

**Charles Barrett PTA
General Meeting
Charles Barrett – Auditorium
Monday, September 26, 2016
7:00 pm**

Present: 62 adults and one infant with the following 44 having signed in: Agoston, Kay; Billips, Nichelle; Bittner, Dustina; Bradshaw, Corine; Brown, Katherine; Butler, Nancy; Cashwell, Kara; Clark, Roger; Coughlin, Alix; Cruz, Pilar Rivera; Davis, Joe; Dyson, Caryn; Eile, Julia; Foley, Tamara; Griffis, Sharon; Harrison, Sarah; Henderson, Keri; Hoganson, Michelle; Hughes, Ronke'; Jaeger, Anna; Jones, Erica; Kennard, Seth; Lackey, Heather; Major, John; Martinez, Cindy; McGovern, Suzanne; McMillan, Ramon; McNabb, Patrick; Newill, Tasha; Niemann, Eliza; O'Dell, Kelley; O'Neil, Michael; Poe, Amy; Reilly, Sabrina; Ritter, Nancy; Rubio, Audrey; Sadoo, Hilary; Schuetter, Maura; Stackhouse, Alexis; Ullman, Shawn; Wear, Sabrina; Weber, Kristen; West, Meredith; Wines, Alison.

PTA President Kristen Weber called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PTA President Kristen Weber introduced the PTA Executive Committee. Ronke' Hughes, President-Elect; Becky Kotuby, Vice President; Sabrina Reilly, Secretary; Patrick McNabb, Treasurer.

PTA President reviewed some basic PTA information.

- Our School Board Liaison is Margaret Lorber at Margaret.lorber@acps.k12.va.us
- It only costs \$6 per person to join the PTA. Kristen invited Amy Poe, Membership Chair, to share that as of the meeting date, 161 membership applications had been submitted, ahead of last year's total of 110 at the same point in time. She noted that among a lot of families, both parents are applying for membership, which is increasing the total number of applications, but that there has not been an increase in a lot of new families joining. In some cases there are classes where all the families have joined PTA and in others, no one has joined. Like last year, Mr. Kennard has agreed to be duct taped to the wall of the school if the PTA receives more applications. This has always been a fun way to increase memberships as students get excited and encourage their parents to join.
- Kristen noted that Charles Barrett does not run without full parent support and that it is important for everyone to contribute to the fall appeal. No donation is too small or too big. Caryn Dyson, fall appeal chair, noted it's easy to give online. She also noted that this year's appeal is way behind last year. We still need to raise \$5.300 every week until Election Day to meet our goal of \$36k.
- Kristen noted it is important to stay connected and reminded everyone to sign up on the sheet to be added to the private Facebook group and to sign up for the listserv, and the Buzz newsletter which is going to be digital this year and not distributed via the green folders.

PTA President Kristen Weber submitted the June 5, 2016, minutes for approval.

- Minutes for the meeting on June 5, 2016, were approved with no corrections or changes.

PTA Treasurer Patrick McNabb presented the Treasurer's Report

- Patrick presented the Audit report covering the 2015-2016 PTA budget. The report includes a bit beyond the fiscal year due to a few late receipts, but the Budget Committee (Ann Buffington, Michelle Brayman and Melanie Davis reviewed the books and agreed they were in order.
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- Patrick briefly went through last year's receipts, expenses and ending balance of \$8,597.57 (carryover from 2015-2016). He also reviewed the aligned items included in the report including review of insurance, taxes, bylaws, payments to the National PTA, etc.
- Patrick then took us through the current budget, which was posted online. The FY projected income is \$62,710.00, including the Fall appeal goal of \$36K. With the carryover of \$8,597.57, the adjusted income for the year is \$71,307.57. He noted that there is a PTA budget icon on the website where the budget is posted as well as check request and deposit forms. One parent asked what was the size of budgets of other similar schools? One parent responded that at George Mason for example they raise more money in one night than Charles Barrett does with our biggest fundraiser but that PTA budgets vary widely. According to the PTA Council, Barrett is in alignment with other schools like us.

Another parent asked what the hospitality line item included? It is an expense for the luncheon that is hosted for teachers each year.

Another question was asked about whether 4th graders will have the big field trip to Jamestown this year. Seth responded that was up to the 4th grade teaching team to figure out.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the audit, with a full vote of approval.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget, with a full vote of approval.

Principal Seth Kennard presented the 'State of the School'

- Seth highlighted CETA night throughout his presentation. Charles Barrett was chosen to be one of five schools in the Washington area to continue the program – a reduction from 19 schools last year. This allows for more resources, and more attention to what we are doing. All teachers apply CETA learning to their classrooms. Seth asked us all to join CETA Night on October 27th at 6:30 pm so partners can see how supported the school is.
- Students:
 - Seth is in his 8th year. The school has grown with 275 students in his first year to our now 485 students. Nine classrooms have been added in six years. The school population of 485 means Charles Barrett has leveled off due to a slowing down of administrative transfers which constitutes 35% of enrollment at the school. The allowance of transfers was started because of the No Child Left Behind law that allowed parents to opt their children out of their neighborhood schools due to several reasons- extended calendar, Spanish immersion, etc. This law is no longer but many of the transfer families have decided to stay at Charles Barrett.
 - Enrollment is growing with average class sized larger. There are four Kindergarten teachers, each with an aide; four teachers for each grade in first through third and three for each 4th and 5th grade class.
 - The demographics at Charles Barrett closely match those of the City.
- Performance:
 - Overall test taking is being reduced to:
 - SOLs will continue in grades three through five,

- Third graders will be tested on math and reading,
 - Fourth graders will be tested on math, reading and Virginia history, and
 - Fifth graders will go through math, reading and science testing.
 - Test results
 - Charles Barrett showed increase testing scores in math, social studies and science resulting in 90 percent plus in all subjects. Charles Barrett ranks among the highest in test results in Social studies and science and is tied for highest in reading and math.
 - In math, testing was higher compared to Alexandria City and VA state scores
 - In English, there was a 10-21 percent increase with special education reporting higher than ACPS and state scores.
 - Charles Barrett met both state and federal accreditation, which is a great win as those schools not accredited acquire a huge workload to get back to this status.
- Student Behavior:
 - Charles Barrett tracks student behavior
 - CB has the lowest suspension rate in the City
 - The school tracks learning by tier in reading levels and math and does the same with behavior through referral tracking by tier with levels at one referral, two to five referrals and six or more
 - Out of 485 students, 123 had office referrals in 2015-2016.
 - 94% of students do not come to the office.
 - CB teaches the behavior they would like to see, including active listening, teach kids how to have a discussion about a topic, how to work together, ignore distraction and stay on task. And, the school celebrates the people who follow the rules with reward programs and student highlights.
- Student Reading Levels:
 - Reading assessment is measured by a system from Columbia University.
 - The assessment includes targeted intervention and grouping with monthly and quarterly reporting and a larger re-assessment at the mid and end points of the school year. This allows for teaching on each student's level so that all are challenged.
 - Last year, 81 students were below their average reading level and within one year, these students moved from three levels below to .6 below – a huge jump in one year.
- Student math:
 - A similar assessment is done during math lessons. For example, a lesson will be taught and a few short questions following will help to determine grouping for that lesson. The mini-lessons are then differentiated to the application level of the student.
- Peer Comparability:
 - Research compares Charles Barrett to identified like schools including George Mason, Lyles-Crouch and Douglas MacArthur within ACPS. There are a slightly larger set of comparable schools within Loudon and Prince William Counties as well.
 - Charles Barrett is within the top 15% of the state and we top our peer comparability study. Division-wide, we are seen as the top or second school across all views.
 - Success of the research doesn't capture great enhancements like the CETA program, the PTA, the great staff or the after-school enrichment programs.
 - A "climate survey" of teacher attitudes at Charles Barrett noted the highest teacher satisfaction in the city and noted Charles Barrett has the lowest teacher turnover.
- Points of Pride:
 - 88% of students who failed math SOLs in prior years have now passed.

- 96% of students who began below reading level showed growth
- The longer students attend Charles Barrett, the higher the pass rate of SOLs
- CB surpassed division and state pass rates in all areas
- CB has the most pass advanced rates (above level) in the division
- CB has the highest pass rate among special education students
- CB was designated as a distinguished school from the State of Virginia in 2016
- Mrs. Del Fratte, math specialist, is a finalist for an excellence award in math and science.
- Arlington County Schools will be working with Anna Tush as they want to replicate positive behavior system in their schools this year
- Focus Areas:
 - Subgroup performance
 - Recovery time for new students who enter below level
 - New testing standards and formats
 - Use of data in tailoring instruction
 - ELL student reading performance
 - On-going strategic planning
 - Staffing/services
 - The diverse needs of students has not been met with an increased number of staff to manage the growth. For example, seven years ago, there were two reading specialists and a math specialist. Following the growth, there remain only two reading specialists and 2.5 specialists. We are underserved in this particular area.

PTA President Kristen Weber then asked Joe Davis, one of the two Charles Barrett representatives to the Redistricting Review Committee, along with Lauran Sandberg, to give a brief update on redistricting.

She noted that a special PTA meeting would be scheduled for later in the month to address specific questions.

In addition to Joe and Lauren, CB parent Cindy Martinez represents GW Middle School on the redistricting review committee. Last week the first redistricting maps came out. The review group members are tasked with bringing information back to their schools and then there is the steering committee and the school board. About a year-and-a-half ago, the school board determined the system was at capacity and decided to start redistricting as it had not been done in 15 years. Charles Barrett is affected by redistricting because it has a lot of transfer students-35% -due to administrative reasons--modified open enrollment, Spanish immersion-dual language, block scheduling, and other reasons. The period of granting admin transfers is over.

It has not yet been decided how to grandfather a school population and whether redistricting will apply to K-3 and grandfather in 4th and 5th graders. The redistricting leaders have decided to move any decisions to start the 2018-2019 school year as opposed to 2017-2018 due to needing: 1) to look at capacity issues and projected enrollment as well as population growth; and, 2) to have capacity. For example there are capacity problems at Ramsey and Adams. There is some discussion about taking an existing building near the Mark Center and turning that into a new school to relieve capacity. Both Tucker and Mason are on the construction schedule.

What Lauren and Joe do is to try to give feedback on our school. The bottom line is that more capacity is needed and that kids need to be moved back to their neighborhood school. Lauren and Joe and the

other members of the review committee are trying to hold the steering committee's feet to the fire. The three maps that just came out are not the final maps and could morph into 4,5,6 maps. After looking at maps, they don't work for safety reasons and for many other reasons. You cannot move kids who live 600 feet from the front door of the school.

ACPS has contracted with GIS mapping specialists who do these mapping exercises all over the country. They don't seem to understand there is a community around each school. The concern everyone has is to know where their kids is going to go to school.

Lauren and Joe urge everyone to make sure the school board knows their concerns and opinions. School board members need to hear our opinions. Every email that Lauren or Joe receives gets sent through to the steering committee who reports to the school board. For example, George Mason had dozens of emails into the school board, Charles Barrett had five. Maps are not yet final. We have time to make our opinion known, to take our concerns forward. The lines will be drawn by this November with a final decision to be made by January 2017, so now is the time to be vocal.

There is a website for redistricting with a detailed FAQ sheet along. The ACPS website also has the latest draft of what they are thinking.

The "map maker" said that by the next review committee meeting they would have adjusted maps to review. Go to the meetings section of the redistricting website and click on dates to see the agenda. Redistricting goes to the school board for a vote and the majority wins. There are nine people on the steering committee and one from Barrett.

PTA President Kristen Weber asked if there were any other announcements:

- Nichelle Billips mentioned that the Marine Corps Fun Run was happening at the end of October and there were still spaces on the CB team. There is a link to sign up for the fun run on the CB website; cost is \$5 per runner. Everyone who participates gets a medal, t-shirt and lots of snacks.
- Alexis Stackhouse mentioned a new student handbook is coming out to reflect a rewritten section on student rights. This is really important to high school students. The group is looking for parents to join the committee. Contact her if interested.
- Julie Eile is the exceptional parent liaison and she is interested in starting a support group for parents who have children with IEPs. Please contact her if interested.
- Anna Jaeger noted that the deadline to submit a form to be included in the student directory is September 27th. 340 names have been submitted but there are still a few classes where too few students are listed. She also mentioned that as part of an effort called Real Food, a salad bar will be added to the cafeteria soon and noted that there is going to be a pep rally to get kids and parents excited.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next PTA meeting is November 7, 2016

Submitted by: Sabrina Reilly, PTA Secretary

Approved: _____
Date