



PTA GENERAL MEETING—February 16, 2022

A. **President's report: Karen Leiser**

At 7:03 p.m., Karen Leiser called the meeting to order.

First order of business was electing the Nominating Committee. Robin Reck, Tianja Grant, and Nadya Abjhakar have volunteered to serve as our Nominating Committee. All three have been very involved and active parents. They will work to find people to serve on the Executive Board of the PTA next year. Karen asked if there were any objections to the Nominating Committee slate. No objections noted. Nominating Committee is in place.

Volunteer opportunities: We have a good group of dedicated people who have volunteered for the 8th Grade Party as well as for Teacher Appreciation Week. We will need people to volunteer to do the audit of the PTA books. If interested in volunteering, reach out to Karen.

Our next meeting is on April 20th and will be an important meeting because we'll be nominating the new Executive Board (who will then be elected in May).

B. **Secretary's Report: Amy Kales**

Amy Kales asked for approval for December minutes which were posted in the chat. Solat Zaidi so moved, and Robin Reck seconded. No objections were noted.

C. **Treasurer's Report: Kerrie Lineweaver**

Income: We have raised approximately \$46,000.00 primarily from our excellence campaign, locker shelf sales, and membership fees. Restaurant nights have brought in \$733 total. The silent auction brought in about \$4600.

Expenses: Total expenses so far have been \$12,504.00.

Due to our great fundraising, we will be able to fund the classroom projectors, and Dr. Patrick is looking into the timing and pricing of that. We're excited to be able to contribute to that effort. We have been able to provide teacher stipends--\$2716 have been expensed to date, with \$13,500 budgeted. Kerrie noted it's not unusual for those expense requests to come in later in the year. Similarly, the grants program was budgeted at \$12,000 but only \$359 have been expensed so far. Those requests will come in as the year progresses.

The cost of the social media movie we played at the last PTA meeting and the refreshments we served were recouped thanks to the sale of refreshments; but it's important to note that event was seen as a community building activity and not a fundraiser.

Heritage night has been cancelled due to Covid.

Although we've only expensed \$12,504, the majority of the expenses will be seen at the end of the year. We're in really good financial shape.

There were no questions about the budget.

D. VP of Fundraising—Annie Batdorf

We raised about \$4600 from the silent auction.

The next restaurant night is on March 1st—The Union in McLean (Elm St. near Subway). Ledo's Night will be in April.

Karen thanked Annie for all her hard work on the silent auction. She almost singlehandedly got donations, advertised, put together the bidding software, etc. Great work Annie!

E. VP of Programs—Solat Zaidi

The Valentine's Day chili event for the staff was a great success.

The Silent Auction was fantastic, thanks again to Annie!

The 8th Grade Party preparations are well underway. It will be held on June 4th from 6:30 to 8:30.

F. VP of Communications—Silvia Cantero

Silvia does e-letter each week. Please make submissions by Friday each week to Communications.PTALMS@gmail.com. The goal is to get the e-letter out on Tuesdays.

G. Principal's Report.

- Dr. Patrick thanked everyone for the chili lunch. It was a great morale builder for the teachers and staff.
- As most people know, a child was hit by a car on the way to school last week. The administration has been studying the traffic patterns. There are two cross walks—the one on Kirby and the one at Haycock—but there is a long stretch of road in between those two crosswalks. Dr. Patrick has noticed a lot of people are avoiding the carpool lane and are letting their kids out on Westmoreland. Please don't do that.

Our carpool line is seeing 500 cars per day. Most are coming between 7:15 and 7:30. Kids can come as early as 6:50 and enter the school. Try to come earlier if you

can. All busses are at school by 7:15 and have, for the most part, been running on time. We have staff working in the crossing areas of the parking lot for safety.

There is a crosswalk committee who have been seeking a crosswalk to connect Longfellow and the townhouse community across the street from the school. Karen Leiser noted it has been approved, funded, and promised by Supervisor Faust; however, it just takes a lot of time.

Dr. Patrick encourages those who can take a bus to do so. Information about your child's bus route can be found in Parent Vue on SIS.

- Raising Student Voices has started. Made up of 7th and 8th Grade students. It has been lots of fun and is a great way for the kids to share their concerns, problem solve and offer input.
- Ms. Madigan presented a slideshow about the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Screener, the results of which were sent out last week. The slideshow will be posted on the school website. The highlights are as follows:
 - Social and emotional skills are taught at home and at school.
 - Strong social emotional skills help children with academics and relationships and help decrease anxiety. See casel.org for more information.
 - The Screener looked at the child's environment, skills and competencies, and well-being.
 - The Screener provides a reflection on how students feel across all areas, but it is important to remember it is a moment in time.
 - Each topic was assigned a score based on the student's responses. They are not benchmarks, rather they show strengths as they relate to social emotional learning.
 - Review your SEL Screener report with your child. Follow their lead. Keep it positive.
- Ms. Rankin, the Substance Abuse and Preventions Specialist from the Office of Student Safety & Wellness for the McLean and Langley pyramid presented some information. The highlights were as follows:
 - Ms. Rankin's office handles such things as vaping and marijuana interventions; disciplinary measures for such things as intoxication at school events; non-disciplinary confidential help; they make community presentations.
 - Nicotine addiction is becoming more and more of a problem. Particularly among freshman and sophomores. Starts around the 7th grade. It's really easy to hide.
 - Pay attention to any new smells (smells kinda sweet).

- Two popular vaping tools are The Hyde and Puff Bar.
- Prevention strategies:
 - Talk about these things with your kids, but keep it brief.
 - Role play--for example, what would I do if I see someone vaping in the bathroom?
 - Lock up prescription medications
 - Talk to other parents—confirm your child’s whereabouts.
 - Sports, activities, and clubs are good ways to keep your kids engaged without drugs and alcohol.
 - Be a positive role model.
 - Search rooms and backpacks
- On March 1st at McLean High School there will be a “Hidden in Plain Sight” demonstration.

Whereupon at 7:46, Karen Leiser asked for a motion to adjourn. Sunny Stimmler so moved and Elizabeth Sotos seconded.