

Longfellow Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2015

Call to Order and Welcome:

Diane Begala called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Approximately 16 people were in attendance. Attendance list is attached. Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Suskind reported that Longfellow PTA's Invest in Longfellow fundraiser is 10% above budget. He asked for reimbursement requests from committee chairs since many have not submitted any requests. Betty Ende and Lisa Hilliard will serve on the audit committee. A third member will be recruited.

Peter presented two budget amendments. The first was to collect donations online for the Longfellow Love project for needy families at LMS with the counseling department donating the approximately \$2000 to the needy families and the PTA paying the PayPal fees. Peter said that a budget amendment was needed to donate the money.

Action: Upon a motion made by Peter Suskind and a second by Orchid Rushenas, the motion to collect and donate funds and pay the 3% PayPal fees for the Longfellow Love project passed.

The second budget amendment was to allocate \$3900 for spirit wear purchases for upcoming school events.

Action: Upon a motion made by Peter Suskind and a second by Laurie Plishker, the motion to allocate funds to purchase more spirit wear passed.

Fundraising Report

Tram Grohowski reported that the Invest in Longfellow fundraiser had exceeded its goal and that yogurt sales would continue in the spring. Tram reported that the spirit wear purchase will allow the PTA to sell spirit wear to rising 7th graders at upcoming events. She said that the Amazon fundraiser is about \$1000 lower than at the same time last year.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Night: Chair Laura Murray reported that the rising 7th grade curriculum night was a success with parents hearing about LMS in the lecture hall and the cafeteria. Spirit wear and snacks were sold. Parents offered good feedback, which will be used in future planning. Parking was an issue for parents since The Temple was not available for parking – Laura recommended working with The Temple regarding scheduling and parking.

Heritage Night: Nicole Yakatan reported that the event, held in conjunction with Haycock ES, was a success with 400 people attending and 21 countries represented in the gym. Over 90 dishes were served in the cafeteria. Nicole reported that our LMS students organized the show on the stage and also performed. Nicole will work with next year's chair to increase student involvement and to increase the arts component for the night.

Skate Night: Chair Kristin Berry reported that 20 kids are signed up for this event at Skate Quest in Reston. Tickets will be \$7 at the door and \$5 in advance. The event will be held as a joint night with Cooper MS and will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tara Fortune will put out a special KIT message. The Student Council President will send out an Instagram message to students and announcements will also be made on the morning news and during lunch.

Green Flag: Betty Ende and Aimee Simons reported that the LMS Green Flag program is about halfway to its goal and that the school hopes to win the Green Flag status this year. The group works each Thursday after school. The Green Flag group will sponsor a school-based contest to design the eco logo with cash prizes: \$100 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place and \$25 for 3rd place. The deadline is March 27th with the counselors serving as judges and the winner announced on Earth Day (April 21). LMS will have a table at the FCPS sponsored environmental showcase event. The Green Flag group will also sponsor a contest to create the school mascot using recycled materials. The group is also working with the art department on a chalk mural in front of the school for Earth Day.

International Parents Network: Chair Roopal Saran reported that the group's last meeting was held in January and that the group's future was discussed. Parents have a lot of questions about the school with most wanting to meet others from their home countries. They will have a social event as a kickoff in the fall. Roopal reported that Sunjoo Kim, a Korean mom, would chair the committee next year.

Community Outreach: Diane Begala reported about the Longfellow Love fundraising project for needy families at LMS. The PTA helped raise \$2000 during the holidays and has raised about \$1400 online in this new campaign.

8th Grade Party: Diane Begala reported that the 8th grade party would be held on June 18th from 7-10 p.m. at McLean HS. She said that the night would feature a DJ, carnival games and a photo booth. Tickets will be sold online and at school and will be \$15 in advance and \$20 after June 12.

Safe Community Coalition: Diane Begala reported that LMS students would write prom notes to the high school students urging them to stay safe on prom night. Mrs. Kihm reported that the counselors are talking about stress relief in math classes and also promoting the Stress Less, Laugh More campaign promoted by the SCC.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Kihm reported that the new bell schedule would be 7:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. for all FCPS middle schools during the 2015-2016 school year. She said that the SCA Dance was Feb. 20th, with 300 kids attending. She accompanied a group of LMS drama students to NYC to see several Broadway shows. Mrs. Kihm also said that 27 students were signed up to go to France for spring break.

Action: Upon a motion by Nicole Yakatan and a second by Betty Ende, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Elizabeth Hale, PTA Secretary

The minutes were:

X Approved as submitted

 Approved as corrected

Date: May 18, 2015