

Longfellow Middle School PTA General Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2015

Call to Order and Welcome

Elizabeth Hale called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Approximately 60 people were in attendance – attendance sheets attached. Minutes from the May 2015 meeting were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa Hilliard thanked Peter Suskind, the PTA Treasurer for the prior two years, and presented the report of the audit of the 2014-2015 PTA budget.

Action: Upon a motion by Cathy Ganley and a second by Anna Fernau, the audit of the 2014-2015 budget was approved.

Lisa also presented the 2015-2016 budget describing the actual amounts received and spent last year, and explaining notable changes this year, including; increased student enrollment, rising costs, and the increased dues required by the Virginia PTA.

Action: Upon motion by Catherine Sheehan and seconded by Tram Grohowski the budget was approved as written.

Fundraising Report

Delia Swigart reported that to date 300 families had participated in the Invest in Longfellow fund-raising drive. Delia and the specific fund raising chairs in attendance also reported the following:

- Locker organizers – there were 440 sold this year which exceeded last year's sales;
- Amazon/Shutterfly – the PTA received \$700 from the Amazon program in August/September and nothing through Shutterfly;
- Spirit Wear – will be receiving a shipment in October for holiday sales;
- Yogurt – made \$300 in one week of sales;
- Grocery cards – Safeway ended its program but Giant's continues and parents are encouraged to register the cards (use code 01928), so far only 130 families registered.

Programs Report

Noelle Soobert reported on the progress of the Lancer at the Movies event. The PTA has rented out a theatre in Tysons and will show the new Goosebumps movie on the November 1st teacher workday. Approximately 100 students have registered to date. Longfellow will receive \$3.21 per ticket sold.

Committee Reports

Membership: Sue Hutchings Hazen reported that so far 520 people have become PTA members.

Open House: Tram Grohowski reported that the September open house was successful with 1200 students coming in to turn in their forms and receive their schedules and locker information.

Safe Community Coalition: Melissa Sporn described the variety of important programs sponsored by SCC including the Six Grade Ethics Day and Eighth Grade Forum where high school students meet with the 8th graders before the fall schedule choices are due.

International Parents Network: Roopal Saran reported that the network has 70-75 people signed up and held a well-attended introductory potluck supper. The group is looking for ways to get the students involved in showcasing the many cultures represented at Longfellow including fashion shows and cooking demonstrations.

Heritage Night: Heritage Night will be April 8, 2016 and will include a talent show and is looking for other ways to increase student involvement in the event.

Community Outreach: Heidi Appel described the upcoming Nonprofit Fair. So far approximately 14 organizations plan to attend. She also described the Longfellow Love program for the school's neediest families. The program is funded solely through parent donations and the money is distributed by LMS counselors.

Grants Committee: The PTA provides grants to teachers and organizations in need of additional funds for projects. So far the committee has received four funding requests. The committee will meet in October to make final decisions on grant funding.

ADHD Parent Resource Group: Valerie Lingeman described the group's goal to connect parents to provide shared wisdom about navigating middle school with ADHD. Approximately 17 parents came to the organizing meeting.

Reflections: Submissions are due by the end of October. The PTA will publicize the program on the website and in the newsletter.

Hospitality: Beatriz Helguero reported on the nine breakfast/lunch events planned this year for the teachers and staff. Each event requires approximately 20 food volunteers and two each for set-up and clean-up. The next event is the teacher workday November 2nd breakfast.

Directory: Laurie Pilshker described the process of compiling the entries, including email verification of the entries and the method to get a second copy of the directory.

Cultural Arts: Jennifer Xu discussed the plans including organizing student lead programs, hopefully monthly, during the lunch hours.

Action: Upon a motion by Beth Mortman and a second by Laurie Pilshker, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Maryelena Zaccardelli, PTA Secretary

The minutes were:

Approved as submitted

Approved as corrected

Date: Monday, November 16, 2015