

**Longfellow Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 16, 2015**

Call to Order and Welcome

Elizabeth Hale called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Approximately 30 people were in attendance – attendance sheets attached. Upon Motion by Julie Cox and seconded by Natalie Coburn, minutes from the October 2015 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa Hilliard provided copies of the budget including activities through October 31, 2015 and a comparison of the difference between October 31 and the budgeted expenditures/revenues. She highlighted the status of a few activities including \$1,600 in yogurt sales, \$2,200 in Spirit Wear sales, \$4,500 in locker organizer sales, and \$700 profit from the new Lancers at the Movies event. Lisa also thanked the volunteers who made these activities possible.

Fundraising Report

Delia Swigart reported that almost 400 Longfellow families have participated in the Invest in Longfellow drive for a total of \$38,000. She also reported that an angel donor had graciously volunteered to match any new donations through the end of the year, up to a total of \$5,000. In addition, Judy Williams, who heads the grocery store card fundraiser, reported that 150 parents had registered their cards but the stores had not yet reported the amounts raised. Parents who are having trouble registering their cards can contact Judy.

Programs Report

Noelle Soobert reported on the following programs:

- Scout bags – Longfellow will receive 20% of all sales made during the November PTA meeting;
- Lancers at the Movies – due to the success of the first event, Noelle is looking into scheduling a movie over one of the spring student holidays;
- Skate Night – scheduled in January in Reston, will be \$10 per student;
- Longfellow Love (the program to help Longfellow facing significant financial hardship) – so far the Longfellow community has provided \$3,000 in grocery and gift cards which have helped approximately 40 families;

Committee Reports

Membership: On behalf of Sue Hutchings Hazen, Elizabeth Hale reported that so far 700 people have become PTA members.

ADHD Parent Resource Group: On behalf of Valerie Lingeman, Elizabeth Hale noted that the group met last Friday. There is more information on the PTA website and interested persons can also join the confidential Google group.

Heritage Night: Noelle Soobert reminded the group that Heritage Night will be April 8th. The theme is Seven Wonders of the World. So far Lebanese Taverna has agreed to provide a cooking demonstration. The committee also is contacting various embassies to see if they will organize or sponsor cultural activities;2016 and will include a talent show and is looking for other ways to increase student involvement in the event.

Grants Committee: Julie Cox reported that the committee has received 35 grant proposals totaling \$20,781. They have \$10,000 available and will meet this week to decide how to allocate the available money among the proposals.

Hospitality: Noelle Soobert described annual cookie swap organized for the teachers is in December. All bakers are encouraged to provide cookies and students who baked cookies at home can receive service hour credit.

Eighth Grade Party: Noelle informed the group that the committee will meet in January to begin planning the June 22nd party at McLean High School.

Principal's Report

Principal Carole Kihm thanked the PTA and the members for their on-going partnership with the school. She then reported on the upcoming 2016-2017 budget. She described the issue facing the school administration/school board as well as how the difference in teacher salaries/benefits among Fairfax County, the surrounding jurisdictions and even private schools is now impacting Longfellow's ability to attract and retain outstanding teachers. Ms. Kihm encouraged PTA members to visit the FCPS website and make use of the various tools to better understand the budget issues. She also encouraged parents to email their county supervisor and Chairman Sharon Bulova to request they fully fund the school budget.

Action: Upon a motion by Kim Marinus and a second by Maryam Redjaee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Maryelena Zaccardelli, PTA Secretary

The minutes were:

Approved as submitted

Approved as corrected

Date: Monday, January 26, 2016