

Larson Middle School PTO Zoom Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Joe Duda, Anne Sackrison, Janet Matichuk, Kate Fellin, Tari McGrane, Bindu Sundaram, Mark Hayes, Michelle Tedder, Heather DeSandre, Dawn Leonard, Nick Nickerson, Veronica Pala
Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

Motion to approve with changes PTO Minutes from November 18, 2020 meeting by: Kate Fellin, Second: Mark Hayes (Minutes Approved)

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Treasurer's Report: Tari McGrane

- We have approximately \$18k in the bank, on target with the budget numbers
- Restaurant nights is about \$288
- Will remove flower sales from future (pass through)
- \$116.50 from last year's box tops not additional money and has been removed
- approximately \$413 in Benefit checks need to be deposited
- Mr. Tull & Mr. Potts are requesting another \$1k for additional supplies. Costs for each item needs to be detailed (i.e. how much for each cartridge). Students are learning about etching glass and making things for teachers and would like to have more supplies available. Most of the regulars and specials teachers are aware this is available. Mark Hayes to make sure everyone knows it's available.

Mini Grants

- Grants mostly cover subscriptions, furniture (i.e. book shelves, standing work station for classroom), monitor, air purifier
- \$5,175 in grant funds remaining in the budget, current requests is approximately \$2,595
- approximately \$2,500 in grant funds will still be available to distribute in March

Motion to approve grant requests made by Kate Fellin, seconded by Dawn Leonard, Motion approved.

Teacher Representative: Mark Hayes

Just not back together in seat yet. Speaking from his own experience he has every student with a C or above. They are pushing through and working hard. Super nice group of kids and really happy with how focused 95% of them are.

Principal's Message:

Crazy to think in a short time we will be at the one year anniversary of shutting down. So many didn't miss a beat and rolled with whatever model was thrown at them. Their enthusiasm was jumping through the screen. More exciting will be meeting back to some level of normal. The Board officially approved 4 days for inseat for those that selected and those staying virtual no difference. Approximately 50% want the hybrid/virtual than with each half of the alphabet at low 20% of students in building each day. It's very manageable to have both halves in seat at the same time even with lunch times. Many kids want to be at school and thrive in a different way. Larson had dipped to about 44% in person but is still more than the other middle school, and confident it will work as the average class size is 11-12 students in seat. One class may have 20 kids virtual and the class next door completely different. In order to assure larger class sizes can accommodate distancing, some other spaces in the building will be utilized. Wednesday will still be a virtual day.

Health department and school nurse came and measured out spaces in cafeteria to make sure they will be spaced apart. Short increase for in-person compared to the fall. We won't be back to normal this year but getting closer. Masks will be required in school for awhile. Kids get to be around other kids and need to be in school so at least this is a start in the right direction. Data trending down in Michigan for several weeks and

our area is doing well. Many of the teachers have been able to secure vaccine appointments. That will help build confidence.

The next call to choose in seat will be end of April, after spring break and will stay that way for the rest of the year. Some are just waiting to see how this next return works out.

PTO President's Report: Anne Sackrison

District President's Council meeting in a couple of weeks. Nothing further to report.

Co-Vice-President's Report: Kate Fellin & Bindu Sundaram

Nothing to report

8th Grade Celebration: Kate Fellin

Given the uncertainties, still going to plan more like what was done last year. There will be a meeting next month to get going on it. Looking for other parents to join (JM, VP & MT all advised they would like to assist). Most of the staff was present for last year's event vs. mostly just 8th grade staff.

Annual Adopt-a-Family Holiday Drive: Anne Sackrison & Joe Duda

Because they collected a lot they were able to help out about 5 families with \$1,000 in donated gift cards. Virtually all were for grocery, retail and restaurants. Some dropped off and some picked up. Everything was very much appreciated.

Benefit Mobile Fundraising App: Anne Sackrison

Picking up a little bit.

Box Tops: Anne Sackrison

Due a check any time that was sent out late December/early January for approximately \$100. Next submission due date is February 19th.

Restaurant Nights: Dawn Leonard

- Mod Pizza is February 10th through Group Raise
- Eating Craft/Escape (f/k/a Troy Lanes) is a potential for March
- Buddy's Pizza for April, Olga's is on the list for potentially May, and Oberweiss for June
- Buffalo Wild Wings never got back to Dawn to schedule for January.
- Panda Express yielded approximately \$400 between their contribution and monies received from Benefit

Special Services Parent Advisory Council: Heather DeSandre

Heather has a 6th grader at Larson and provides communications back to the building with collaborating parent education series that will be held January 28th 6-8p virtually. Mr. Duda sends out the flier with the topics being covered in the series so parents can pick and choose the topic they wish to participate in, including transitioning to college for those with 504's and IEP's, improving executive functions and supporting education, literacy and others to help with special kids at home.

Spirit Wear: Shannon Burt

Quite a few orders came in over the holidays.

Staff Appreciation: Dawn Leonard

Several various ideas to be considered: chalk the walk, cards from students and parents, writing a letter of appreciation for each staff member, will have snacks and decorate the lounge, etc. Not sure if will be considering catering of homemade (possible if limiting to 3-5 that will ensure safety procedures in place).

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Open Discussion/Questions

Girls and boys basketball officially cancelled and likely volleyball will be as well. Track will likely happen. Registrations for classes usually are being worked on by now but will be closer to spring break (difficult how to plan comprehensive high school schedule not knowing what's going on in the fall).

The DC trip for current 8th graders may happen in June if conditions allow. The company we use purchased insurance on behalf of everyone that signed up for it (only lost cost of the insurance).

The 6th and 7th grade trips have been cancelled. Larson is the only middle school that had trips for 6th and 7th grades and had a bad experience with the company we used so we won't be using them again. Mrs. Lee will be sending an update soon on the DC trip.

Motion to adjourn: Dawn Leonard

Seconded by: Tari McGrane

Meeting adjourned 8:18 p.m.

<approved>