



**Longfellow Middle School PTA**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, January 10, 2020**



**Call to Order and Welcome**

- President Jennifer Von Elm called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Votes**

- To approve the November Meeting Minutes:
  - MOTION: by Kate Carey and SECOND by Monica Kumon
  - VOTE: Carried by hand vote
  - RESOLVED: The November Meeting minutes were approved without modification

**President Update**

**Upcoming Events**

- Anti- Bullying Event will be at the end of January. More information will be sent out later this week. The program will be different from last year's.
- There will be a chili luncheon for the teachers on Valentine's Day. We're looking for contributors to bring in pots of chili.
- The March PTA Meeting will be on vaping.
- LMS vs. Cooper Basketball Game is tentatively scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. We're still working on details, but it was a very popular event last year.
- Heritage Night is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Nominating Committee**

- Need three (3) people to serve on the nominating committee – see Jennifer von Elm for details.
- Will have three openings on the Executive Board next year
  - Treasurer
  - VP Programs
  - President-Elect
- These positions are two year terms. However, we will consider someone with only one year left at LMS

**Principal Kihm Report on Traffic Safety**

- Westmoreland has been a safety concern since she started at the school 12 years ago. Throughout that time, there have been multiple discussions and studies in collaboration with VDOT, school security, and local police. At least three (3) requests for a lighted walkway have been denied by VDOT because of their concerns that it would create a worse traffic jam during drop-off and dismissal. She has personally reached out to the children living across the street to require them to walk down to the Kirby cross-walk.
- On Monday morning, a child was hit by a car crossing the street. They are recovering and are doing well, but this has again highlighted the need for better pedestrian access from the houses across the street.

- There is a renewed need for a study to improve safety for students and community surrounding school drop off and pick up. Discussion of options from the audience and Board included:
  - Recommendations to contact various policy makers.
  - Options to reduce traffic such as:
    - Turning right out of kiss and ride,
    - Considering ways to get bus riders to actually ride the bus and reduce kiss and ride traffic,
    - Additional police or crossing guards to direct traffic on Westmoreland.
- Principal Kihm explained that Longfellow has the smallest campus for a school this size in the County. Traffic space is limited. Chesterbrook Assisted Living has graciously agreed to allow the school to use their driveway for kiss and ride. That solution came about from another study. There are also personnel assisting with traffic duty every day during the two main rush times; however there is no budget to provide for more assistance at this time.
- The PTA is requesting interested parents sign up to create a group similar to McSPaCES that would bring this issue to the attention of lawmakers. The committee would be the point of contact with the supervisor's office, VDOT, McLean police and the school board to encourage a new study and then work with that group to conduct the study.

There was a motion to end the meeting by Lavina Colaco seconded by Catherine Smith. The motion carried by hand vote.

Jennifer Von Elm adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m followed by guest speakers Marissa Brooks and Vance Gore.