

ACES PTA Board Meeting



December 3, 2021 @ 7:30am

Approve [minutes](#) from last meeting (Theresa)

- Approved

Officer Reports

Principal's update (Paula)

- Proposed lunch for staff before winter break (Week of December 16?)
- New guidelines available for food sharing in school.
 - Commercially prepared food only. **Gloves and proper hand hygiene when food is being served and self-served.**
 - Reminder: when eating, maintain as much distance as possible

President (Theresa)

VP, Hospitality (Shana)

- Update [favorites forms](#)
- Consider partnering specific classes with ACES support staff members for holiday gift-giving

VP, Fundraising (Helen)

VP, Communication (Megan)

- Content for December newsletter
 - ACES Cares Updates
 - Favorite Forms Link
 - Dojo Message Updates: lost & found, send extra masks, health requirement reminder
 - Reassignment news from Nov. 30th meeting and next steps
 - Dates/Calendar
 - Winter Break
 - Winter celebration and reading challenge, spelling bee??
 - **ANYTHING ELSE**
 - Wake PTA Resolution
 - Reflections photo and update
- Consider creating an ACES Amazon wishlist
 - Add masks

Secretary (Haven)

Treasurer (Jaimie)

- [Treasurer Report](#)
- [Budget Analysis](#)
- Reconciled November and rewrote some uncleared checks (none outstanding now).
- We still have a lot of money in the budget since we made more from the Fun Run. Plus we didn't do some of the fall events that were in the budget (Fall Harvest, Veteran's Day).

Actuals To Date

Deposits and Withdrawals that have already been banked.

Funds Available At Start Of Year			\$28,743.23
Plus: Net actual as a result of Completed Activities	\$106,290.77	-\$60,217.00	\$46,073.77
Plus: Net actual as a result of In-Progress Activities	\$9,734.87	-\$10,294.71	-\$559.84
In Bank to date			\$74,257.16

Projected

Budget items that are still in progress. These numbers will continue to change as you record income/expenses.

Plus: Additional expected income (based on in-progress for budgeted income)			\$13,896.02
Less: Additional expected expenses (based on in-progress for budgeted expenses)			-\$39,697.39
Projected bank balance if on budget			\$48,455.79

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- Ideas for how to use the money?
 - ACES Cares
 - Library since Ms. Darwin couldn't have an in person book fair this fall.
 - Additional cultural arts that Ms. Reynolds proposed \$1k
 - Jaimie to reallocate \$1k (from Fall Harvest & Veteran's Day celebrations that didn't happen)
 - Faculty appreciation
 - Stair painting
 - Window washing (est. \$1800 from year's past)
 - Poster Maker (est. \$1k)
 - Jaimie to reallocate \$1k

Committee Reports

Membership (Heather)

- No plan for membership drive in December.
 - Revisit in January (possibly coupled with another spirit night)
- Currently 268 members
- Add PTA membership link to newsletter.

Apex Fundraiser (Karen)

Audit (Heather)

Cultural Arts (Susan)

- 27 students participated in Reflections. We celebrated their hard work on Tuesday. Projects were sent to the county for judging.
- We are finalizing cultural arts programming and estimate that we need an additional \$1000 in the budget to cover 1 additional performance and materials.
- Planning for in-person performances.

Spirit Wear (Helen)

Spirit Nights

Advocacy (Lisa)

ACES Cares (Allie)

- Family in ACES community in need of some help
 - Electrician
 - Clean up work
- Another mother in our ACES community who would benefit from having a peer support contact person
 - Consider seeing if there is someone in the class who might be able to help
- (Karen) - Hi all! Allie and I were tossing around the idea of an ACES Cares initiative focused on helping 5th graders and their families with the transition to middle school. There was lots of anxiety around the transition last year as a result of COVID and not being able to attend in person tours and the perceived lack of communication/connection. I imagine that will decrease this year, however for our vulnerable families who might be feeling like they just got comfortable at ACES this is still a challenge. Some ideas we had include: working with the school counselors/teachers to identify appropriate families, focusing on the specific schools they will be attending, recruiting parents who have already had a child move up to said school willing to be “buddies”, promoting the WCPSS Family Academy programs, holding live small group Q&A sessions, attempting to engage with the middle school PTA to build bridges of support for the parents, informing the families of available support services, etc.
 - @ PTA - is this something we feel is valuable and want to pursue?
 - @ Paula @ Teachers - is this something you think is valuable?
 - I'm happy to get this going if y'all think it's a good idea

Food Drive – we had a heartwarming response and plenty of donated food. We had volunteers come in and pack food boxes and before Thanksgiving, I gave out 28 large boxes of food to families to help supplement all the extra days students were home. A handful of families were able to pick up and I delivered to the ones who didn't have transportation. Moving forward, we have plenty of food boxes to get us through the December holiday. The boxes are all packed

and our plan is to give them out when holiday gifts are distributed. There was a huge response from folks who purchased and sent us food from Amazon. That was especially nice because we ended up using most of those boxes to pack the food boxes to give to families.

ACES Cares – this past month, we used some of the money to buy Food Lion gift cards for students whose parents reported that had no food in the home. One family lost their EBT (food stamps) card and has experienced significant difficulty getting a replacement cards from Wake County Human Services. It was really nice to be able to use this fund because this parent did not have a way to get to a food pantry.

The Giving Tree – we had another heartwarming response. This is the first year that we tried to reach out to families electronically via Dojo. Kelsie Haric, our School Counselor, created two google links, one for families to tell us that they would like to receive gifts, and the other to let us know who was interested in sponsoring. We ended up with far more volunteers willing to sponsor student than we had students in need of holiday gifts. This has never happened before and for the first time since our school has opened, I wasn't scrambling to get all of our kids covered. As of today, there are 106 students being sponsored. We had 27 extra sponsors. Moving forward with future years, I will take all the help I can get with putting this together. The program has doubled since we first opened, but my favorite part is that we include all school aged siblings in it.

- Consider adding other giving tree opportunities to the newsletter