

Larson Middle School PTO Zoom Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2023, 7:00pm

In Attendance: Joe Duda, Stephan Henning, Cijay Avery, Michelle Tedder, Tari McGrane, Mark Hayes, Kate Fellin, Julie Wishaw, Maria Mendola, Beth McCarty, Elizabeth Blakely, Julie Mistretta

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Motion to approve PTO Minutes from November 30, 2022 meeting by: Joe Duda, Second: Cijay Avery (Approved)

SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRING UPDATE – Dr. Rich Machesky

Bond

- Well underway. Series 1 (\$190 million):
 - Furniture, Elementary school playgrounds, H.S. athletic upgrades, Smith M.S. in Spring 2024

Challenges

- Enrollment is slightly declining. Projections say that we should see it settle off at about 12,200 students. And then in 2032 we will see an increase.
- Staffing has increased. Added more counselors and social workers.
- Inflation – will probably continue through 2024.
- Will have free lunches for all students next school year.

Moving Forward

- Preschool is full. ~90% Troy residents
- Doing student listening tours – we want to ask them important questions and listen to them.
- Always studying and adopting new curriculum
- Incredible student achievements

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Principal's Message: Joe Duda

- Busiest time of the year for activities.
- We welcomed more than 300 5th graders to Larson for a visit
- 8th graders
 - went to Troy Historical Museum
 - 8th grade portfolios and “job interviews”
 - attended a “Court in School” – real-life consequences for making poor choices.
- Celebration of Learning is coming up. The students run it.
- In June is the Relay for Life Walk- raise funds for cancer research
- Four weeks left of school.
- Will have 7 retirements and are working on finding good people to fill those spots. Mr. Heugh is moving to Athens H.S.
- Enrollment is up 40 kids. Will have 800 students in the Fall.
- Shout-out from staff for the teacher appreciation week. It was awesome!

PTO President's Report: Cijay Avery

- Recruited for open Board positions.
- Making the donation basket for the TFFE.
- Presents for the retiring teachers: \$100 Visa card and maybe a plant to have ready by June 1st. ~\$750

Vice-President's Report: Kate Fellin

- Will change the forms for the mini grants for next year to be more specific.
- Joe will check with Mark about photos from mini grant "winners".

Treasurer's Report: Tari McGrane

- There is \$13,173 in bank, but there's expenses still out there. We're very close to our proposed budget.
- Pantry money is going to be used for the numerous amount of retirement gifts
- Mini grants
 - o We are not supposed to reimburse for the taxes on the mini grants.
 - o The purchase costs were less than the money requested so there is unspent money (\$970). Because the check was already cut, the funds not spent will be used for the student activities.
 - o Last year on the Board but will be willing to come back next school year and audit.

Joe Duda acknowledged Tari's hard work over the last 5 years.

Teacher Representative: Mark Hayes (not present)

- No report.

8th Grade Celebration Committee: Elizabeth Blakely and Beth McCarty (not present)

- June 14th will be the set-up date.
- Final T-shirt order today. The memory video is coming along. Decided no D.J.. TSD was hired for the food.

Restaurant Nights: Kristin Cermak (not present)

- Jets Pizza coming up, but no date is set yet.
- Raised \$32 from Panda Express and \$178 from Oberweis

Teacher Appreciation: Judy Bunao

- Went very well. We have very generous Larson families.
- The sign up genius worked good.
- We provided healthy options, gluten-free, and dairy free too.

Old Business –

None.

New Business

- **Elections (and Results)**
 - o President: Cijay Avery
 - o V.P. Kate Fellin
 - o Treasurer: Chris Tallman
 - o Secretary: Joanne Cruz
- Michelle Tedder motioned for approval. Tari McGrane seconded.

Open Discussion/Other/Questions

- None

Meeting adjourned 8:22 p.m.

(Unapproved)

Next Meeting: In the Fall, Sept. ?, 2023