

**Minutes**  
**Greenbelt Elementary School Parent & Teacher Association (PTA)**  
**September 7, 2022**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

- **Welcome and Introductions**

*Jill Connor, President*

- [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 870 8655 1413

Passcode: GESPTA

- Jill Connor states that the PTA Board is happy to answer questions at any time during the meeting and invites participants to enter their questions into the chat box. She also notes that a form is now available on the PTA website for parents to use to submit questions or comments.

- **Approval of May 2022 Minutes**

*Brooke Kenny, Secretary*

*Alex Barnes motions for approval. Seconded by Ellie Twedt*

- 9 votes in favor. Minutes are approved.

- **Principal's Report**

*Joel Nelson, Principal*

- The year began extremely well.
  - Parents will soon receive information regarding assessments.
  - This year, the school will resume field trips.
  - Back to School Night will be virtual and will be held at 6:30 p.m. on September 15.
  - Champions After Care is open and has slots available.
  - Buses were running late due to staffing shortages but that has improved. If parents are able to park nearby and walk to get their children, that will alleviate some traffic on Ridge Road and increase the changes of buses arriving and leaving on time. That would be very much appreciated by the administration.
  - Dismissal of the youngest children takes place at the gym door and it is important for parents to stand clear of that door during pick-up so that all children can be let out safely.

- **Treasurer's Report**

*Sarah West, Treasurer*

- Year End Final Budget presented from 2021/2022

- There is a reserve of almost \$18,000 to begin this year. That is \$8,000 above our typical operating reserve. We have the funds because we were unable to spend it on initiatives such as field trips due to Covid restrictions
    - Details of how Principal Gaines spent the nearly \$5,000 the PTA provided were presented.
    - Votes for approval of year end budget: 13. Approval of year end budget passed.

- **Book Sale Final Report**

*Brooke Kenny, Book Sale Chair (and Secretary)*

- o This year, the book sale was back in full swing after a different format during Covid. The sale raised \$10,000. About 10,000 donated books were collected and about 8,000 sold. The remaining books were donated to the Bowie Lions Club.
- o A donated book was spotted by a volunteer sorter and given to Brooke for further research and consideration. The book is a first edition 1873 First Reader that was used to teach children of the native Dakota tribe how to speak English. Brooke, in consultation with the PTA board, reached out to the Smithsonian Libraries to see if they would be interested in having this item. Online auction reports showed that the book was valued at approximately \$200, but the Board felt it served a better purpose in a library. The process of that donation is ongoing and will be completed by Rebecca Fulcher (Vice President).
- o Brooke thanked the many people on the PTA who volunteered countless hours to make this book sale a success.
- o Jill Connor stated that the PTA is seeking volunteers for a variety of duties and requested that members reach out to the Board if they are interested in volunteering. A few people put their contact information in the chat box so that they could be contacted later about volunteering.

### Teacher and Staff Appreciation Committee Report

*Cara Powell, Chair*

- o There are three main events the PTA holds each year. The back to school breakfast, holiday gifts and appreciation week in the Spring. The committee is currently seeking volunteers.
- o In addition to needing volunteers for these events, we have ongoing needs throughout the year (Jill Connor also noted some of the opportunities). These include outreach and fundraising via the book sale and restaurant nights.

- **Q &A**

- o How do you sign up for before and after care?
  - o You must contact Champions directly. Link to their website provided in the chat.
- o How do we volunteer?
  - o Email the PTA Board or put your information in the chat and the Board will contact you.
- o Will the PTA be able to meet in person this year?
  - o This issue has not yet been decided by the school administration.
- o How do I register a child?
  - o You need to contact the school's main office during business hours.
- o Will the PTA be able to meet in person this year?
  - o This issue has not yet been decided by the school administration.
- o What is the PTA's role in curriculum development and classroom management? What about its role in building diversity and inclusion?

- o The school administration will be working on accelerating academics with a particular focus on mathematics this school year. Prince George's County Public Schools has an ongoing initiative to improve diversity and inclusion. Greenbelt's efforts will be similar to county-wide efforts. If there are any particular concerns in these areas, people should reach out directly to Vice Principal Stagg or the PTA Board.
- o How do you register a child with special needs at GES who has been improperly registered at a different elementary school?
  - o The parent needs to contact Principal Nelson and Vice Principal Stagg directly with the specifics of the situation so that they can help. Contact information provided in chat.
- o Why is my child's bus still not arriving on time?
  - o Please contact Keisha Wheeler, principal's assistant, to check whether a bus has been assigned yet for that child.
- o How do students purchase lunch?
  - o Each child was issued a new PIN number this year. Register your child's PIN number at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) and link a payment source to your child's account. There is a principal's fund available to help families struggling to pay for lunch.
- o How do you make sure you receive all school related emails?
  - o Check the SchoolMax portal to make sure your most up-to-date information is there. Also double check with your child's teach to make sure that he or she has the correct contact information for you.

### **Reminders**

- Next meeting will take place Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. It is yet to be determined whether this will be held entirely virtually or will be a hybrid format.

Jill Connor thanked everyone for their attendance (approximately 80 attendees) and adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

### **2022-2023 Board Members**

Jill Connor, President

Eric McKenzie, Vice President

Rebecca Fulcher, Vice President

Sarah West, Treasurer

Brooke Kenny, Secretary