

**Claremont Immersion School PTA
General Membership Meeting (In Spanish)
October 3, 2017. 8PM
Multipurpose Room Claremont Immersion Elementary**

Introduction: President-Elect Lyzbeth Monard

Lyzbeth welcomed all attendants to the meeting and explained how the Arlington Public School (APS) system was organized and how parents can advocate for their children's educational needs. She emphasized that parents have power and should ask many questions. The more parents are involved in their children's schools, the better the children do. Lyzbeth then introduced APS school board member, Tannia Talento.

Tannia talked about how APS school board member James Lander is Claremont's current liaison to the school board. His school board term will be ending December 31, 2017 after which Claremont will have a new liaison.

Tannia spoke of all the changes going on at APS this school year including boundary changes for middle school and elementary schools. She explained that middle school boundaries are changing because of the new middle school that is being built at the Stafford site. She passed out a packet which included all the changes and timelines of the changes for the upcoming APS school year.

Tannia encouraged the PTA to advocate for their children to the school board. She mentioned that the school board has office hours every Monday and language should never be a barrier to getting one's voice heard. When advocating for your child, first approach your child's teacher, then principal, and finally the school board.

Tannia asked if anyone had any questions. One PTA member asked how the boundary changes would affect immersion. Tannia said that as of start of school year 2018, the Claremont Cluster of guaranteed admission would be eliminated making Claremont a full-lottery school. Also, the school board would be possibly looking into adding immersion to another middle school. Tannia also mentioned that with the addition of the new elementary school near Thomas Jefferson elementary in South Arlington and Reed Elementary in North Arlington the elementary school boundaries will be changing. She prefers that the elementary school boundaries for both North and South Arlington change at the same time, but other members of the school board are seeking for them to be changed in two phases.

Lyzbeth then spoke of the Enrichment Classes available after school. She said there are scholarships for children who could not afford the classes. She emphasized that the PTA is here to support the parents and the teachers. She encouraged everyone to join the PTA and was open to any suggestions on how to improve the PTA.

Lyzbeth then spoke of the various events and volunteer opportunities happening around Claremont in the coming months: The Enrichment Program, the PTA Reflections Contest, Gardening Day, and the Halloween class parties.

Treasurer's Report—Donna Lombardo

Donna announced that the PTA gained 241 new members so far this school year. The PTA has collected nearly \$7,000 in donations. The PTA has sent out \$2,690 in teacher resource checks, and \$1,000 in teacher grants.

VP Communications--Melania Saraniero

Melania introduced herself and went over the various ways to communicate with teachers, parents, and the Claremont community. These methods include: the PTA Facebook page, the PTA Listserv, WhatsApp, Twitter, the Monthly Calendar, and Thursday folders.

President-Elect Lyzbeth Monard

Lyzbeth then emphasized that the easiest way to communicate with teachers is through email. She also mentioned the Spirit Wear that is for sale through the PTA. Lyzbeth then asked if anyone had any questions. A PTA member asked if there were any educational support in the Enrichment Classes. Lyzbeth proposed an educational enrichment class. Melissa Schwaber, PTA President, suggested a homework club. Another member asked about Junior Great Books. Melissa said it was starting soon.

Lyzbeth then introduced Maggie Colston and the Spanish Language and Cultural Assistant, Alba Ordonez. Alba is working at Claremont for the entire school year. Maggie Colston and her family are hosting Alba at their home for half the year and another Claremont family will be hosting her for the other half.

Lyzbeth thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.

*****Meeting Adjourned*****