

LVMS PTA General Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

In-person meeting & Zoom - held in LVMS School Library

In Attendance: Jen Moore, Bindya Madane, Gee Greco, Michael Hild, Jeff Day, Tori Reade, Chris Satmary.
(See sign-in sheet for attendees.)

Presidents Welcome / Introductions:

Jen Moore called the meeting to order and welcomed/thanked attendees at 7:04 p.m. The Board Members introduced themselves. Jen went over the meeting that the PTA Board had with Mr. Ippolito and Mr. Mirabella in August - regarding event planning, assemblies and teacher grants. Jen also went over the new technology shared with her (Thrillshare), and that Caralee Gately will be a guest speaker at our next PTA Meeting in October.

Treasurer's Update:

- Michael Hild reported a \$8,633.44 balance of our primary account and \$7,630.56 in our raffle account.
- Bank has been charging a "dormancy fee" for the last 8 months, which will stop now that Michael has addressed it with the bank.
- NJ State filing has been completed.
- Budget is being worked on for the year going forward based upon last year's spending.
- Michael is looking into Venmo, but there are percentages taken from each transaction.

Minutes Approved:

The August 15th meeting minutes were approved, with a motion made by Bindya Madane; seconded by Tori Reade. All were in favor.

Communications:

- The September PTA newsletter will be published next week, mid-month.

Welcome Breakfast:

- PTA collected \$620 from families for the welcome back breakfast.
- All the staff participated in the breakfast and was very appreciative.
- They enjoyed local businesses bagels, coffee, fruit and juice.
- For future events, we need to request that the bagel shop slices the bagels ahead of time.
- Any leftover funds will be spent on Teacher Appreciation Week.

Membership:

- We have 115 registered members now
 - 103 families
 - 15 teachers
- The QR Code has been successful, especially during the fireworks festival
- Last year we had 171 members, so we are still looking for higher numbers this year
- We will be pushing membership at BTS nights, printing promotional items to display during BTS nights and sporting events at LVMS
 - Mr. Mirabella will send new photos to be used that do not have kids in masks on them
- When soliciting members, we need to remind people that becoming a member does not require volunteering.
- Mr. Ippolito and Mr. Mirabella will be encouraging memberships from the teachers and faculty.

Volunteers:

- Refer to agenda to see the full list of volunteers needed.
- 6th Grade Social - volunteers to chair and chaperones will be needed
 - Bridget Corby, Melanie Bratton and Renee Puglisi have volunteered to chair this event
 - Chris will be squaring things up with Go Games to get this on the books for 10/5 from 3:30-5 pm.
 - Mr. Mirabella will book the space needed for this event, which should be outdoors unless there is weather.
 - This event will use the credit that the PTA has already paid for the event last year that didn't pan out.
- Financial Committee- 3 people will be needed for the Financial Committee to do the audit
- Bylaws -
 - Bindya will be looking into NJPTA's bylaws
 - We will need to approve the bylaws every 2 years
 - They need to be approved by the membership.

Assemblies:

- Jess DeCicco will be running these again this year
- We will be pulling back on assemblies to limit class time instructions
- We hope for one 6th grade assembly
- There will be one whole-school assembly about cyber safety.
 - PTA/PTOs throughout the district are looking to share the cost of this in order to offer it to all 4th - 8th grades.
 - A parent meeting will be included in this program again.

Fundraising:

- Please see agenda for full list of events. The items discussed were:
 - Spirit Wear - Jen Moore will be opening up Spirit Wear soon. This runs for a week or two, and the orders are distributed from school when they come in.

- Penny Wars - we are looking to do a penny wars in the cafeteria by house
 - Possibly running this in October with a halloween theme
 - We will need volunteers

Principal's Report

- Mr. Mirabella shared his report. Notable items that were discussed are:
 - 9/21 Picture Day - we have a new photo vendor: Lors Studio. They will be doing school photos, clubs, sports and candid. This will be a trial year with this company, so they will be looking for feedback.
 - 9/7 Mr. Ippolito and Mr. Mirabella will be meeting with the new 6th graders in house-wide assemblies to welcome them and go over some rules and exciting things that are going on at LVMS.
 - 9/8 They will be having a welcome breakfast for new students. Meet and greet with the help of Peer Leaders.

Old Business

- Book Fair
 - Mr. Mirabella asked that we don't have this close to the Holiday Shop. We are going to aim for January or February - a one time Book Fair is enough. Mr. Mirabella will get dates for us to choose from.
- PTA has requested a Teacher Liaison again, and Mr. Mirabella will be asking around.

New Business

- Fundraising "Opt Out" Drive
 - We are open to trying this out to see if people would like to donate instead of volunteer. Discussion included the fact that it should only be done once per year. Also, if it is a true "opt-out", make sure there is a way for them to be removed from the email lists and actually be opted out.
- Amazon Smile - no longer running
- Sporting Event Fundraiser
 - Multiple ideas were discussed, including 3v3 basketball tournament. This was ruled out as the HOnors Society runs a similar event
 - Volleyball Tournament could be a fun event.
 - Each team would include a teacher or faculty member in order to build community
 - Volley Cage is a similar idea that could be a little more fun and exciting
 - Gym time will be the trickiest part
 - Early March looks to be our best bet
 - We will need volunteers to get this up and running.
- A loose calendar of events is as follows:
 - October: 6th Grade Social and Penny Wars
 - November: Holiday Shop (4 days)

- December
- January: Book Fair
- February
- March: Volleyball Tournament
- April: Teacher Grants
- May: Teacher Appreciation Week
- June: 8th Grade Celebrations

Next Meeting:

- October 4th at 7 p.m. in the LVMS Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.