**Campbell PTA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Approximate Number of Attendees**: 15

1. **Campbell Green Scene Video
Presenter: Maureen Nesselrode, Principal**
* Showed video about greenhouse project; highlighted the support by Arlington County Federal Credit Union (ACFCU) for this project
* The greenhouse will be incorporated into the 4th grade curriculum on the plant cycle

**II. Arlington Community Federal Credit Union
Presenter: Ashley Emerson**

* Ed Backer is a group that helps education related entities raise money; they came to the PTA and asked if Campbell had a project to launch – came up with idea of greenhouse to extend the growing season
* ACFCU – saw this as part of Ed Backer presentations and chose us to partner with Campbell
* They are responsible for the bulk of funding for this project
* SEPTA also helped fund the green house project and 4th grade expedition
* They chose Campbell b/c we are local, want to serve right in the community
* Volunteer day to put greenhouse together was great – 10 volunteers from the Credit Union!
* Info on ACFCU: only local federal credit union in Arlington supporting Arlington schools. Arlington residents have access to the credit union.
* Check out kids’ savings accounts – no fees; online platform to help them learn about money; Kids activities and resources to learn about finances
* Also have accounts for the full family; mortgage booklet; check out online website
* Have 4 in school branches at Carlin Springs, Drew, Wakefield and Barcroft – bank branch is operated by the students (kids are bank tellers); these are legitimate branches – kids get 2 weeks of training and then every week they can open their branch and operate it
* ACFCU is excited to partner with Campbell!!

**III. Upcoming Events
Presenters: Kelly Krug, VP of Programs and Kathy Cordon, VP of Fundraising**

* **Campbell Night at DC United Game on April 23rd at 5:30 at RFK**: Forms are due **Thursday, March 17th** – if you do not submit your form by this deadline, we will not be able to secure tickets for you as a part of the Campbell Night. Watch for more information about a possible tailgate party before the soccer game.
* **Wet Your Whistle Early Auction**: There are number of great auction items that you can bid on during an early auction bid period that is running now, but closes on Friday, March 18th. Some of the items include summer camps and tickets to a puppet show. Go to sharetheacuctionorganizer.org (log on through on Facebook or PTA website) to make your bids!
* **Wetlands Festival Solicitation Letter**: solicitation letters have gone out. A copy of the letter will be posted on the PTA website that you can send to possible donors.
* **Garden Fun Days**: The next Garden Fun Day is April 9th. We need your help to repair and clear out the beds in the courtyard, clear weeds in Colonial Garden, remove invasive plant species in the Wetlands with the help of the Naturalists. If you are interested in helping out on April 9th, please contact Jessica Haney at haneyjessica@yahoo.com.
	+ **Summer Gardening**: In the past, PTA funds have been used to help maintain the grounds in the summer (e.g., hiring a landscaping company, purchasing materials etc.). The PTA has funds available in the Garden Fund to help support these efforts.
* **Reading Challenge ended Monday, March 13th**: The PTA has extended the challenge through Spring Break. Students can continue to log reading time for up to 14 days. If your child was successful in getting pledges, please only collect for 14 days. Children need to turn in their reading logs and money if applicable to their teachers no later than **Tuesday, March 29th** to receive their extra recess. Checks from sponsors should be made out to Campbell PTA. Just a reminder no funds need to be turned in order to qualify for the extra recess. Funds raised support the library and reading initiative. If you need a copy of the reading log, you can find it [here](http://campbellschool.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Campbell-Reading-log.pdf).
* **Staff Appreciation Update**: The PTA organized a lunch run for staff during the most recent parent/teacher conferences. The teachers loved it and asked if the PTA would do it again. We are thinking of doing on the Campbell Dogfish Ale day because the PTA will get 20 percent of the funds raised that day.

**IV. Principal Updates
Presenter: Maureen Nesselrode**

**Backpack Mail Transitioning to Electronic Mail**

* Backpack mail typically consists of flyers, graded papers from teachers, and other ads or flyers from nonprofit organizations. APS sends them in a big batch to Campbell and then the school has to sort them and place them in teacher’s boxes and then into students’ Thursday folders. It is a lot of work and a lot of paper.
* Several Arlington elementary schools piloted a new program called “Peach Jar”, where flyers and ads are turned into electronic files and uploaded into a site (called the Peach Jar). Then once a week the information in the Peach Jar is pushed out to everyone who is registered to receive it. Parents and staff overwhelmingly preferred the Peach Jar over paper backpack mail.
* All items approved for backpack mail now will come through the Peach Jar service starting in April.
* The link to access the Peach Jar will sent by email. If you need to update your email info, let Jackie in the office know.
* There will still be Thursday folders, but with less in it. It will include field trip permission slips among other items.

**Indoor Recess Kits**

* Three staff cover indoor recess sessions, which take place in the children’s classrooms.
* There are three different indoor recess kits. Some include stacking cups, big dice, exercise deck of cards, nutrition bingo, yoga cards.
* Campbell is open to additional items. Jessica Haney offered to look at the indoor recess boxes to see what else could go in there (e.g., Twister, Crazy legs). Anyone interested in working on these boxes, contact Jessica at haneyjessica@yahoo.com.
* We explored doing a short survey of things teachers want in the classroom for indoor recess.

**Background Checks on Volunteers**

* Background checks are done on all volunteers done by Arlington’s Central Office. The Central Office will let Campbell know when a person is cleared. Campbell is going to do background checks on project discovery teachers and anyone who volunteers and has an opportunity to be alone with the kids, including parents volunteering in the classroom or helping with Thursday folders. The PTA executive board will do it too. It is an easy, free process.

**V. Budget Report and Funding Requests
Presenter : Nathan Zee, Treasurer**

* You can see the most recent Budget Report at [www.campbellschool.org](http://www.campbellschool.org).
* Budget is on track.
* Year to date, we are at $25,000 income, with expenses at $16,000; about $3000 ahead
* Goal for the reading challenge is $3000
* We need to raise at least $11,000 at wetlands
* Fundraising requests:

(1) From Dena Burhan, School Counselor: practice locker locks for 5th graders to help them practice before going to middle school up to $300 (set of 12-15 to practice in groups): MOTION APPROVED

 (2) After book fair, teachers submit a requested reading list to buy for classes. In the past, the PTA has picked up the tab on the remaining books, motion made to spend up to $500 to close out teacher wish lists: MOTION APPROVED

**VI. New business**

* The PTA needs a Chair for the Nominating Committee. The Chair will put together a slate of PTA officers for next school year (5 executive board members and committee heads). If you are interested, let Beth Cavey know at president@campbellschool.org. In April, the Chair and nominating committee gets the word out and helps identify individuals willing to serve in the PTA Board positions. The slate is presented at the May PTA meeting and elected at the June PTA meeting. If interested in serving on executive board or on a committee, let Beth Cavey know.
* Future discussion items: field trips
* Congratulations to the Campbell staff recognized at the School Board Meeting:
	+ Amala Sanninakone (30 years)
	+ Florence Dale (25 years)
	+ Regina Richardson (20 years)