

Liberty Pines Academy PTO Minutes

November 14, 2019

1. **Welcome/Call To Order:** Melissa Woody called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Attendance:** Stephanie Cross, Erin Gulden, Heather Gilbert, Candace Minnicks, Diana Bishop, Erin Bragg, Holly VanWagner, Bryn Wayne, Carrie O’Leary, Traci Hemingway, Peter Kelly, Bre Willman, Laura Webb, Ty Willman, Bradley Willman, Brandy McWilliams, Robyn Cebulko, Melissa Woody, and Shannon Valentine.
3. **Approval of minutes:** Erin Bragg motioned to approve the October meeting minutes. Heather Gilbert seconded the motion and all present were in favor.
4. **Sunshine Chair:** Stephanie Cross shared that, as sunshine chair, she seeks nominations for the students, staff members and volunteers who go above and beyond and we take a vote to determine the winner in each category. She provides treats or a parking spot as a reward to the winners. She asked everyone to please participate in making nominations. Stephanie’s quote for this month is: “We rise by lifting others.”
5. **Principal and Officer’s reports**
 - a. **Principal’s report** – Mrs. Hemingway reported on the following:
 - Mrs. Hemingway acknowledged the volunteers of the year who were recommended by LPA staff and the PTO. The 2019 Parent Volunteer of the Year is Christy Beebe, whose contributions have been substantial over the years. The 2019 Senior Volunteer of the Year is Jeannette Listing, who has been helping the middle school drama teacher with the set for the play. She has been here everyday painting. The 2019 Student Volunteer of the Year is Bo Willim, a 9th grade former LPA student, who comes back to LPA regularly in the mornings to help out. Congratulations to these individuals.
 - Mrs. Hemingway discussed the K-2 playground, funded by the school and PTO. We struggled with getting the playground vendor background checked which took some waiting. Once the background check had been approved, we then had to wait for construction crews to be available. The crew will be here in December to construct the playground. We hope to have it here and ready when the students return from winter break.
 - Mrs. Hemingway discussed the major construction going on at LPA. She reported that the crew would be pouring the concrete slab tomorrow. Krista Willim, who handles the LPA website, is adding a “construction corner” to the site with pictures so everyone can see the progress.
 - Mrs. Hemingway reported that LPA is doing really well with Boosterthon. Since the weather is not cooperating, Boosterthon has been moved to Monday. She explained that Boosterthon doesn’t work well in the gym. We’ve tried holding it in the gym in the past when the weather has been bad and it is boring for the students. She wants them to have the full experience. It looks like nice weather for Monday. With funding from Boosterthon, we first need to purchase Ipads for 5th grade. Grades K-4 have 5 laptops and 4 Ipads in class. This equates to a

2:1 ratio for technology. However, we still need 4 Ipads for 5th grade to meet this ratio. Once Ipads have been funded, the remaining money will go toward another large playground for grades 3-5.

- SAC and Mrs. Hemingway have been looking into who could deliver a message to students on social media and addiction to gaming and social media. For grades 4-5, there will be a discussion about appropriate use of such media. For example, sharing location allows someone to track where you spend your time. The gentleman speaker will educate kids on this without scaring them. He will talk about appropriate use and how social media and gaming can become an addiction. For middle school, there will be a similar conversation, but he will also talk about how colleges and employers look at the language students use and pictures they put up. Behavior on social media could keep students from getting into the college of their choice. Ads come up for things and sites they visit the most. Students need to be aware that there is always someone watching behind the scenes. SAC has sought out and found someone who can deliver this information in an engaging way that will get to the kids. He will also talk about sexting to the middle school students. During the day, grades 4-8 will hear the presentation. There will also be a night presentation for parents. He will discuss apps to be aware of. Also, with this company, every parent gets year-long access to their website which provides information about concerning apps. Dynamic influence is the name of the presenter. Mrs. Hemingway is looking to bring him on in February. We must first get him to be an approved vendor. We have also penciled in 2 days in March if we are unable to get him approved in time for a February presentation.

b. **President** – Melissa Woody reported on the following:

- Melissa distributed the PTO 2019-2020 proposed budget. Robyn Celbulko put our budget together. Income is estimated at \$130,400. Melissa explained that we try to underestimate to be conservative. Expenses are estimated at \$95,725. Almost all profit goes to the school. We sponsor celebrations, hospitality, mini-grants, and so on. Total projected board approved school enrichment (difference) is \$34,675. A check to LPA in approximately this amount will be cut at the end of the school year. Our fundraising has been amazing since the beginning of the year. We already know that we are going to be able to cut a larger check. Robyn will do a mid-year budget that will give us up-to-date information.
- Melissa asked for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 PTO Budget. Bre Willman motioned to approve the budget. Laura Webb seconded the motion and all present were in favor.

c. **1st VP Fundraising** – Bre Willman reminded everyone that after Boosterthon, we will be laying low with fundraising until the Spring Carnival. Our Paint the Rocks event is not considered a big fundraiser.

d. **2nd VP Membership** – Stephanie Cross reported that we have taken in a total of \$7,810 for membership (plus \$20 that was just dropped off to her). She reminded everyone that if you haven't signed up for PTO membership, it is not too late. She has forms or sign up can take place online.

e. **Treasurer** – Robyn Cebulko distributed the State of the Bank as of November 14, 2019. PTO started off the month with a balance of \$49,844.80. The Boosterthon initial deposit was \$11,892. Macks Tenders spirit night earned PTO \$200 (they rounded up which was very generous). We should promote that Macks Tenders was generous to our school. We gave out mini-grants and also had some Penny War expenses for the shaved ice party. In total, expenses were \$7,477.61. The PTO ending balance is \$55,844.89. Robyn asked everyone to please get in any outstanding expenses so that she can make sure her mid-year budget is accurate.

f. **Secretary** – Shannon Valentine read a thank you note from Lauren O'Shell.

6. Committee Chair Reports

a. **Boosterthon** – Laura Webb reported that we have \$38,000 in profit as of today for Boosterthon. There have been a couple of hiccups with prizes, but otherwise Boosterthon is going well. The Fun Run is on Monday now. On the bright side, we can raise more money as the postponement gives us the weekend. We have already hit our goal, which was \$33,000. Mrs. Hemingway will be on the roof all day as a reward. The kids are excited. Bre Willman handled the Boosterthon shirt distribution. Teachers will mark off laps with sharpie pen on the shirts. T-shirts also have our business partners' logos on them.

b. **Bravoz/Icemen sales update** – Holly Van Wagner reported on the following:

- Saturday is Marvel Night at the Jax Iceman game. The event starts at 7 p.m. Event information is posted on the LPA PTO website. Tickets are \$20. A portion of this amount goes to PTO. If we get enough people to attend, kids can get a photo together. Last year, we had enough attendees be able to go down onto the ice for a photo. Marvel characters are in the audience. Marvel characters will be in the picture.
- We have sold only 33 Bravoz play passes. We need to sell 25 more to break even. We started with 100 tickets. We would really like to get these sold. \$25 includes everything at Bravoz. The tickets do not expire. Cost is \$2 for socks if you do not own them. We think the reason this fundraiser has not gone as well as we had hoped is that we have been asking for so much money. This fundraiser will be re-launched in December. Mrs. Hemingway will do another email blast then. Also, we will promote these at the December Night of the Arts. We are trying to get a physical gift card to sell so that people have something to wrap for the holidays if they would like to give these as gifts.
- Jumbo Shrimp fundraiser—The Jumbo Shrimp just released their schedule. This fundraiser will be in the spring.

c. **Mack's Tenders Spirit Night**—Bre Willman reported that we will have another event scheduled on December 10th. They were super generous to our PTO. They expressed that they want to do more with the school. Other restaurants locally haven't been as open to spirit nights. We have had good reception with this restaurant.

- d. **Book Fair** – Robyn Cebulko reported that book delivery will take place on the 25th. Book fair set up will take place on the 26th. Book fair will run from December 2nd to the 6th and hours will be 8 am to 3 pm and from 5 pm to 6 pm during Night of the Arts. We do not profit from bookfair. There will be lots of volunteer opportunities during this week, in particular, helping the young kids with their wish lists and on the cash register. This year, we can drop ship books that are out of stock straight to the classroom. There is no charge for this. This helps if we run out of a particular book. There is a discount for volunteers and teachers and it does not affect our profit. It is at least a 15% discount. Robyn will have a list of volunteers for this purpose so she'll know when the kids of volunteers check out to apply the discount. All money earned goes to the library (Mrs. Rogers) which is used to purchase new books. Robyn does not know the book fair set up time yet but it will be announced.
- e. **Liberty Parade Breakfast Recap**—Heather Gilbert reported that it was cooler this year at the Liberty Parade but it was blowing wind and it threatened mist/rain. The school did a great job getting the kids ready. PTO hosted a breakfast for active duty and retired military and their families. There was standing room only at this event. It was in the media center, but we may need to move it to the cafeteria next year for more room. Bite-a-bagel donated fresh, hot bagels. Jason's Deli donated cut fruit and paper goods. The dad owner of Jason's Deli helped set up and handed out waters. Heather received great feedback on this event. Military folks stood and told stories. It was heartwarming. There was also awesome turn out with volunteers. K-5 students all sing an individual class song. Middle schoolers join in for the song "Proud to be an American" at the end. Then middle schoolers shake the veterans' hands and say thank you. It really is a special day. The event reflected nicely on our school and the PTO. Our school provided gifts to the military and retired military. This year we gave a pen and pop socket for their phone.
- f. **Box Tops**—Erin Bragg reported that she has collected all box tops that have been sent in. In December, our school will receive a check for \$706. This doesn't include money for digital box tops. Our total is at \$770 with digital box tops counted. Our box tops goal for the whole year is \$1000, so we are on our way. It is concerning for future years that the digital amount is low. We will probably have to adjust downward for box tops next year. Right now, we can double dip with clipped box tops because we can also scan them. Bre Willman suggested that we could reach out to food banks who get food donated that have unclipped box tops. We could share the profit with them.
- g. **Charleston Wrap**—Erin Gulden reported profit for the Charleston Wrap fundraiser is \$7,012.

7. **Old business**—Bre Willman said discussion about the Spring Carnival is going to start back up in a few weeks. If anyone has signed up to help, they will be getting an email soon. The construction folks will slide a couple of gates to the side for easier access to the carnival area. We will just need to give them advanced notice. We will need to make sure no one goes on the playground during the carnival. We will also need more lighting this year.

8. **New business**—There is no new business.

9. **Next meeting** – The next PTO meeting will take place on December 12th at 10 A.M.
10. **Adjournment**—Melissa Woody adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.