

Longfellow Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 22, 2014

Call to Order and Welcome:

Diane Begala called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting. Attendance list is attached. Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

Audit Committee Report:

Peter Suskind reported on the committee's work on July 13, 2014. The audit committee found no material errors in the PTA's books and records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

Action: A motion was made by Kelly Treibitz and seconded by Orchid Rushenas to accept the report. A vote was taken. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Suskind presented the proposed PTA budget for 2014-2015 (a copy of which is attached).

Peter explained the budget as similar to last year's. He explained that the PTA is using "Invest in Longfellow" instead of "Armchair Fundraiser" for its annual fundraising campaign.

Peter also mentioned that any increase of a line item by \$300 or more must be approved by the general membership.

Diane discussed that a large part of the budget is for stipends and faculty support for the 150 employees (including 98 teachers).

Action: A motion was made by Kelly Treibitz and seconded by Roopal Saran to approve the proposed budget. The motion passed without opposition.

Committee Reports:

International Outreach: Roopal Saran has formed an International Outreach Committee (IOC) and has scheduled a meeting for parents on November 5th. She has about 30 parents signed up so far and asked for members to email her with ideas of how to make our international families feel welcome.

Fundraising: Tram Growhowski reported that Invest in Longfellow has a goal of \$50,000 this year and that we are about ½ way to the goal at present. She plans to pursue matching gifts from parents' employers as a way to increase donations. Tram said that the PTA will not have restaurant nights this year due to low interest and will focus instead on after school snacks such as Zinga yogurt and popcorn. There are five locker organizers left after strong sales this year. And spirit wear sales are now sold through an online vendor. Amazon has earned \$600 to date.

Membership: Aimee Simons reported that the PTA has 572 members (49 are faculty) and that we are close to our goal of 50% membership. Faculty can join for free. She mentioned that the directory is free with a PTA membership and that everyone can sign up online.

Directory: Vance Gore reported that he would have access to the FCPS student database by mid-October after all opt-outs have been recorded. He will then send the list to A to Z Directory and will complete final edits with a goal to complete all edits by the end of October.

Green Flag: Betty Ende reported that the school is working to gain Green Flag status through the National Wildlife Federation and that the group had 28 people attend its last meeting. She also reported that the Food Recovery Program (chaired by Elena Lagos) already has collected 72 pounds of unopened food that is taken to Columbia Baptist Church each Friday. She reported that LMS is working to improve its carbon footprint by decreasing the school temperature and adjusting the lighting. There is great interest among students in helping Terri Harley with school grounds work.

Grants: Diane reported that this committee needs help and asked for volunteers.

Library: Yvonne Chen has 35 volunteers signed up to work once every 4-6 weeks. The group has held training in the media center.

Safe Community Coalition: Rachel Hunter reported that Tuesday, September 30, is the presentation by Brad Sachs entitled "Building Resiliency" at Alden Theatre.

Elementary Liaison: Carrie Moore reported that LMS is actively seeking community service projects for the 8th graders.

New Business:

Diane reported that this school year marks the 5-year anniversary of the last bylaw revision by the LMS PTA and that the PTA must conduct a bylaw review by the end of November (per our PTA bylaws). Laurie Plishker, Kate Garcia and Margaret Waagner will lead this revision for the PTA. A vote will be taken to approve them at the November meeting.

Action: Upon a motion by Vance Gore and a second by Kelly Treibitz, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Elizabeth Hale, PTA Secretary

The minutes were:

X Approved as submitted

 Approved as corrected

Date: November, 17, 2014