

Larson Middle School PTO Zoom Meeting Minutes November 18, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Joe Duda, Stephan Henning, Anne Sackrison, Janet Matichuk, Kate Fellin, Bindu Sundaram, Mark Hayes, Shannon Burt, Michelle Tedder, Liz Pugh, Heather DeSandre and Matt Sackrison
Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

Motion to approve with changes PTO Minutes from October 28, 2020 meeting by: Matt Sackrison Second: Joe Duda (Minutes Approved)

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Treasurer's Report: (Anne Sackrison for Tari McGrane)

- Still need money from last night's Panda Express restaurant night
- Received word from Box Tops that someone from Larson administration needs to contact them to confirm no payment check has been received prior to issuing another. Lisa Barry will be calling them (if she hasn't already).
- A check from Kroger for \$548.28 is on its way. With what was received in September, we are almost at our projected income amount.
- A check for the classroom grants needs to be written for Larson/Lisa Barry to distribute according to what was approved.
- no disbursements

Teacher Representative: Mark Hayes

Spoke with several staff members, they are elated there will be more funds available to purchase some things and very appreciative of the PTO. Everyone's been pretty healthy and staying positive. Kids continue to be awesome. It was requested that pictures of the PTO money in action so we can share on the website and also use for publicity. Mr. Hayes will let the staff know the due date is January 15th. The Google docs form will be open and he will keep promoting and watch for any needs to discuss.

Principal's Message:

One day at a time! Things have been changing repeatedly with kids back into virtual instruction. Larson did not have any issue, but it was probably a matter of time. Both Mr. Duda and Mr. Henning have been jumping into classrooms. Teachers are doing a tremendous job with virtual instruction..light years ahead! Teachers are doing new moves and techniques not seen a week or two before.

Kids are taking the work seriously and being engaged. Just finished first quarter and 82-93% are on the honor roll. Kids are meeting the challenge. There is work to do to reach out to the kids to help them achieve greater success. It's harder to communicate to the kids in this kind of environment. There is an option for families that need supervision and/or WIFI. There will not be transportation provided or food during the day. Larson students will be at Athens (high schools will be the hub for the middle/high school programs) and they will be supervised by some of the building substitutes that usually work at Larson and Athens.

TSD did a pause until the week after Thanksgiving break as the community spread rate is concerning. Mr. Duda expects kids will not be back in seat until after the New Year. The all virtual times were switched so everyone is on the same schedule whereas when in seat there is the bussing schedule to be concerned about and school times will change when that commences again. When kids come back from break, a couple weeks later is semester exams at the high school levels. Their A/B schedule will remain thru April.

School pictures are not a high priority as they don't want to bring people into the building if there's pressure to stay at home. How to do the yearbook? Like before, it may be more like an elementary year book. Any kind

of picture of kids working on school at home, candid shots, doing something outside...just take a picture and send it in. Trying to be positive and flexible with the kids and the challenges going around makes it easy to appreciate the Larson families that have endured so many changes and rolling with it. Shows the trust they have in the community.

Assistant Principal's Report: Mr. Stephan Henning

Just been stopping into the classrooms and 7th grade Social Studies teams trying to keep them engaged with Minecraft! Classroom to virtual coverage is nowhere near this level in the spring. It was nice being able to pop into the classroom and talk to kids about their day...it's been a joy!

PTO President's Report: Anne Sackrison

President's PTO Council Meeting was Monday. The zoom meetings with PTOs across the district going really well with attendance across the board. There have been challenges with fundraising and how to show appreciation to the staff while being virtual. Dr. Machesky has talked about how the determined to group and got all virtual and shared some reports that Oakland County puts out (once a week). TSD will be putting them on the TSD site (numbers are trending up for the week).

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

Many are anxious to be able to have class pictures for their kids. Nothing else to report.

Annual Adopt-a-Family Holiday Drive: Karen Gittins

Has done this holiday family adoption event for a couple of years. There are 3 families this year, gift cards only. Mr. Duda will disseminate information on how to participate. Gift cards will be delivered to Larson, monetary donations need to go through the PTO through Venmo, cards purchased on like and email to finalize its purchased for donation. Janet Matichuk and Michelle Tedder offered to help if any is needed.

Benefit Mobile Fundraising App: Matt Sackrison

More people are starting to use it. October fundraising approximately \$135.00. For the Panda Express school fundraiser not only did they account for about \$20 from Panda Express, also almost another \$3 from the Benefit App.

Box Tops: Anne Sackrison

The new procedure to scan code is very easy to use and zero cost.

Special Services Parent Advisory Council: Heather DeSandre

Building representative for LMS for Special Education Parent Support Group to help finalize with IEPs, 504s, and to do things throughout the year to support families and staff. There are workshops for parents with specific issues with their children (i.e. reading, writing and behavior). November 30th with a workshop on executive function she will send zoom link information to be sent to parents. December the Special Education Director will partner with Celebrate Hope, a two member team that raised their own special needs children and here to support our parents with support. Next group is December 3rd. Holidays can be challenging under normal circumstances and this year can be more stressful.

Restaurant Nights: Dawn Leonard

Panda Express was last night. Buffalo Wild Wings will be in January.

Spirit Wear: Shannon Burt

A couple issues on the PTO web page recently and will continue to monitor it. Some orders are ready and Shannon will check into the embroidered pieces.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Open Discussion/Questions

Mr. Duda would like to buy treats and other items for the staff. He cannot use money from building budget. He requested \$750 to be held for special treats to spend on the staff. Dawn Leonard mentioned last month about the Costco Pies and it was approved then. With 77 adults in the building (50 teachers, 27 additional support staff, custodial, kitchen aides). Mr. Duda will ensure they are received by the intended recipients.

Mr. Hayes had a meeting with math teachers and was surprised how many parents posted into the zoom or send note cards of their thanks for patience with the students. Custodian Dennis has physical issues and does such a great job.

Motion to adjourn: Mark Hayes
Seconded by: Heather DeSandre
Meeting adjourned 7:57p.m.

<approved 01-20-21>