

Lions Park PTO Meeting on Monday, August 30

Meeting called to session at approximately 8:06 PM

In attendance: Mallory Reyes, Monica Janiczek, Patty Susmarski, Sarah Deitch, Jackie Foley, Emme Higgason, Katie Kelly, Patricia Kennedy, Zhaleh Naghibzadeh and Kevin Bull

1. President's Report (Mallory Reyes)

- Nothing to report, all topics are embedded in the agenda

2. Teacher's Report (Patricia Kennedy)

- A big thank you for the money given to teachers and staff at the beginning of the year, and for all the parent support. Lions Park is off to a great start!

3. Ed Foundation Report (Mallory Reyes, no liaison currently assigned)

- The Ed Foundation is hosting their first "informal" meeting on Tuesday, August 31 at Mrs. P and Me.
- Mallory R. will try and enlist a liaison at the first meeting/meet and greet.
- As always, the Ed Foundation is looking for volunteers.
- Discussions of a possible fall fundraiser happening between Ed Foundation members.

4. Budget Approval (Jackie Foley)

- Jackie F. reported we are starting the year off at \$14,944.43, and reviewed a budget spreadsheet outlining the school year PTO budget, in detail.
- Jackie F. also reported that the ending balance as of 8/31/21 is \$15,554.33
- Katie K. reported that although both installments for the projector projector have been "spent" from the budget line, the second payment has not yet been made because the projector is still on backorder (estimated to be in stock soon).
- In regards to specific event costs outlined in the budget spreadsheet, Mallory R. asked how the budget would be impacted if we decide not to hold an event (primarily because of Covid protocol). Jackie F. reminded the PTO that if an event has an "income" line, the amount of money the PTO would hold is not the full event amount, but the expense minus income (ex. Fun Fair has an income of \$2000, and an expense of \$2650 -- only \$650 would remain in the PTO bank).

5. VP Report (Patty Susmarski)

- Reviewed open chair and co-chair positions. Flyer sent home outlining the openings and looking for volunteers.

- A reminder to take the PTO website off of Mike's plate (determined later in the meeting that Alan Deitch will fill this volunteer role as "webmaster.")

6. Author Visit(s) | *Not on Agenda*

- Patricia K. plans to work with Fairview and is looking into author visits. Typically, author visits for the school year are booked now.
- A discussion was had about virtual author visits versus the possibility of in-person visits. There is some concern about hosting large, in-person events because of the need to keep children/staff 3 feet apart.
- Additionally, there are issues with sound, and the multi-purpose room is still under construction.
- Patricia K. was given the okay to continue to explore virtual (and in-person) author visit options, and she will send out an email with updates.
- Jackie F. noted there is \$1500 in the budget, although this led to a discussion about author visits versus school assemblies.
- Author visits and school assemblies are two different things.

7. School Assembly | *Not on Agenda*

- The school assembly is typically held in December because it is a slower time, and gives the children something to look forward to, but it could be moved to another time during the school year, if need be.
- Katie K. doesn't think we should schedule an assembly yet, but we should look into different options.
- Emme H. has experience with school/library assemblies through her job, and volunteered to be the informal "chair" of this, and will email information to PTO.
- Patricia K. offered to help and act as a sounding board for possible school assembly.

8. Communication with Chairs (Patty Susmarski)

- Patty S. asked about the best way to communicate with committee chairs and co chairs, and for an update on where we stand with volunteers (specifically in classrooms).
- Katie K. reported that at the district level, everything is still being sorted out, and that she hasn't received an update or directions regarding volunteers in the classroom.
- Even though things are still being sorted out, it was agreed that we should move forward with securing Room Reps because it is definitely good to have a parent connected to the classroom and teacher.

9. Committee Reports

A. Special Lunch

- Still on hold, and doesn't typically start until October.

- Katie K. said that there are logistical issues because it brings in a lot of volunteers, and some classes still eat in their rooms.
- Dr. Mary Gorr is expected to revisit, and update.
- In addition to securing Room Reps and waiting for an update on Special Lunch, PTO Vice Presidents should communicate to ALL CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS so that a connection is made between the PTO and other volunteers and chairs.

B. Yearbook

C.

- Two teachers volunteered to help, and Katie K. will touch base with both, internally, and then connect the PTO/Jackie F. with the selected teacher.

D. Roar and Run

E.

- Discussed in more detail later in the meeting, but still no ch-chair

10. Principal Report (Katie Kelly)

- 508 students at Lions Park (number will change slightly, with new registrations), and 9 remote learning students.
- A positive start to the school year, and Katie K. really appreciates all the parents who attended Back to School Night.
- The start of the school year has focused on teaching expectations, safety, and starting benchmark assessments with students.
- Sarah D. asked if Covid exposure was only at lunch, when students are unmasked. Katie K. reported that so far, yes, but that exposure can occur at other times (for example on the bus, in a small group, etc). There are no close contacts outside.
- Mallory R. asked if Shield Covid testing would happen during school hours, and if this would impact instructional time. She noted this was recently rolled out in D26, and did appear to take away from instructional time.
- Katie K. said the assumption is yes, testing would happen during school hours, but that a Rep was coming with Dr. Gorr on Wednesday, and there would be more information available for parents soon.
- Patty S. mentioned issues with District level communications, and Katie K. said Mark is aware and working hard to fix any and all issues.

11. Board of Education Report (Kevin Bull)

- Kevin B. reviewed the process for filling former Board member Rachael Rothrauff's position after her resignation.
- The Board conducted interviews, and appointed Corrin Bennett-Kill for a two-year term (spring 2023).
- We are one of few local districts with a remote learning plan in place.

- The District plan was to hire multiple classroom assistants to help with remote learning, but the positions have been hard to fill.
- Construction went well -- the addition at Lions Park was completed on time and under budget.
- Painting and flooring work will continue at Lincoln.
- The Board approved a tentative budget.
- One of the goals for the Board is to increase connections and conversations with the community. As part of this goal, there will be a community meeting on November 4th focused on curriculum and social emotional learning.

12. Roar and Run - Zhaleh Naghibzadeh

- Zhaleh N. asked if a decision had been made regarding indoor versus outdoor event.
- Katie K. said she was leaning towards outdoor because she felt the event could be successfully adapted indoors, without a need for a rain date.
- After a discussion of prize levels/amount of money earned, the PTO voted, and decided to move forward with a \$50 minimum raised for a prize.
- In addition to this, Zhaleh Naghibzadeh will purchase additional prizes to be raffled off for students who raise over \$25.
- Zhaleh N. asked about photocopying guidelines at the school, and Katie said she thought school administration could handle making copies this year.
- Jackie F. will also ask a friend about printing costs/quote.

13. 5th Grade Activities

- Communication went out to parents regarding shirts and fees, and payments have been steadily coming in.

14. Roles and Responsibilities

- As a group, the PTO reviewed a shared spreadsheet of each PTO member's responsibilities.
- The focus was primarily on the role of the Vice Presidents, and the best way to proceed with communication between chair and co-chairs.
- Patty S. and Sarah D. will work on a document, offering a brief "flowchart"/points of contacts for chairs will be created and shared.
- Katie K. requested the PTO closet be organized, and that this is something to consider when discussing roles and responsibilities.
- A date will be determined to do the above soon.

15. Additional

- A branded PTO table cloth was ordered for events (like Back to School Night and others)
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 4 at 8 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:24 PM