

Swanson PTA Meeting [Swanson Library]
September 13, 2016

Agenda included introduction of executive board, overview of fundraising and volunteer opportunities, Principal's Report and presentation of ATSS (Arlington Tiered System of Support).

Madelon Brennan (President) welcomed the group and encouraged volunteerism. This year's PTA theme is "join, volunteer, & support".

Carri Berensen (fundraising chair) discussed the No Stress Fundraiser, which is ongoing. At this point, \$11,000 has been raised of a \$20,000 goal for the year. 172 families have donated. Other fundraising opportunities include Handmade Arlington (signature Swanson event), Spirit Wear, Grocery Receipts and Box Tops.

Madelon emphasized that the money raised directly funds teacher grant programs (field trips, supplies).

Anne Heinrich (Treasurer) gave her report and presented the budget for this year which is in line with last year's budget. Some noted changes:

- \$2,500 beautification (grounds, Seven Seas) allocation
- increase in accountant and auditor fees
- allocation for an updated communication platform (Constant Contact)
- \$13,000 allocated to Teacher Grant Program
- projected growth in Handmade Arlington
- plan to control expenses through use of donations (food for inservices, etc)

Carri motioned to approve budget, Jade seconded. Budget for 2016-2017 approved.

Lori Wright (beautification committee) spoke about planned projects.

Bridget Loft (Principal) and Laura Partridge (math coach and PTA liaison) provided the Principal's report:

- "Seven Seas" complex that houses seventh graders opened to teachers earlier than expected. All seventh graders will have three core classes in the Seven Seas.

_Reminded parents that a recording will be heard at any time they call the school, even when staff is present. The recording will guide parents to the correct department. Calling after 8:00 am is recommended if at all possible.

- Back to School Night will be held on Tuesday, September 20th.

- Student Led Conferences will occur on October 6th and 7th.

Bridget Loft, Beth Sanderson and Laura Hutsell presented on the Arlington Tiered System of Support (ATSS). Presentation can be found at “Intervention and Enrichment” under the About Us tab on the Swanson Website.

Bridget Loft opened the floor up for questions.

Q. Will students always be pulled out for the same intervention?

A. No, students will continually be assessed and will return to assigned STAR when they show mastery of the concepts.

Q. Are there pullouts for enrichment?

A. At this point, enrichment will take place in specialty STARs, Wavelength and Math Counts as well as through individual teacher/student interaction.

Q. Will students in Specialty STARs get pulled out for intervention?

A. If a need is identified after assessments, any student is eligible for intervention.

Q. How does this fit in with Special Education services?

A. This model fits in with the three tiered services model

Q. How will kids feel about it?

A. “We all have our talents, and treasures and needs” that teachers have an obligation to address and support as necessary.

Q. Can students opt out?

A. No

Q. Can parents recommend intervention?

A. At this point, teachers and administrators will be assessing and making the determination.

Ms. Loft addressed that sixth graders will be invited to consider specialty STAR classes in the coming weeks.

Madelon thanked parents and reminded everyone that the PTA meeting dates for October and November will be changing, more information to come.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.