turned the presentation over to Alice to present an abridged version.

- Staff is critical: FCPS pays below the market average, the year started with 180 vacancies and we are currently at 64.5 vacancies, turnover has increased and the applicant pool is the smallest in the last ten years
- Budget: 2.8 billion dollars, a 5.1% increase over 2017
- 44 million is for step increases, 33.2 million for new teacher salaries, 7 million for non-teacher salary scale
- The teacher scale is being increased over a four year period and should be fully implemented by 2021
- In the 2016-2017 budget the most money was infused into mid-career teachers because that is where the biggest gap was, for the proposed budget the money is spread out but it can target one area if needed.
- New classroom resources have been requested including .5 million for preschool support, 2.7 million for text books (total was 7.8 million but 5.1 million is coming from reserves), 2.4 million for an assessment tool for universal screening and 3.7 million for operational/renovation needs
- Cost drivers for the increased budget are increased enrollment (anticipating over 1,900 new students next year), VA retirement, ERFC (local retirement) and increase in healthcare costs
- Out of the 2.8 billion dollars, 72.2 comes from the county and only 15.4 comes from the state
- Currently the county is only willing to give 51.7 of the 112.5 million that FCPS is requesting, leaving a gap of 60.9 million, even if the potential governor's budget allocates more as well as the house and senate that would only come to 3.5 million so gap is still 57.4 million
- Potential reductions include department operations, reducing travel for professional development, athletics, pupil placement, music programs, summer school, increasing class size floor in elementary schools and increasing class size by 1 in middle and high schools
- There are also many items that are needed that are completely unfunded

- There is much more information on the website about the budget as well as a common questions and answers section

Questions from the attendees:

Q: How many years can you continue adding on a student?

A: It can't keep happening, it was readied recently, a cap has been put into place and target is below 30.

Q: How much do we receive from Impact Aid?

A: Not as much as you would think, about 2.5 million

Q: How long have we been off track with compensation?

A: A study was done last year and it shows that things have changed dramatically in the past 15 years and especially since 2009 and the economic downturn. We can't compete with Alexandria and others that are smaller-we have more students with IEP's than their total number of students. FCPS is the second largest employer in the state.

Q: Has FCPS looked at dual enrollment with NOVA?

A: Not in detail but it is a good idea, individual classes are an option but there is not an Official program. It was mentioned that it would reduce number of students at the high schools and allow students to get associates degree sooner.

Q: Has the school board looked at increasing parking fees?

A: Yes, it could generate about \$500,000 but it would directly impact families. When cuts have to be made it ends up pitting one group against another. Some families and board members like the "pay as you go" for things like parking, tests, etc but others feel that these costs should be covered. No decisions yet-please contact school board representative with your thoughts.

Q: How much did changing the website and logo cost?

A: It was done in house and was cost neutral. Comment was made that the perception is that money was spent and that it could have been better spent.

Q: How is superintendent search going?

A: It is moving forward and goal is to have announcement in late spring.

Q: Do we publish salaries?

A: Not all, the new superintendents will be public due to the contract.

Q: Will the composite index change?

A: Not as of now, contact your representative, Tim Hugo, with comments.

Tom Wilson thanked everyone for coming and reiterated that The School Board is vested in FCPS and wants to hear your thoughts.

**Adjournment: 8:30 pm.**

**The minutes were approved on March 21, 2017. The motion was made by Barb Waldmiller and seconded by Neil Angelotti. Sharon Stemme, Recording Secretary**