

LVMS PTA General Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

In-person meeting, Long Valley Middle School Library AND Virtual (via Zoom)

In Attendance: Courtney Averyt, Jennifer Campbell, Melissa Cervenka, Ashley Collins, Allyson Gallup, Michael Mirabella, Jennifer Moore, Doug North, Aimee Perhacs, Tori Reade, Jessica Santaiti, and Chris Satmary.

Welcome

Ashley Collins opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. explaining that a vote would be taken later in the meeting to fill the two open PTA Board positions: President and Treasurer. She thanked Nina Dorlon and Allyson Gallup for serving in those roles for the past year (September 2021- December 2022).

Secretary/Communications Update/Ashley Collins

The 12/14/22 meeting minutes were approved, with a motion made Tori Reade; seconded by Melissa Cervenka. All were in favor. The PTA's monthly newsletter will publish in mid-January. PTA news and updates continue to be shared on social media (FB/Instagram), online at lvmspta.org, and in the school's Monday Minute and WT Schools app.

Treasurer's Update/Allyson Gallup

There is a balance of \$24,846.17 in the checking account, plus \$7,610.56 in the Raffle account.

Earnings from Fall events:

- The December Holiday Shop earned \$474.28 This is more of a service than a fundraiser.
- The Color Run earned a profit of \$3,606.60.
- The November Book Fair made a profit of \$715.73. This fundraiser is not a big money maker.

Teacher Grants: There is \$5,000 in the budget. The PTA paid out \$578 and \$4,329 for Teacher Grant awards this month to two teacher initiatives. The group discussed the low response rate from LVMS teachers, how to build more awareness about the program, and considered removing the PTA membership requirement. Awareness building tactics could include promoting the teacher grant program at the Back to School Breakfast (September) and during Teacher Appreciation Week (May). Communications should highlight what was awarded and how teachers benefited.

In terms of process, a committee of three persons is needed to review and award the grants (whereas this year's committee only had two). It was agreed upon that school administration will review and approve the grant applications prior to the Grant Committee's review, to ensure it fits with current curriculum needs.

Membership Update/Tori Reade

Membership is at 194 members (23 staff and 171 families). Note: We have approximately 700 LVMS students, and 500 families. It was suggested to survey the faculty to learn why more staffers are not PTA members. To more effectively reach the staff, it was suggested to create a QR code with a link directly to the membership.

Open PTA Board Positions/Ashley Collins

Nina Dorlon and Allyson Gallup stepped down from their roles as President and Treasurer at the end of December 2022. Due to the vacancies, an election took place to fill the roles with interest from Jennifer Moore and Doug North, who were in attendance. Each candidate was given a few minutes to introduce themselves before the vote. Allyson Gallup made a motion to elect Jennifer Moore to the PTA Board as President. Tori Reade seconded the motion. All were in favor. Tori Reade then made a motion to elect Doug North to the PTA Board as Treasurer, Allyson Gallup seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Committee Updates

- **Holiday Shop:** Jessica Santaiti reported that there was good feedback on the items/merchandise. The group discussed purchasing on advance throughout the year. Jessica offered to possibly store items in her barn.
- **Assemblies Update:** Although Chair, Jessica DeCicco, was not in attendance, we know details are in place for the February 8th Drum Cafe assembly for all grades. This includes the deposit. A second student assembly, "The Signature Project" will be on April 11 for 7th & 8th graders.
- **Social Updates:**
 - The 7th grade social with "Go Games" will move to the Spring, but there is concern that response be low. The group discussed trying the game offsite. Melissa Cervenka and Chris Satmary will meet to discuss a joint 6th & 7th grade event to help garner interest. Is it possible to make this a Parents' Night Out?
 - 8th Grade year end events: Allyson G. reported that the Committee will meet on 1/17 for a second meeting. She anticipates volunteers breaking into subcommittees for a dance happening the same night as the 8th grade promotion (week of 6/12). A deposit was made to Hollyrock Entertainment to secure the PTA-Sponsored "Brain Challenge/Jeopardy" Game happening 6/9.
- **Winter/Spring Fundraisers:**
 - The group discussed reviving the 50/50 Raffle, which is good through October 2023. Ashley C. will reach out to Chairs Sara Longueira and Wendy Garcia to get involved and identify events where our PTA 50/50 raffle could happen.
 - Hershey Park ticket sales is another past fundraiser to revisit. Heather Janoski is willing to chair this again.
 - Wine Tasting: during the meeting, Tori R. asked Samara Salisbury to chair this event again. However, Samara is committed to other projects, and not able to offer the tasting.
 - 8th Grade Trip Raffle: Since the Gettysburg/Hershey Park trip will cost \$380 per 8th grader, we discussed holding raffling off a trip ticket.

LVMS Principal Report / Michael Mirabella

Mr. Mirabella shared LVMS Principal & Asst. Principal Report, which highlighted January and upcoming school events. One such event is the 1/10-12 Student House meetings that he and Mr. Ippolito are conducting to address laptop damages and bathroom vandalism.

Other Business

- Teacher Appreciation Week happens May 8-12, and we will need someone to Chair/lead the plans.

- The PTA will need to hold board elections in May for the 2023-24 school year for the Secretary position, and possibly the President and Treasurer (as these are interim roles). We will also want to advertise Committee Chair positions as 8th grade parents leave their post.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Next Meeting:

- February 1 at 7 p.m. in the LVMS Library.
- Future 2023 meeting dates are 3/8, 4/6, 5/3, and 6/7