

Longfellow Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 26, 2015

Call to Order and Welcome:

Diane Begala called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Approximately 28 people attended the meeting. Attendance list is attached. Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Suskind reported that Longfellow PTA has collected \$55,600 with its Invest In Longfellow fundraiser. The PTA also collected \$1,050 in membership dues and is currently \$7,000 over budget. Diane Begala said that the PTA was asked by the administration to pay for ½ the cost (\$2,500) of an anti-bullying speaker named John Halligan to speak to parents and students in February.

Action: Upon a motion by Melissa Sporn and with a second by Orchid Rushenas, the motion to pay ½ the cost of the anti-bullying speaker passed.

Fundraising Report

Tram Growowski reported that the Shutterfly and Tiny Prints fundraiser raised \$350. She said that Amazon is on budget so far this school year. Tram will sell yogurt again in the spring as she did in the fall.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Night: Chair Laura Murray reported that the rising 7th grade curriculum night would be held Feb. 19 from 6-8 p.m. and would feature a core subject review by teachers as well as a student-created video about electives. PTA offices will staff an informational table. Snacks, pizza and drinks will be sold and a sign up genius will be created for donated items. Spirit wear will also be sold. The snow date is Feb. 24 from 6-8 p.m. Mrs. Kihm reported that the combined general education and honors program will be reviewed.

Heritage Night: Nicole Yakatan reported that the event will be held Friday, March 13 from 6-8:30 p.m. and will be combined with Haycock due to the Haycock renovation. There will be performances by students, cultural displays and food from different countries. The parents involved with the International Parents Network are working to plan Heritage Night. A sign up genius will be created to recruit student helpers.

How to Thrive at Longfellow: Chair Melissa Sporn reported on this event for parents of rising 7th grade students. The event will address students' emotional issues and will feature the school's counseling staff. The traditional Q & A session with students will be extended to 45 minutes. The Longfellow band and chorus will perform as well. Snacks and spirit wear will be sold in the lobby. The event will be held Thursday, April 23, 2015 in the evening. There will be less overlap with curriculum night. The event will be held after area 6th graders visit the school. During the 6th grade visits, advanced theater students will lead tours around the school. These students were chosen because they will not miss core classes to lead the tours.

Skate Night: Chair Hong Chen reported on efforts to organize a skate night with Cooper MS as a community builder. Kettler rink seems to be the best choice for the event, tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A sign up genius will be created to recruit parent volunteers.

Green Flag: Betty Ende reported that the school is working to gain Green Flag status through the National Wildlife Federation. The committee has earned 150 out of 300 points necessary to gain the Green Flag status. Recycling bins were recently delivered to each classroom as part of a grant won through the McLean Community Foundation. Longfellow will also send a team to George Mason University as part of

environmental day. The Eco Schools Club is looking for volunteers and will recruit soon. The group is planning an Earth Day celebration on April 22nd, when 7th grade students will visit the school.

Community Outreach: Heidi Appel reported that the committee collected \$2,700 in gift cards for the 33 needy families at Longfellow.

High School Liaison: Heather Covington reported that the rising 9th grade informational night for parents would be rescheduled due to weather. The high school counselors will visit Longfellow soon to review course selections. She said that volunteers are needed as judges for the McLean HS science fair and that a support group is available for parents of kids with anxiety and depression. Heather said that mental health awareness is an ongoing effort at McLean HS and that mindfulness training is offered after school and during Highlander Time.

Hospitality: Diane Begala reported for the committee that a chili lunch is scheduled on Feb. 13 for teachers. The annual St. Patrick's Day lunch will be held on March 17th. She thanked volunteers for their generous donations each month.

Safe Community Coalition: Diane Begala reported that mindfulness training is being offered for parents on Feb. 13 and March 20 in Vienna. Links to the events will be in upcoming newsletters.

Directory: Vance Gore reported that 650 students were able to receive a directory because their parents are PTA members but that only 520 of the directories were actually picked up by students. Vance said he is leaving the remaining directories in the front office. Vance recommends that the PTA stay with A to Z for directories next year.

5K: Diane reported that Samantha Wright would not be able to chair the 5K this year due to work conflicts. She was unable to recruit another chair among her committee. Because of this issue and the fact that the Haycock renovation affects the previous route, the event will be cancelled for this school year.

New Business: Diane Begala presented Roopal Saran, Carrie Moore and Orchid Rushenas as candidates for the nominating committee.

Action: Upon a motion by Vance Gore and a second by Laurie Plishker, the committee was elected.

Action: Upon a motion by Vance Gore and a second by Orchid Rushenas, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Elizabeth Hale, PTA Secretary

The minutes were:

X Approved as submitted

 Approved as corrected

Date: March 23, 2015