

Larson Middle School PTO Zoom Meeting Minutes May 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Joe Duda, Stephan Henning, Anne Sackrison, Janet Matichuk, Kate Fellin, Tari McGrane, Bindu Sundaram, Matt Sackrison, Mark Hayes, Michelle Tedder, Judy Bunao, Dawn Leonard

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Motion to approve with changes PTO Minutes from March 17, 2021, meeting by: Tari McGrane, Second: Kate Fellin (Minutes Approved)

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Treasurer's Report: Tari McGrane

- Balance is approximately \$15,250
- Balance doesn't include \$500 check, plus Buddy's & Mod Pizza restaurant nights
- Paid classroom grants of \$1500 and approximately \$750 for teacher appreciation
- May's statement will show Kroger, Benefit and restaurant nights
- Differences from Budget: We were going to try to keep a balance of approximately \$8,000. We brought in approximately \$1,700 more than expected with the Benefit app, donations and restaurant nights.
- Paid out about \$4,200 leas
- Did a good job spending about as much as we said we would
- Pantry and school supplies were covered by free federal money
- We have secretary appreciation money as well to still spend
- (Dawn Leonard) will spend \$100 for secretary appreciation. Joe Duda advised he has funds available for use for the staff luncheon at the end of the year that combined with PTO funds will be greatly appreciated.
- Benefit app gap for payment into account can be as much as 3 months at a time deposited

Teacher Representative: Mark Hayes

A big thank you to the PTO and parents for a great teacher appreciation week...it was tremendous! Thank you.

Principal's Message:

Never expected but always appreciated all the little items here and there, special treats and goodies that a lot of the staff appreciated. Even the little stuff with the posters, little messages to the teachers, even during what has been a tough year it means a lot to be part of a great community. There were messages in the men's bathrooms and the box lunches were a great hit.

We were in a hard spot with MStep testing this year. We hit about 1/3-1/2 of students that chose to take the exam on the Wednesday. Data will be hard to determine at a school level. One 6th grade left to complete testing for the year.

We continue to move through with the age of Covid, dreading getting that phone call, sometimes from parents, because we have to spring into action to contact all the families. We think it's getting better and really hope to have a more normal 2021-2022 school year. After track meet with Larson it felt like normal. With mask mandates lifted and many families, it really felt great and looking forward to getting back to that normalcy.

Approximately 715 students on the books for next year, 18 choose on-line only. This is the highest of middle schools in Troy. Larson intends to run Adventure Island this year and it will be free. They will also open it to 7th graders that didn't get that experience. Many current 6th graders never set foot into Larson this last school year. Between Stephan Henning, myself and counselors, we met every incoming 5th grade class to introduce

ourselves, answer any questions, and let them know what to expect. They are excited and looking forward to it!

The current plan is for end of the year for 8th graders to have yard signs that were just delivered to Larson, and will be brought to homes early June. The promotion ceremony will be released virtually. It's a more personal way to celebrate from in the past. June 14th will be the date all staff will line up ready to go to celebrate. The PTO is working on SWAG bag with Athens, IA or Troy High items to celebrate the kids.

One staff member is retiring: Mrs. Kirby. A motion was made by Tari and seconded by Bindu to purchase a \$100 gift card as a retirement gift for Mrs. Kirby.

There might be some movement of staff over the summer. This morning we met to plan to work quickly on an outdoor classroom out of the back of Larson, the biggest patio with seating. We hope to be ready for fall. (It was also recommended to check with Athens kids on what does and doesn't work with their patio outside classroom for ideas and also for Larson student input on what they would like to see). It is intended to be a park-like setting and a lot of things can be enhanced. The District has left-over money from a bond it will use to help with some furnishings, so at this point we don't have to think about money from PTO yet. (it was also suggested that \$1000 left over from mini-grants could perhaps be used for a Class of 2021 bench or something in honor of the Class of 2021.)

The bus loop is getting re-paved this year, but not the main entrance drive off Long Lake.

It has been asked if kids will be required to wear masks for the rest of the year. Because the CDC recommends to stay with current requirements for the rest of the school year, kids will remain masked.

Assistant Principal's Message: Stephan Henning

Enjoyed the first track meet and seeing the kids running, and appreciates the warmer weather. Mark Hayes interjected that Mr. Henning had an impressive first year at Larson.

PTO President's Report: Anne Sackrison

Spammers get into PTO and non-profit sites and create an email account. Please disregard any messages from her requesting help or money!

Thanks to everyone who not only worked on PTO, committees, functions, executive board, supported PTO by restaurant nights, benefit, etc. It's been a crazy year but we made it great. We did a lot of good for kids and teachers and despite the pandemic, we made a difference.

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

- Nothing to new to add.

8th Grade Celebration: Kate Fellin

Had a meeting and volunteers and there will be a celebration for the end of the year, and Mr. Duda is handling the parade with staff. If someone would follow it, we can still add baby pictures to the video. Goodie bags for all the kids will include items from soliciting businesses in the area for donations. It is also requested from PTO to donate more money to include something from Ridley's, premade, that we can put a class sticker on it. Expected cost to be approximately \$600 (monies needed because we are not asking parents to donate anything to help curb costs as in previous years, when a larger in-door celebration event was held). Kate made the motion and Matt Sackrison seconded. All present approved. Kate also advised that the best information as to anything needed is on the Larson PTO Facebook page.

Benefit Mobile Fundraising App: Matt Sackrison

- Nothing new for Benefit but will promote more on the Facebook page this summer

Box Tops: Anne Sackrison

- Total this year was \$149.50, which is a little more than half from previous years. Still a good handful of people are using the app.

Restaurant Nights: Dawn Leonard

- Last restaurant night is tonight at Noodles. Tari received checks from Mod Pizza but not from Buddy's (approximately \$244). Kristin Cermak will be shadowing Dawn so she can take over restaurant nights.
- Total received this year is approximately \$1500 (only \$500 budgeted).

Special Services Parent Advisory Council

- Nothing to report

Spirit Wear: Shannon Burt

- Spring orders tapered off. We are approximately \$45 over last year. The link is available to order anytime.

Staff Appreciation: Dawn Leonard

The teachers had fun, Leonard kids did most of the chalk walk and posters. Approximately \$400 left. She plans on bagels and coffee the first week of June, popcorn in mail boxes, and little things in their mail boxes as treats. In the past we've done Jimmy Johns with order and name on last day of school and it has worked well. Judy Burnao is shadowing Dawn, will help her next school year to prep taking it over.

A request was made by Joe Duda for \$500 for teachers, custodians and staff luncheon. Motion made by Tari, seconded by Dawn, all approved and motion was passed.

2021-2022 Elections – Bindu Sundaram

Nominations list was reviewed, no new parents interested in the individuals that were already nominated. The new executive board positions are:

President: Anne Sackrison

Vice President: Bindu Sundaram

Treasurer: Tari McGrane

Secretary: Michelle Tedder

The following are the committees/chairpersons:

Restaurant Nights: Dawn Leonard/Kristin Cermak

Student Activities: Open (no one this last year due to Covid)

Box Tops: Anne Sackrison

Appreciation Committee: Dawn Leonard/Judy Burnao

8th Grade Celebration: OPEN

Spiritwear: Shannon Burt

Benefit Mobile App: Matt Sackrison

Adopt-a-Family: OPEN

Open committee chairs expected would be filled once we're into the new school year.

Joe Duda made a motion to approve the new board, Bindu seconded, all in favor, new board approved.

Old Business

None

New Business

Elections per above

Open Discussion/Questions

-Kate mentioned that it would be nice to consider keeping the Zoom format for next year. More parents were able to attend as it's more flexible with schedules.

- Matt Sackrison updated that the Robotics club is becoming a non-profit and trying to get it recognized in the District. He is also trying to assemble a list of coordinators of all the schools to be available on the website. If anyone was to volunteer a CPA to give advice, it will be greatly appreciated. They already have enough kids to fill three teams for next year, and only 2 are returning groups. They will be placing kids on teams in early June.

Motion to Adjourn: Dawn Leonard

Seconded by: Matt Sackrison

Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Approved at 9/22/21 Meeting