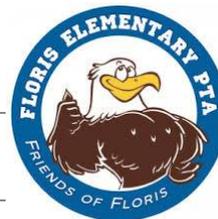


Floris PTA General Body Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025 | 6:30 PM | Floris Library



In Attendance: Josh DeSmyter, Rob Gibbs, Melanie Meren, Amy May, Kseniya Strasburg, Katie Spano, Rupa Vass, Ryan Barber, Steve Pierce

★ **Welcome** (Amy May, *President*)

- Call Meeting to Order at 6:30pm
- Motion to vote on September meeting minutes
 - Yes: 10
 - No: 0
 - September meeting minutes approved

★ **Principal's Message** (Josh DeSmyter, *Principal* // Rob Gibbs, *Assistant Principal*)

- Thanksgiving luncheon was a success for students and visiting family members
- Meren and Shin recently visited the Floris campus with visits to Kindergarten, 1st Grade classes and the Curiosity lab

★ **Curiosity Lab** (Amy Albanse and Willa McGrath)

- Shared vision to build upon background knowledge of students to increase access to STEAM activities with the focus being critical and creative thinking (input) vs. a product (output).
- Quarterly
 - Every class receives Curiosity Lab instruction
- Monthly
 - Maker Missions are optional at-home challenges
- Weekly
 - Challenges posted on TV by cafeteria and highlighted on news show
 - Sign-ups on Fridays for teacher-led lessons (resources provided)
- Ongoing
 - 5th and 6th grade Curiosity Leadership groups that lead lessons on early release Wednesday's
 - 3-D printing capabilities
 - Machine learning with beebots, ozobots, Lego Spike

★ **Financial Report** (Kseniya Strasburg, *Treasurer*)

- Corporate sponsorship collections are \$1,750 higher than budget
- Membership Dues - over \$1k higher than last year
- Spirit Ball tickets sale paid for all of its expenses
- Still have plenty of budget left in Staff Appreciation
- Teacher Supplies Reimbursements are low this year, half of last year's, well under the budget
- Student and Staff Support budget is about 3/4 of the budgeted amount. The largest expense has been paid to FCPS for \$5.7k for Teacher's learning aid
- Curiosity Lab expenses are minimal so far and well under the budget
- Well under budget on all Social and School events

★ **Melaine Meren**

- Provided Overview of FCPS
- FCPS is the 9th largest school division in the U.S. with 199 schools and centers. 85% of funding goes directly to instruction and supports student learning.
- Virginia state funding per student is significantly less than surrounding states
 - Fairfax now spends 117% more locally (\$1.18 billion) above what is calculated by the state funding formula.

★ **Old Business**

- Western High School - board voted to keep with traditional induction with special pathways
- Melaine expressed the need to reduce split feeders
- Additional meetings forthcoming
- Algebra 1 Pilot
 - Need additional information and capacity to help facilitate

★ **Upcoming Events**

- Snack Pack
 - 4th Grade 12/12
- Walk in My Shoes
 - Dec 3 - 4th Grade
 - Dec 4 - 5th Grade
 - Dec 5 - 6th Grade
- Bingo Night
 - January 16, 2026 at 6:15pm in the Floris Cafeteria
- Need Staff Appreciation Event Volunteers
 - Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8)

★ **Closing:** (Amy May)

- Adjourned: 7:55pm