



Lester PTA Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Call to Order (Jill Skordinski)

BOE Visitors (Greg Harris & Emily Hanus)

- Q & A Opportunity
 - Greg Harris shared an overview of the BOE priorities and encouraged the group to look at the strategic plan and other information posted on the website.
 - Curriculum is a focus to ensure that students are reaching a higher level of rigor.
 - Communication is also a priority, especially transparency. BOE members are visiting PTA meetings and parents are encouraged to attend BOE meetings.
 - A question was posed about a 6-8 middle school model. The Board and Superintendent would not make that decision without community engagement. That also includes community members without children in school.
 - Next month a community task force will be started to discuss building needs in terms of projects and infrastructure. There are many buildings in 58 that are aging and in need of repair. It may be necessary to discuss the feasibility of a referendum to support the need.
 - Greg and Emily encouraged all to communicate with the BOE and ask any questions.
 - Stephanie Brockway suggested that feedback could be collected through the school PTA meetings to capture the thoughts of the membership.
 - Jill Skordinski asked if the BOE/administration has considered expanded World Language opportunities. Emily stated that the current focus is on Math and ELA but it is a consideration and a discussion point that has been raised. Greg also acknowledged that there are other considerations such as Art, Music, etc. as well. The BOE continues to look to increase revenue to expand offerings.

Secretary's Report (Sara Courington)

- Request approval of October meeting minutes
- A question was posed as to where the minutes may be found - they are available on the lesterpta.com website and the weekly e-blast. There is an icon on the lower right hand corner of the e-blast that will link to the minutes.

Treasurer's Report (Kristen Avery)

- [Current Treasurer's Report](#)
- There was a large Fun Lunch deposit of \$1,300
- Cash Balance: \$37,253.00
- Receipts \$16,817.00
- Disbursements \$11,360.00

President's Report (Jill Skordinski)

President-Elect (Stephanie Brockway)

- Stephanie thanked all for their time and willingness to give back to Lester and the PTA.

VP Programs' Report (Angela Hassan).



- See committee reports below

VP Fundraising Report (Rose Mary Hose & Erin Montana)

- City BBQ Dine Out brought in \$383.33, Home Run Inn- \$338.00
- Gallery's Choice held a class for Lester families that will give us back a portion of sales
- Jersey Mike's Dine Out will run 11/20-11/24
- We are planning fundraisers at 5 Below & Portillos during the month of December.

VP Membership Report (Jennifer Ryle):

- \$928 received in membership dues this year
- 138 current members

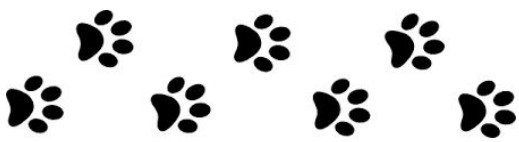
VP Communications Report (Jen Peckenpaugh & Irene Nelson):

Principal's Report (Carin Novak):

- Ms. Novak apologized for Dr. Russell's absence; he had a conflict with another committee meeting. He will return to a PTA meeting in April.
- This Friday is a Lester Spirit Day
- December 2 is also a non-attendance day
- Lester had 17 kids advance in the Reflections competition and will be honored on 12/3 at Herrick
- Dec 6 - Marvel/Disney spirit day
- Dec 9 - 13 Hour of Code
- MAP testing will occur the second week in December during their Math and Reading blocks
- Dec 11 will be a music program
- School will resume after the winter break on January 6
- A question was raised about increased police presence at drop-off and pick-up. Ms. Novak indicated that the Police Department will be present to help remind and enforce the new traffic patterns as they are able.
- 500+ flags were on display in celebration of Veterans' Day. In addition, students at Lester wrote letters to Honor Flight participants to read on their way to Washington DC.

Teachers' Report :

- Ms. Torres, a 6th-grade teacher, reviewed the 6th-grade camp trip. While the weather didn't cooperate entirely the learning was excellent. While it is a 3-day trip its impact is far wider.
- There is a January field trip to the Field Museum.
- The Village of DG will come in after MAP testing to talk about stress management and wellness.
- Ms. Kasicki, a 6th-grade teacher, shared that the student council just wrapped up sales for a pie-throwing fundraiser next week. Over \$1200 has been raised for the chance to throw a pie at Mr. Donnelly.
- The funds will be donated to families in need this holiday season.
- There may be an upcoming Queen of Hearts fundraiser that is up for consideration.
- Ms. Garbis, Reading Specialist, shared that Read to Succeed is now online. There is a code that came home in a flier to sign-up online. The dates the tickets will be valid for has not yet been released.
- There was some conversation about the potential move from a grade 7-8 junior high to a 6-7-8 middle school model. The 6th grade team felt it was encouraging that this decision is under review. There are physical space, social/emotional and developmental considerations, and curricular decisions that must be made in tandem to make the change successful.



Committee Reports:

- Art Awareness (Shawna Smith & Analisa Lee)
 - February is currently being planned. Send any feedback to the chairs regarding the last lesson.
- Authors Fest (Kristen Duda)
 - We are on track with the planning for the authors fest in February. The schedule for authors' visits is close to being finalized and will be prior to the holidays. We have enough budget (\$4k) to cover the cost of the authors and other expenses
- Box Tops Committee (Kristen Avery):
 - Final total for our October submission was \$304.40. We had \$79.10 in receipt scans at that time, so I anticipate a check of \$383.50 in December
- Daddy Daughter Dance (Shannon Matesi & Sharar Solcum)
 - Date has been set and approved by Mrs. Novak- Friday February 7
- E-Blast (Angie Erickson)
 - I had some technical difficulties with eblast this week so it went out super late. Hopefully everyone received it.
- Lester Playground (Patty Esslinger)
 - Tree pick-up is this Saturday from 10:00 - 4:00 pm at Doggie Depot.
- Fall/Spring Book Fair (Wendy Grdina)
 - The Fall Book Fair raised \$1,665.47 in books for teachers and the library. Currently working on scheduling the Spring Book Fair in conjunction with Open House on 5/7.
- Fun Lunch
 - Ordering for the second half of the year will be open soon. There are ten dates secured. Details to follow.
- Science Olympiad (Angie Erickson & Kelly Gebhardt)
 - Date of March 10th has been approved by Mrs Novak. Information about SO and sign up will go out after winter break. We will also be collecting wrapping paper rolls this year!
- 6th Grade Party (Marcia Radja)
 - Date of May 28 from 3-5 pm, Thursday, approved with Mrs. Novak. Kodiak DJ services (Coach Josh) has been secured for the date, payment is due upon the date of service (no deposit needed). Will schedule committee meeting for February, date TBD, and send out invite in January after holidays.
- Teacher Appreciation (Heather Klaus)
 - We will celebrate quarterly birthdays in December with holiday/ winter themed spread.
 - Winter conference dinner will be "Our Teachers are Soup-er" soup and salad buffet, provided by parent volunteers.)

Unfinished Business:

- The final vote to allocate \$5,000 to the Lester Playground fund passed.

New Business:

For more details and important dates, please view the Lester PTA calendar on our website:

<http://www.lesterpta.com/calendars>