

Larson Middle School PTO Zoom Meeting Minutes October 28, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Joe Duda, Stephan Henning, Anne Sackrison, Janet Matichuk, Tari McGrane, Kate Fellin, Bindu Sundaram, Mark Hayes, Shannon Burt, Rajat Prakash, Dawn Leonard, Nancy Davis, Michelle Tedder, Brainard Tesoro, Liz Pugh, Chris Fritzsching, Jude Bunao, Heather DeSandre and Nick Nickerson
Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

Motion to approve PTO Minutes from September 20, 2020 meeting by: Kate Fellin Second: Mark Hayes
(Minutes Approved)

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Treasurer's Report: Tari McGrane

- almost no activity in terms of the financials this month
- about \$150 in donations and some Benefit App income has been received
- no disbursements

Teacher Representative: Mark Hayes

Off to a crazy start. These 6th graders are one of the nicest groups of kids he's had. They are all doing well with washing off the desks and wearing their masks all day. The 6th grade teachers are in the groove and the 7th-8th grade teachers are getting there (6th graders started a week earlier than the 7th & 8th). He also extended kudos to administration, Joe Duda, Stephan Henning, for making Larson safe.

Principal's Message:

Off to a good start with 6th graders. 7th & 8th graders are starting this week. There is a substantial learning curve for staff. About 1/3 of students will be in person with the remaining 2/3 at home. They are 2 different groups and it's challenging, but the teachers have embraced it. The kids are excited to be back in the building. In a normal year, the 6th graders would have been in the building half a dozen times and they didn't get that this year but still did well.

The staff had a herculean task and they met the challenge. We are attending to the protocols from summer and this fall. We want to have kids in the building. He can't think of a single time a student had to be spoken to for taking their mask off.

Parents are doing well with filling out the daily safety screener (found on Power Schools) which is very important. Each adult in the building fills it out as well. Mrs. Pepoy runs a report and any student or parent that didn't fill out the screener and at school is contacted. It is usually just an oversight. Another report runs for any screens answering "Yes". There have not been any cases where a "Yes" was submitted and a student was sent to school. For those that answered "Yes", there is follow-up with the family about the symptoms, if there's been any testing, etc. All need to continue to be vigilant with our safety procedures, just a part of how we have to do business in society now.

The staff is working really hard and appreciated the grace the parents have given especially with all the emails on changes. If a staff member has been in contact with someone that is Covid positive, they have to go into quarantine for 14 days. Larson is doing its best to get teachers in front of the kids every day; this is an additional layer they haven't had to deal with before. This isn't just at Larson, but schools across the country are dealing with it as well.

Larson staff is really trying to focus on the kids, whether they are at home or at school, being positive and uplifting this is a temporary thing. A key Larson pillar "Resilience" comes to mind and we are reminded we are only as good as the values you hold when you have to live them, and can't be prouder of the kids and staff.

Larson has the highest number of kids that elected to be in person, with about 200 students in the building each day. Never once felt congested, able to be spaced out and virtual instruction in the school is significantly better than in the spring. We went from no one having to use Zoom before and now it's a part of the daily routine.

There is to be another notice for parents to make their selection in the next couple of weeks if we want to continue with virtual or do in person. The current plan is that the next decision would be into late January. TSD leadership will look at safe measures and work with the Oakland County Health Department. If the numbers keeps trending up, there's a chance it can be dialed back. The OCHD has assigned a nurse to Larson several scenarios. Parents can be placed in contact with the nurse to talk about their student and what should be done next, and can also go to www.oak.gov for further information.

Mr. Duda also wanted to extend another thank you to Mr. Prakash for making a generous donation to Larson for additional hand sanitizer and wipes at September's PTO meeting. The order was placed the next day.

Assistant Principal's Report: Mr. Stephan Henning

Definitely picked the year to be an assistant principal! He has already learned a lot and enjoys being able to talk with students at lunch and getting to know them.

PTO President's Report: Anne Sackrison

- There will be a meeting next Thursday with the Parent Advisory Council that supports parents with students that have an IEP or 504 plans. Information will be on the PTO FB page and website.
- Attended the TSD PTO President's Council meeting, which was mostly focused on Covid, how things were going, but it was before kids were going back in seat. The Council is waiving the \$20 fee to participate. Normally it uses the fee to make charitable donations. It was discussed how PTO meetings via Zoom is making it more accessible for parents to attend the meetings, which is a good thing!
- There will be a can and bottle drive for the Robotics league. Usually they do an airhead fundraiser during conferences. Flyers were distributed in the participating student's neighborhoods. Pick up will be November 1st, and others can reach out to Anne Sackrison to schedule a pick up.

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

- The mini grant deadline was October 16th and received quite a few requests, looking at about a total of \$2,325. Most of the budget is looking for subscriptions or memberships. There were a couple small requests for furniture. A large part is postage/stamps and social emotional learning games to help bridge the gap and reach out.
- One teacher asked for a grant that was a repeat from last year that was approved then but never able to use the money. Teachers were told to rewrite grant requests from last year.
- Trevor Potts requested a Cricut last year and it was approved, but not funds were disbursed. Mark Hayes to check with him he's not sure if Mr. Potts ordered it or not.
- Grant budget is \$7,500. Usually over 50% is used in the fall but as students are just returning and teachers don't have routines yet, they don't necessarily know if they have a need for a grant yet.
- Several teachers had requests for technology. The 2 PE teachers request was picked up by Mr. Duda with building budget funds as their request for projector/smartboard in the gym was a significant cost. There were also several teachers with older desk tops that needed video cameras.

(continued...)

- Stephan Henning added that what wasn't anticipated that the high school sports discovered was the need for a breathable sport mask for the various teams. As this can be a smaller affected group, it will likely remain an individual responsibility vs. the PTO providing funding for all the possible masks for participants. The current standard at the high school level is band and sport participants are individually responsible.
- Counseling requested the octo light covers for fluorescent lights and SEL games.
- Mrs. Ulewicz requested diversity novels for the classroom library. There is an approved grant from TFEE to be given to classroom libraries that is currently on hold due to Covid, but funding will be provided.
- It was decided to add a 3rd grant disbursement. The next will be about the end of the 1st semester with the final later in spring.
- The total in digital subscriptions (Class Kick, Goose Chase, Padlib, Everyday Speaker, Moby Max, digital books) is \$1,190, rolling desks to minimize hall traffic is \$350, total of all grants is \$2,325. Janet Matichuk made a motion to approve, Kate Fellin seconded. Motion approved.

Benefit Mobile Fundraising App: Anne Sackrison

Best time to raise money is during the holiday shopping season. Lowes has a special going on line now where 6% can go back to Larson.

Box Tops: Anne Sackrison

The income budgeted for the 2020-2021 school year is \$100 and we are almost at that right now. \$37 received for clipped tops that was sent in last week, and \$56 from digital box tops is on its way Dawn Leonard requested a replacement check from last school year and it hasn't been seen yet, even though we were told it would only take about 2 weeks and it's been almost 2 months. Mr. Duda will check in the school tomorrow in case it's been received and we weren't aware.

Restaurant Nights: Dawn Leonard

We made \$366 at Noodles (50% of sales). Panda Express will be on November 17th and they will donate 50%. Buffalo Wild Wings will be in January.

Spirit Wear: Shannon Burt

It's hard to tell with the different delivery options. She is filling a small number of pick ups at her house and doesn't know how to track all the other orders the buyers pick up or have shipped directly to them. Normally the beginning of the school year is a big time to sell. Mr. Duda will include the link in the Rebel Report. We are not sure how much we earn per sale.

Staff Appreciation: Dawn Leonard

Dawn proposed at Thanksgiving time to get each teacher a pie from Costco for about \$5 each. There are 50-60 teachers to purchase these for. Mr. Hayes said the teachers would greatly appreciate this, and Mr. Duda will provide a list of staff. Anne Sackrison made a motion to purchase the pies, Kate Fellin seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

(continued...)

Open Discussion/Questions

Questions were asked regarding club and sports participation fees, when they should be paid. Mr. Duda clarified fees only need to be paid if you are sure your student will be engaging in the club and meetings. They are not going to be going into the list to confirm payments. Similar for athletics: No payment has to be made until they are on the team AND it's up and running. If payments are made and the sport is canceled or student can no longer play, refunds will be made.

Motion to adjourn: Joe Duda

Seconded by: Kate Fellin

Meeting adjourned 8:14 p.m.