

LPA PTO November 4, 2014, Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:08am

In attendance: Kim D., Melissa K., Dana M., Lily B., Cathy R., Pam W., Carolyn H., Heather L., Janine B., Michelle S., Rebekah H., Lynda F., Erika W. and Judith T.

October meeting minutes – Kim D. motioned to approve and motion was seconded by Melissa K. Vote passed unanimously.

Carolyn H. presented the quote of the month:

Be thankful for the small victories as you work toward large milestones. As it is not the endgame that matters most, but how you get where you are.

Mrs. Thayer reported: Birthday Run was great – thanks to PTO for making it a success.

Good and bad news – sad to announce that our 6th and 7th grade science teacher, Mr. Arnold, is leaving; he has the opportunity to pursue a dream business career as a scientist with Johnson & Johnson. We are searching for a replacement.

Our NJHS is sponsoring a Father Daughter Dance – Nov 21st - Mr. Ferrara is our club sponsor this year.

We are looking forward to the Liberty Parade this Friday.

Month of December – we have backed off on some testing. But in the month of December we have approximately 3 weeks of testing. Art, music and PE also have assessments to ensure we are on track.

Class size legislation allows flexibility provisions. Students enrolling after October 20th can be assigned to an existing class that exceeds the maximum class size if the school board determines it is necessary. Our school board has agreed to allow adding to classes after October. Previously new students enrolling over class size maximums would require me to level classes – hire teachers or move existing students to balance all classes.

Discussion was had about the size and growth of St. Johns County and the inability for our county schools to keep up with the increase in families moving in to our area. New K-8s are being built as two stories. Dr. Joyner is going to Tallahassee to fight for funding to keep up with the growth. LPA is over capacity. Some discussion was had about making portables double decker with the only other alternative being expansion into field areas with single story portables. Ms. Thayer supports LPA having a larger Middle School population so LPA is able to offer more options. Lynda F. contributed to the discussion with a suggestion to call your County Commissioner and hold them accountable for approving more and more neighborhoods without having roads, lights, schools etc. available to support the increase. Our largest grade is 7th with 185 students, 4th and 3rd are close behind.

Creeklane: Please submit information to Diana Sarama by 12th of the month:
dssarama@aol.com

Newsletter: Submit content for newsletter to Krista Willim: LPAPTONewsletter@gmail.com

VP Membership – After November 14 we have to start paying for Sign-Up Genius – \$9.99 or \$24.99 per month for various packages. There will be limits to the number of emails you can send. Discussion was had on using REMIND 101 more as well as Room Parents forwarding emails to classes.

Treasurer – Pam spoke about status of bank account - \$70K in account – attributed to spiritwear, birthday run, business partners, book fair, coupon books, school supplies, etc.

Secretary – DRAFT notes from PTO meetings are being placed on PTO page within a day or two of the meeting and any changes or updates can be emailed to
LPAPTOWEB@GMAIL.COM

Birthday Run - brought in approximately \$2,500. We had about 32 teachers participate and 130 students. Expenses included t-shirts and setup. We had t-shirt sponsors – OSSI, Dr. Allen and St. Johns Pediatric Dentist. We learned a lot, had great feedback & suggestions, and look forward to making next year even better.

Daddy Daughter Dance – a flyer went home and was missing some key details. The dance will be at LPA in cafeteria – this is not a PTO event but sponsored by NJHS. Details will be sent out again via an ALERT NOW message to ensure K-5 families have the information if they are interested in participating.

Business Partners is going well and we are speaking with a few banks. We are speaking to some about Holiday Vendor Night as well.

Boosterthon is at 94% collections rate – 1st and 3rd grades are in the lead with both funds raised and collected. \$38K collected. Discussion was had on the event for next year.

Book Fair – we were very busy the first 3 days, and had a slow Thursday and Friday – but overall we did better than last year with total sales of approximately \$15K.

Liberty Parade is Friday – Hospitality Committee is providing breakfast, we already have 50 RSVPs to attend and that doesn't include our Veteran's groups.

Coffee with the Principal – 11/21 at 9am. Math Formative Assessments/Testing will be the topic.

Holiday Vendor Night – Jonyce B. will plan to do either wreaths or ornaments – working on making final decisions. Discussion was had on budget and plans are in progress.

Gator Bowl – flyers went home. We will try to get information on the web site.

Wizards Basketball Game– we need to get t-shirts ordered prior to Thanksgiving break.

No Old or New Business.

A question was asked about 5th Grade Celebration and 8th Grade Celebration. Ms. Thayer clarified there is no 5th Grade Ceremony or Celebration but there is a grade level activity planned by the teachers. There is an 8th Grade Awards Ceremony and 8th grade teachers plan a dance for them.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Next meeting is 10am, Tuesday, December 2nd at LPA.