

LVMS PTA General Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual (via Zoom) and In-person meeting, LVMS Library, Long Valley, NJ

In Attendance: Ashley Collins, Jessica DeCicco, Nina Dorlon, Michelle Els, Tori Reade, Jessica Santaiti and Chris Satmary

Welcome / Introductions: Nina Dorlon called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved/Communications Update: Ashley Collins, Secretary, submitted the minutes from the March 22 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. Seconded by Michelle Els. All were in favor. For communications, the April issue of the LVMS newsletter will be published after April 18th, highlighting Teacher Appreciation Week and 8th grade year-end events.

Treasurer's Update: There is a balance of \$40,736.78 in the checking account.

Membership Update:

- Three new members joined since our last meeting, as reported by Tori Reade, for a total of 224 members.
- The PTA will participate in the 5th Grade Orientation Night with a meet & greet table; (tentative dates are 5/31 or 6/1). The group discussed creating a "take-away" for new families that would be informative and fun, such as coupling a cookie or candy with a brief information card about the PTA, i.e. "Be a Smart Cookie. Join/Find Out About the LVMS PTA" / "Be a Smartie. Join the LVMS PTA". An offer may be added: "when you join, you'll receive an LVMS magnet/calendar". A quantity needs to be determined, so we can budget and produce a run in time for the event. The PTA will re-use the coroplast PTA signage (from October) at the tablespace.

Student Socials/Assemblies:

- Chris Satmary would like to move ahead with a 6th grade scavenger hunt, both indoors and outdoors. This could be any day in May, between 6-10 p.m. She is waiting for an answer from school administration.
- The 7th grade bowling social took place on April 11 at Circle Lanes in Ledgewood (the same date/time frame as the PTA meeting). Chairs Kristi Daggett and Kelly Pelesky called in to say it was running smoothly.
- It was determined that there would not be another 8th grade social after Jessica DeCicco made a motion to move those monies (\$500) to the 8th Grade Promotion After-Party. Nina Dorlon seconded the motion; all were in favor.
- Our last PTA-sponsored student assembly will be on April 13 with Speed Painter Martina Hahn; (rescheduled from April 6 due to illness).

8th Grade Events: Several 8th grade events are happening in June, with Jessica DeCicco leading and parent committees in place.

- June 3: Jeopardy Game between House 1 and House 2. Administered by an outside vendor, Holly Rock.
- June 10: Celebration Dance. The fire marshall has reviewed/approved the decor.

- June 15 (rain date June 16): Promotion After Party. There will be a food truck, games, etc. The ticket fee is \$41 per student after budget and donations. Nina Dorlon proposed using the Long Valley Junior Women's Club donation to supplement the ticket cost, bringing cost to \$20 per student. Tori Reade made a motion to allocate \$1,000 of the LVJWC donation to this event. Jessica Santaiti seconded the motion. All were in favor. Nina then moved a motion to approve the After Party budget of \$9,117, plus gratuity and labor, with the LVMS allocating up to \$6,000. Michelle Els seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Fundraising:

- Chair Jessica Santaiti has scheduled two Scholastic Book Fairs for the coming school year. The first is in late October 2022. The second is the week of March 6, 2023.
- The Spring Wine Tasting Event happens on April 29. Thank you to Chair Sam Salisbury for organizing. The PTA earned \$1731.39 on this event. 24 tickets were sold.
- Color Run Update: Chris Satmary & Michele Els are trying to schedule this fundraiser in 2022 for either the fall or spring. Nina said she would speak to Mr. Mirabella about dates.
- Hershey Park Tickets. Heather Janoski is managing the ticket sales, with the deadline of April 21. Concerned not enough advertising, so we will use socials and PTA newsletter to drive awareness/sales in the coming week.

Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6: A committee/volunteers are needed to help Jessica Santaiti with planning/execution. Donations are also needed to fund the effort, as the PTA cannot pay out of PTA funds according to the bylaws. Tori Reade is setting this up in Memberhub, so donations may be received. Communications will go out ASAP with this ask via socials, newsletter, and direct email.

Other:

- **Future meetings:** Nina Dorlon proposed having themed meetings, and a speaker to help draw an audience/interest. Ashley Collins suggested that committee members be required to attend 2-3 meetings per year, to help engagement/communication.
- **PTO Changeover:** Nina Dorlon introduced the idea of changing the LVMS PTA over to a PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). To initiate, the NJPTA comes to a meeting and converses about the pros and cons of leaving. Some benefits are that as a PTO, we have better access and less restrictive use of funds. There are still bylaws and rules with checks and balances, but you must have the right board in place. Michelle Els made a motion to start the process of changing to a PTO. Chris Satmary seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Spring Carnival, May 25.** The school administration is asking for \$7,075 from the PTA to fund the 6th and 7th grade Spring Carnival. Tori Reade made a motion to fund the event; Jessica DeCicco seconded it. All were in favor.

Next Meetings: May 3 and June 13. Open PTA positions should be posted, to discuss at the May 3 meeting. It was determined that the June 13 meeting (rescheduled from June 7) will be a joint business meeting and dinner to thank PTA committee members/volunteers and wrap up the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.