

Larson Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes October 21, 2019

In Attendance: Joe Duda, Mark Hayes, Leslie Diebol, Debbie Ballios, Kelly Jones, Tari McGrane, Anne Sackrison, Matt Sackrison, Vaishali Bhatt, Dawn Leonard, Chris Fritzsching, Vikki Fritzsching, Michelle Tedder, Janet Matichuk, Lisa McCray, Irene Christy

Dr. Machesky - with the Fall Update:

- New TSD website - will provide the opportunity to do more with video and be more interactive. To tell our story about what's going on in our district through the eyes of the staff and students.
- World Class Wednesdays - Another opportunity to tell our story.
- Enrollment History - 13,090 - has been growing each year since 2014-2015. Bulk of the budget is based on enrollment numbers. Actually beginning to level out as a district and will continue to have moderate growth over the next few years. Predicting 2-3% growth for the next few years and then will level out.
- Trying to enhance social/emotional supports. Currently at a 1 to 300 ratio for counselor to student. Want to get to 275 to 1 ratio.
- Provide career advancement for employees - for teachers to see career growth, both new and veteran teachers.
- 2013 Bond/Sinking Fund - spent \$20 million during the summer of 2019.
- Will receive \$9315 per pupil Received \$9467 in 2006. Working with less dollars because the increases from the state have not kept pace with inflation. If state funds had kept pace with inflation - we would be getting \$12,080 per pupil. Enrollment increases have helped us, but if enrollment levels out, we could run into problems.
- Focus on College and Career Readiness for 2020. This runs from K-12. What skills will they need for both college and careers? Piloting Media 2.0 in 4 elementary schools this year. Extending Media time and engaging in STEM related activities and experiences.
- Opened Preschool building this year. 70,000 sq ft facility. Cost \$23 million dollars. Funded at no additional cost to taxpayers. (Paid through sale of land and used no general fund money).
- The Niles Center is at the end of useful life. It has had fire and flood damage. It doesn't make sense to invest in that facility. TSD purchased the old ITT Building on Big Beaver. Almost the same size (40,000 sq ft) as the current Niles Center. Building has sat empty for 2 years. It is educational space. Hope to close by the end of December. Renovations will be done and then will be able to move all the Niles programming to the new building and will knock the Niles Center down and create green space. The Niles Center was built in 1932. The new building will hold college and career high school, adult ESL programs (largest in the state), community and enrichment programs. Revenue generating programs will then pay for the mortgage and become revenue generating for the district.

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 22, 2019 & September 18, 2019

Motion to approve May 22, 2019 with corrections: Debbie Ballios. Second: Kelly Jones

Motion to Approve September 18, 2019 Minutes with corrections: Motion: Kelly Jones

Second: Dawn Leonard

All minutes have been revised and are on the PTO Weebly site

Report of Officers

Treasurer's Report: Tari McGrane

Expenses came in as expected. No real income for this month. Motion to approve treasurer's report: Kelly Jones. Second: Dawn Leonard

Reviewed the budget from last meeting - plan to end up with \$8,000 balance in the budget.

Request to move \$850 from Teacher Mini-Grants in order to pay for half of the office laminator (Teacher Mini-Grants to become \$8,150) and put that in Office Expense with a note as a one time expense - Office Expense would become \$850. Motion to approve the budget with this change: Leslie Diebol Second: Mark Hayes. Budget Passes.

Teacher's Report/Teacher Mini-Grants: Mr. Hayes

Pantry snacks from the PTO were appreciated and are being handed out as needed. There definitely seems to be a need. Pantry snacks are being stored in the 700 and 900 block and in the office. Been very positive feedback from the staff. Feminine products are better to be put in the office instead of it being in the bathroom, due to an incident where they were misused. Suggestion to put a laminated sign in the bathroom saying that they are now available in the office.

Conferences were very well attended. Very supportive parents.

Principal's Report: Mr. Duda

Conferences - what a blessing it is to work with the families of Troy. Mr. Duda's 8th year here and very positive interactions. Turnout was excellent.

Terrific staff dinner from Luckich's, 46-47 teachers were able to have a quick meal during a busy day.

Academically teachers are getting down to business. Great to see kids that are interacting with each other while learning new things.

First Strong lesson is tomorrow: Inclusion.

Mr. Duda is going to Washington DC on Friday to accept the School of Character Award.

8th grade Washington DC trip is departing October 30th. Approximately 130 kids traveling.

President's Report: Debbie Ballios

Teacher Mini-Grants: Total of 22 requests totaling \$4,372. Read through all of the requests. Motion to vote on approving all of the requested mini-grants: Anne Sackrison. Dawn Leonard Second. Teacher Mini-Grants Pass.

Vice President's Report: Kelly Jones

No report.

Reports of Standing Committees: PTO Board

PTO Website: <http://larsonmiddleschoolpto.weebly.com> PTO Meeting minutes will now be posted on the web site for anyone who would like to see them.

8th Grade Celebration: Janine Moscone/Jodi Haggarty. Feel like they are in good shape.

Dance/Activity Committee: Lisa McCray. First party was very successful. November 8th is the next party - benefits the orchestra.

Staff Appreciation Week: Dawn Leonard.

Restaurant Night: Dawn Leonard. Noodles & Co. will be tomorrow. Detroit Burger Bar will be on Nov. 13, MOD Pizza will be on Dec. 10th. Will apply for the Buffalo Wild Wings for March Madness.

Spirit Wear: Shannon Burt. This is always open to order. Can have them shipped to the school or shipped to your house.

Box Tops: Audra Melton. They are due November 1st. Dawn Leonard is going to submit the box tops that we have here before they expire. Thank you Dawn!!

New Business:

Matt Sackrison: Benefits App

All you have to do is download the Benefit app and link your checking account to it. It's like a gift card, but the PTO will get a percentage of what you spend. "Fundraising without fundraising." Feel free to ask Matt if you have any questions. He's been using it for 3 years and completely trusts it.

Karen Gittins: Adopt a Family for the Holidays. She spoke with Mr. Duda and he came up with 3 families to adopt. Wish lists are being collected and that information will be entered into a sign-up genius for the Larson Community.

Next meeting: Monday Nov 13th at 7pm

Motion to adjourn: Dawn Leonard

Second: Debbie Ballios

Meeting Adjourned: 9:06pm pm