

LVMS PTA General Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting, broadcast over Zoom

In Attendance: Melissa Cervenka, Ashley Collins, Giancarlo DeBiase, Jessica DeCicco, Nina Dorlon, Michelle Els, Allyson Gallup, Alicia Hade, Bella Heydorm, Lauren Huston, Mark Ippolito, Michael Mirabella, Jennifer Moore, Tori Reade, Jessica Santaiti, Chris Satmary, Diana Simon, Dr. Peter Turnamian, Kira Theesfeld, Suzanne Sanders

1. **Welcome / Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. PTA President Nina Dorlon welcomed attendees, who were present over Zoom. Dr. Peter Turnamian, our new Superintendent of Schools for Washington Township, was also present and reported that we were now on track to return to full in-person instruction on December 9th after a temporary switch to full remote learning following the Thanksgiving break. He expressed that although the PTA was receiving negative feedback with regard to the 6th grade social because we had a school closure due to illness/covid, he stated that "We are all in this together". The Board of Education is in support of the PTA and was aware of the social and it was unfortunate that the PTA had taken on the blame. No one could have foretold the outcome. Nina Dorlon then added that the event was shared publicly at the PTA meetings for parents and administration alike. There were no questions or concerns at the time of planning and although she was saddened to hear that people were ill, the PTA followed the guidelines for the venue. All of the families signed the waivers that explicitly explained the risks, they were at the venue and saw the event before letting their children attend. The PTA events are optional to attend and Nina stated that she would enjoy having more people in the planning process (attending the meetings to provide their input) if they feel they can add valuable insight to our programming.
2. **Treasurer's Update, Allyson Gallup:**
 - There is a balance of \$41, 326.37 in the checking account, and \$7,670.56 in the Raffle account as of December 6.
 - The PTA's legalized game of chance registration was approved, so we are good for two years with that license. The group cited West Morris Central High School's recent success with their 50/50 raffle.
 - The Audit Committee is determining the best way for each member to review the packet of information from previous years, since not meeting in person at this time.
3. **Membership Update, Tori Reade, Chris Satmary:** To date, we have 220 Families Registered out of 728 Students. Tori continued to encourage people to join.
4. **Minutes Approved/Communications Update:** Ashley Collins, Secretary, submitted the minutes from the November meeting. Nina Dorlon made a motion to approve the minutes, Jess DeCicco seconded, and all were in favor. For member communications, the PTA website continues to serve as an information hub, and updates are also sent out via email, the monthly newsletter, and on social media.

5. **Student Socials:** Chris Satmary, reported from 7th Grade Social Chair, Kristi Daggett, that the 7th grade social, originally planned for December 7, was on hold. Kristi hopes that it will be rescheduled for January. Refunds have been issued to families requesting this.
6. **Assemblies:** Chair Jessica DeCicco reported that her goal is to bring a different and impactful assembly for all the grades this spring. She is narrowing down the choices to Martina Hahn, a speed painter, and speaker John Paul Gonzalez, who focuses on finding strength through adversity. Mr. Ippolito stated that April may work, and is hopeful this can happen. Nina Dorlon asked to see the contract, to review the cancellation terms. A motion was made to approve the proposed presenters. Motion: Tori Reade; Second: Chris Satmary; All in favor.
7. **Follow up:** In response to Mrs. Zajac's request to supplement 6th grade outdoor activities during support, the PTA has donated 2 Spike Ball Games & a Volleyball/Badminton Set. Mr. Ippolito connected with an Eagle Scout for Picnic Tables. The PTA has also agreed to sponsor the Spring Festival and pay \$6500.00 towards that event.
8. **Fundraising:** The group then discussed selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts during Valentine's Day. Last year's PTA wine tasting with Gary's Wines raised \$2,000, and it was suggested that we revisit this as a fundraiser again. Samara Salisbury agreed to chair the tasting event again.
9. **Holiday Shop & Book Fair:** With the postponement of the Holiday Shop dates (originally scheduled for 11/29-12/3, Chair Jessica Santaiti reported that there was no rush to send back the Frosty Fair goods, if it is ultimately cancelled. Mr. Ippolito is firming up details with Mr. Mirabella to rotate the kids into the holiday shop room, and will confirm with the PTA after 12/8. It may be possible to hold the shop on 12/14-16. Jessica Santaiti is also chairing the Scholastic Book Fair, which has also been postponed. She spoke with the Scholastic representative, who stated that a January or February sale could be better, with a fresh shipment of new titles.
10. **Open Positions:** We are still looking for a Standing Rules Committee Chair and a Teacher Grants Chair/Committee. Nina Dorlon will put a teacher grant application on the PTA's website, and explained that teachers must be a PTA member to qualify for the grant. To date, we have 22 LVMS staff in the membership.
11. **Assistant Principal's Update:** After a warm welcome from Nina Dorlon, Mr. Michael Mirabella, LVMS' new Assistant Principal, reported that he has had a great first month at the school. He will continue to include the PTA in the school's Monday Minute and quarterly newsletter.
12. **Next Meeting:** The next PTA meeting will be Tuesday, January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings are: Feb 1, March 2, April 4 (Monday), May 3, June 7