

LVMS PTA General Meeting Minutes ~ February 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

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

In Attendance: Cassandra Brown, Ashley Collins, Michelle Els, Diane Hammer, Laura Hunter, Kim Miele, Michael Mirabella, Jennifer Moore, Jess Morgan, Doug North, Tori Reade, Diane Simon, and Tara Trubela.

BOARD UPDATES

Welcome / President's Report. Jen Moore

Jen Moore opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. As newly elected PTA President, Jen wants to encourage more involvement from parents and teachers/staff. She is attending an LVMS staff meeting on Tuesday, 2/7 as a sort of "meet & greet". She will share PTA resources and wants to make sure the staff feels heard. Board members are invited to join her.

Other: Jen also met recently with Administration (Mr. Ippolito, Mr. Mirabella, and Dr. Turnamian) to get to know everyone. Membership outreach is a top priority. She is interested in looking at the National PTA's resources to help the LVMS PTA grow and prosper.

Secretary/Communications Update. Ashley Collins

The 1/11/23 meeting minutes were approved, with a motion made Tori Reade; seconded by Doug North. All were in favor. Ashley Collins reported that the PTA's monthly newsletter went out to membership and on social media on January 25 (this was a double issue, Jan-Feb). To be included on the WTS app for wider distribution. Updates to the PTA's website content is needed.

Treasurer's Update. Doug North

As of 1/31/23 there is a balance of \$14,321.99 in the *checking account* (after deducting two outstanding checks – #3284 for \$578 and Scholastic Book Fair payment for \$3,328.53). There is \$7,610.56 in the *Raffle account*. Together, this comes to total of \$21,932.55 for the PTA.

The discussion then turned to changing the **Teacher Grant** cycle, so applications are due in the spring and then awarded in the fall. We acknowledged that timing was tight for the present committee (Diana Simon and Corrine Bengzon) to review requests. Moving the timeframe to a less busy time of year should help the response rate. We decided to initiate the new cycle this spring 2023 with a smaller grant amount. We also determined that one more committee member is needed; Ashley Collins will advertise the open position. Jen Moore made a motion to

move the teacher grant application due date to 3/24/23, with funds awarded the week of 5/8/23. Tori Reade seconded it, all were in favor.

Membership Update. Tori Reade

Membership is at 197 members (24 staff and 173 families).

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Assemblies Update

The first student assembly, the “Drum Cafe”, will take place on February 8th, for all grades. A second student assembly, “The Signature Project” will be on April 11 for 7th & 8th graders

Social Updates

6th & 7th Grades: Chris Satmary was to provide an update about the contract terms with “Go Games”, but was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Jen Moore will follow-up with Chris for an update and to determine if an event could take place as late as September 2023 without the PTA forfeiting the Go Games deposit. We are also waiting to hear if both 6th & 7th graders could share the event as a spring social.

8th Grade year end events: The committee met on 1/17 and defined subcommittees for the celebration dance’s food, decor, music, communications, etc. The dance is to follow the promotion ceremony (week of 6/12). The promotion date is still TBD. Mr. Mirabella asked that communications go out in March (not sooner). Jess Morgan, who is chairing the food/refreshments, pointed out that it will be “sticky” to schedule a DJ or order food without knowing the specific date. We also need to revisit the budget for the 8th grade celebrations, once Treasurer Doug North has analyzed the overall PTA finances.

Teacher Appreciation

Jess Morgan volunteered to chair Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8-12. There are 120 staff & faculty members at LVMS. The group discussed last year’s activities (a luncheon, themed days, gift cards), and how it would be funded, which is entirely through outside donations. We typically ask families to “Sponsor a Staffer”, and collect donations through memberhub.

Spring Fundraisers

8th Grade Trip Subsidy: To offset the cost of the 8th grade Gettysburg/Hershey Park trip (\$380), the group discussed holding a raffle. Parent Cassandra Brown then proposed holding a pizza kit fundraiser through Little Caesar’s. Cassandra explained that her daughter was successful in raising money for her dance school with this program, and thought it would be easy for students to execute. Timewise, students would receive order forms through his/her homeroom,

sell/take orders for one month (March), with orders distributed at the April 6th PTA meeting. Students would earn \$6 from the sale of each pizza kit. After deducting the profit earned, students then remit one check made payable to the LVMS PTA. The PTA then issues one final check to Little Caesar's. Money earned can go toward the trip deposit due to LVMS on May 12. Cassandra agreed to chair the effort.

50/50: Ashley Collins reported that Sara Longueira and Wendy Garcia will chair the 50/50, and would like to sell tickets at the 6/2 school musical. Mr. Mirabella will confirm that timing with Mr. Ippolito.

SpiritWear: The LVMS SpiritWear online store will be open Feb. 10-26. This is the last sale of the school year.

Other: Diane Hammer will chair the 8th grade promotion balloons sale (tied to mailboxes, etc). This involves coordinating with Party Fair.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT. Michael Mirabella

Mr. Mirabella shared LVMS Principal & Asst. Principal Report. Highlights included:

- 7th& 8th grade semi-formal dance on 2/10.
- Staff & Student Basketball Game on 3/3. (Both the 2/10 event and this are fundraisers with proceeds going to the AHA).
- A Responsible Technology Use Presentation on 2/27; (the school is seeing a rise in irresponsible use).
- The WTS Referendum Vote on 3/14.

CONCLUSION

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

The next PTA meeting will be March 8 at 7 p.m. in the LVMS Library. Future 2023 meeting dates are 4/6, 5/3, and 6/7