

LVMS PTA General Meeting Minutes

October 4, 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, Caralee Gately, Bridget Corby, Jess DeCicco, Renee Puglisi, Melissa Edwards, Joann Paris, Sara V, Kim, Aimee Perhacs and "iphone".

Presidents Welcome / Introductions:

Jen Moore called the meeting to order and welcomed/thanked attendees at 7:03 p.m. She spoke of the success of Back To School Nights, and that many volunteers had signed up at the PTA table those nights. Jen also spoke about the upcoming 6th Grade Social happening on 10/5 at LVMS through Go Games. She let the meeting attendees know that all members of the PTA Board will be attending virtual PTA training over the next months by NJPTA. There has been some interest in the "Reflections" program, but we would need a volunteer in order to run this. Lastly, Jen noted that our PTA Bylaws are being worked on and should be ready soon.

Communications:

- A motion to approve the Minutes from the September meeting by Tori Reade, seconded by Chris Satmary. All members approved.

Treasurer's Update:

- Michael reported a \$10,822.00 balance of our primary account and \$7,630 in our raffle account totaling \$18,452.
- \$750 had been donated toward the teacher breakfast held at the beginning of the year. \$576 of that were spent - leaving \$174 remaining which will be used toward Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring.
- Michael discussed the planning of the Budget for the year. The largest expenditures will be:
 - 8th Grade Celebration - \$5,000 (the usual budgeted amount of \$4,000 plus the \$1,000 that was unused from this class's socials last year)
 - Grants - \$5,000 - will be happening only once in the Spring
 - Socials - 6th Grade will have two this year - \$500 per social, total \$1,000
 - Assemblies - Holding off until we hear from Jess DiCicco about the assemblies planned
- Tori made a motion to approve these expenditures. Jeff Day second. All approved.
- Fundraising was then discussed
 - Penny Wars goal of \$2,000
 - Spring Volleyball Tournament - unknown as we do not have any details or plans going yet
- See Michael's spreadsheet for all other budget details.

Membership:

- Jeff Day gave the Membership report
- Back To School Night brought in 36 additional memberships
- There are 4 fewer staff members registered than last year
- As of 10/4 we have tied last year's total members registered

Bylaws:

- Bindya Madane gave the update on the PTA Bylaws
- She noted that there is no need to approve these bylaws every year, as they are standard NJPTA Bylaws
- Standing Rules need to be updated and will be done by the PTA Board at a later private board meeting
- They will then be approved by the Board and General Membership at our November Meeting

Technology Update:

- Caralee Gately gave an extensive technology report from the WT District. Some highlights:
 - All new website and app have been created for the district
 - Social Media accounts have also been created, and are active in letting the community know what's going on at each of our schools
 - Pickup Patrol is rolled out for all schools and has gotten positive feedback about the features
 - Clever is a resource hub that students at LVMS have been using to log in to all apps and services that the students use on their chromebooks
 - Chromebook repair shop at LVMS - They will be allowing students who are interested in learning how to help fix the chromebooks, and have received some interest in this already
 - Chromebooks are "owned" by the students from 5th grade through 8th grade. Any problems can be emailed to helpdesk@wtschools.org

Volunteers/Committees:

- Penny Wars volunteer is needed. Michael Hild volunteered to spearhead this fundraiser. He will keep it simple, coins are "positive" contributions to your own house, "cash" is negative contributions to be put into other houses to reduce their points. It will run from October 23-27 and the prizes will be "Panther Points".
- Assemblies update was given by Jess DiCicco
 - There will be one full school assembly coordinated by the WT District regarding cyber security.
 - 6th Grade will have one additional assembly. She was trying to find some that will tie into the "We Are Panthers" initiative and a few programs about perseverance and empathy stood out to her
 - LLOYD Bakarak - \$2,000 paraplegic, inspirational

- Eric Lagrand - \$5,000 Football player who speaks inspirationally about his career ending injury
- African Drums \$4,000 sounds more interactive and a lighter experience for the students
- Signature Project \$3-4,000
- Jared Campbell \$1,200 Inspirational Musician
- Jack Wallace - Mr. Mirabella will get details to share about this option

Fundraising:

- Spirit Wear will be closing soon.
- Penny Wars will be happening soon, details to be determined.
- Photos with Santa event was proposed by Jeff Day at his home
 - Photo Fundraiser, with crafts for kids
 - All 4 PTAs in the district could be involved and split the proceeds
 - Signup Genius for times to not overwhelm capacity
 - PTA Members could have a discounted rate
 - Winter Wonderland theme to be inclusive
 - Looking at December 9-10 weekend

6th Grade Social:

- Renee Puglisi gave the report about the upcoming 6th Grade Social
- 104 Kids have been registered
- 40 Peer Leaders have been recruited to help run the event smoothly. They will help each group to participate in the games involved.
- An email has been sent regarding Pickup after the event.
- Snacks will be provided.
- Everything seems ready to roll.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Mirabella shared his report. Notable items that were discussed are:
 - 10/12 Ski Club orientation will be held in LVMS PAC.
 - 11/6-11/8 will be early dismissal dates for the students
 - Parent Teacher Conferences - LVMS does not schedule conferences for all students. They are scheduled at the teacher's request first. If you would like to request one, please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher.
 - Winter Sports Paperwork is due on 10/20.
 - He gave another thank you to the PTA for the support at Back to School Night

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Membership Cleanup - Chris Satmary would like to work in Memberhub to reorganize the contact lists to only contain current PTA members.
 - Other filters/hubs can be created to communicate with specific grade levels etc.
 - NJ Rep will need to help with some of this
- Social Media Postings - Tori Reade would like to discuss at the next meeting
- Advisory Council - Michael Hild again suggested the use of an advisory council of students coordinating with PTA
 - They could be involved in the planning, process and ideas of whatever the PTA is working on.
 - This could be just a connection with Student Council or the Peer Leader group
 - This council could give updates to the PTA at the meetings - which might drive higher attendance at the PTA meetings
- Showcase Night was suggested by a PTA Member. Something parents could attend to see their child's work at the school. Mr. Mirabella will look into this possibility.

Next Meeting:

- November 1st at 7 p.m. in the LVMS Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.