

Longfellow Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2014

Call to Order and Welcome:

Diane Begala called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting. Attendance list is attached. Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tram Growhowski reported for Treasurer Peter Suskind. Invest in Longfellow has earned \$39,165 to date. An anonymous donor has agreed to match donations up to \$5,000. This Angel Donor campaign will begin on December 5th and will continue for two weeks.

Fundraising Report

Tram Growhowski reported that Shutterfly has a program to support schools and will donate 13% of the total purchase of those who order from Shutterfly through the link on the Longfellow website. Tram reported that the board decided to suspend restaurant nights in favor of yogurt sales through Zinga Yogurt in Arlington. Tram sold yogurt cups for 10 minutes each Friday for several weeks and earned \$800. She plans to sell yogurt again when the weather warms in the spring.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws: Margaret Waagner reported that the bylaws must be updated every five years using a template from the national and Virginia PTA organizations. Longfellow's bylaws were updated this year as required and changes were made to conform to the template.

Action: Upon a motion by Cathy Ganley and with a second by Orchid Rushenas, the PTA approved the bylaws as written.

International Outreach: Diane Begala reported for Roopal Saran about the newly formed International Outreach Network meeting. Thirty-five people attended the meeting. Roopal has plans for increased communication among Longfellow's international families and wants to focus on social activities.

Membership: Aimee Simons reported that the PTA has 709 members (78 are faculty or staff) and that this is the highest number in recent memory. Sixty percent of the faculty or staff have joined, with the membership fees covered by the PTA. She mentioned that the directory is free with a PTA membership and that everyone can sign up online.

Directory: Tram Growhowski reported for chair Vance Gore that the directories will be delivered at lunch periods for two days and that copies will be available in the front office after that time. The directory has been prepared two months ahead of last year's schedule.

Community Outreach: Diane Begala reported for chair Heidi Appel that the grocery card drive will occur the week of Nov. 14-21 with 33 families needing help this holiday season. There will be a collection box in the front office.

Green Flag: Betty Ende and Aimee Simons reported that the school is working to gain Green Flag status through the National Wildlife Federation and that the group has been having weekly meetings on Thursday s during Lancer Time. Betty Ende reported that an \$1800 grant was obtained from the McLean Community Foundation for recycling bins that will be placed throughout the school. A recycling audit will be conducted on Friday, Nov. 21, which is also designated as “Get Your Green On” day. The volunteers are organized into five teams (recycling, biodiversity, school grounds, energy and climate change).

Grants: Diane Begala reported for Alison Senold that \$9,200 was allocated to various groups at Longfellow. The Grants Committee received requests totaling \$18,000 and awarded 50% of the amount requested.

Reflections: Cathy Ganley reported on Reflections, a national PTA program, which began in 1969. All students have the option to submit original works in various categories. Students are judged for local school awards and then move along to county, state and national competitions. A new category has been established this year for students with special needs. This year’s theme is “The world would be a better place if...”

Hospitality: Sheryl Pardo reported that the Hospitality Committee has hosted four events so far this year for faculty and staff – about one each month. The Sign Up Genius seems to work as a way to recruit volunteers to supply food or time for set up and clean up. She reported that the teachers and staff are very grateful for the monthly meals.

Newsletter: Diane Begala reported for Kim Todd that the newsletter would be distributed every two weeks with new formatting to make it easier to read on smartphones.

New Business: Diane Begala called for volunteers to organize a combined skate night with Cooper Middle School in January or February at Kettler Capitals Iceplex.

Action: Upon a motion by Aimee Simons and a second by Betty Ende, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Elizabeth Hale, PTA Secretary

The minutes were:

X Approved as submitted

 Approved as corrected

Date: January 26, 2015