

LVMS PTA General Meeting Minutes

November 1, 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, Meredith Abbate, Lindsay Ramcharitar, Melanie Bratton and Mike Mirabella.

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 the 6th grade social, including the use of peer leaders to help the teams for the games. The event had good attendance and overall success. Fundraising is a concern that Jen would like to address, as there is a need to build up PTA funds in general to keep things going. Penny Wars has been extended and will hopefully bring in some funds. She would like to run one major event for fundraising - probably a volleyball tournament in March. She would like to get an early start and promote the event ahead of time to build awareness and excitement. Standing rules will be approved tonight.

Bylaws Update:

- Bindya Madane shared an update about the PTA Standing Rules. She would read through the Standing Rules that were written up by the PTA Board, and the general membership will have an opportunity to vote on it at the end - and then the Standing Rules will be submitted to NJPTA
 - Some Highlights:
 - Dues will be \$20 per family, \$15 per teacher
 - Quorum will be 10 people
 - One Year Terms
 - Each Board role is explained
 - PTA training will be done by the executive board once per year
 - Budget will be done in the fall of each year
 - Financial review at the end of the school year
 - 3rd signer is to be added to all bank accounts
 - Bank Statement review will be done on a monthly basis by the Secretary
 - Reimbursement Policy was explained
 - A motion to approve these Standing Rules was made by Tori Reade, all were in favor.

Secretary Update

- Gee Greco shared an update that the Monthly Newsletter was sent out, and the October Minutes were shared with the general membership.
 - A motion to approve these minutes was made by Tori Reade, all were in favor.

Treasurer's Update:

- Michael reported a \$12,066.06 balance of our primary account and \$7,630.56 is in our raffle account totaling \$19,696.62.
- LVMS PTA 990 forms have been filed - due on 11/15
- Dues have been paid to NJPTA

Membership:

- Jeff Day gave the Membership report
- 167 Total Memberships - 23 Teacher Memberships
- He will be posting graphics to social media - QR code does not need to be shared via social media, a link will be used instead
- An email will be sent to staff to encourage memberships as well

Penny Wars:

- Michael Hild shared an update on the Penny Wars fundraiser
- He noted that the event will be extended to Friday 11/3/23
- Student council has been promoting the event
- Social media push will be made, as well as word of mouth reminders

Assemblies

- Micheal Mirabella gave an update about the assemblies which were discussed at the last meeting.
- Jack Wallace is the chosen assembly, and they are aiming for Mid November date.
 - 6th grade only would cost \$2,500 plus travel expenses / Whole school would cost \$4,000 plus travel expenses
- Richard Garry is the cyber security speaker they would like to bring in again
 - This will be in the last week of January, and cost \$1,000 for the whole school
- After discussion, we will be moving forward with Jack Wallace for 6th Grade only.
- We will also be moving forward with Richard Garry.
- All members approved

Holiday Shop:

- Jen Moore gave this update, as Jessica was not present.
- This event is a service provided to LVMS students, not a fundraiser for the PTA.
- Last year, \$4,000 was spent and more shopping was needed before the last days, with a total of \$6,000 being spent. Jessica has requested a \$8,000 budget this year.
- The thought about some new ideas - such as local artisans selling their own goods at a variety of price points could be a good idea. This would support local vendors and be a win-win.
- Old inventory might be in the PTA closet. Jeff will look into that.
- A budget of \$5,000 was approved by the membership to get the shopping started for the year.
- Dates will be November 27th-December 1. A signup genius will go out to find parent volunteers to run the shifts.

- Monday - Setup
- Tuesday - Thursday - each house will have a day to shop
- Friday - anyone who didn't get a chance to shop on their house's shopping day. And cleanup.

Fundraising:

- Once again, Jen Moore expressed concern that if we don't do some bigger fundraisers, we will not have the funds needed to fulfill the budget expectations of the year.
- A shoe drive was proposed. Chris Satmary had some experience with this and will look into it.
- A Restaurant Night was proposed - perhaps including the shoe drive in conjunction with the shoe drive to help get as many shoes as possible. Jen will see if the Old Mill would be willing to host a giveback night.
- Sponsored Facebook Posts were ruled out - as the PTA has agreed that the Facebook Page needs to remain only pertinent information so things don't get ignored or buried.
- Volleyball Tournament
 - Corporate Sponsorships could bring in money - if we have a program or t shirt to offer advertisement of the sponsors
 - Refreshment sales and T Shirt sales could bring in revenue for the event
 - Melanie Bratton and Chris Satmary have volunteered to head up this event

Principal's Report

- Mr. Mirabella shared his report. Notable items that were discussed are:
 - Photo retake day on 11/2. No signup is needed, just bring your old photos back and retake your photo. ID cards were issued by the photo vendor as well.
 - Marking period 1 will end on November 7th.
 - Early Dismissal days are coming up November 6, 7, 8.
 - Stuff the Bus is going on and will benefit the LV Food Pantry.

Old Business

- Michael Hild once again expressed interest in setting up a Student Advisory Council for student feedback and investment in PTA events.
 - Volleyball tournament could be a great opportunity to use this council.
 - How to populate this council was discussed, as we would like to get a good cross section of students of diverse opinions.
 - Mrs. Abbate and Mrs. Zejak, who handle the Student Council will come up with some ideas. They will put the idea out to Student Council and Homeroom Reps, and they can find the kids who would be interested. Student Council has a Google Classroom which they could use.
 - Peer Leaders as well - although that is only 8th grade, and we would want all grades to be represented.
 - Number of students needed is unknown. This will be determined based on interest.

New Business

- Tori Reade addressed Social Media Posting.
 - She stressed the importance of keeping the focus on PTA Events and Student information that is needed - so as not to bury the important things.
 - Chairpersons are encouraged to make the posts on the PTA Facebook page themselves, so that any/all comments and questions about the event will go to the chair, and be able to answer them without any middlemen.

Next Meeting:

- December 7th at 7 p.m. in the LVMS Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

