

LOM PTO Minutes

Monday, October 20, 2014, Lookout Mountain Elementary School Teachers Lounge

Liza Burns called the meeting to order at 8:34am

DADS ON DUTY – JOHN MARTIN

John Martin stated that Bingo Night had about 100 people attend. They raised over \$710.00 and also raised canned food for a local food bank. February 2 is the Father/Daughter Dance. Preparations are beginning. An email / flier will be sent home to get more participation by dads in the Computer Lab.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – LIZA BURNS

Liza Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked we go around the room with introductions.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2014 MINUTES – JENNIFER DUNNION

It was asked for the review of the minutes from September 2014. No corrections to the minutes. Minutes were approved.

PTO FINANCES – MICHELE BASELICE

As of Friday, October 17, we raised \$23,778.35 with the DIRECT DRIVE Fundraiser. PTO still has apx. \$7,000 in the PayPal account. Book fair costs seem to be right at breaking even, maybe a negative \$200 as of right now due to having to make up for people forgetting to include sales tax in the money they gave their children to purchase items. Typically in the past the book fair brings in about \$4,000 as a fundraiser. Additional deposits this past week, \$17,000 for class t-shirts. We have not received the invoice yet for these so not sure what the final cost will be. Yogurtini fundraiser brought in \$135.36.

DIRECT DRIVE REVIEW – DENA WINGERT

Final numbers was apx. \$24,300. We had 27% participation from the school or approximately 270 students. We had 7 donations that were from the community. Catalog last year brought in \$9,000 for the fall fundraiser; PTO almost tripled the number for the Direct Drive in 2014. In regards to DIRECT DRIVE vs. BOOSTERTHON – Boosterthon apx. 391 students participated (39%). With this in mind, next year we will give incentives for money raised to the kids, to try to get them more involved.

FALL BOOK FAIR REVIEW – JAMIE BASHAM

Liza Burns said we would skip the Book Fair Review at this time.

FALL FESTIVAL – AMY MCILORY

Amy said preparations are underway. The Fall Festival will be Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 11am-3pm. We are adding a photo booth this year at a current cost of \$525. Party Professionals price is higher than last year, but we are still working on the negotiations. Volunteers are needed. Planning to assign each classroom a bounce house / game for the day. NCL (apx. 20 girls) will be volunteering too, along with Thunderbird yearbook and Thunderbird Student Council. Jeanne Serene suggested contacting Ms. Taylor in regards to volunteers from ASU. Festival will have apx. 8 games, in addition to the bounce houses. Box lunches will be from Jersey Mikes. Michele Baselice asked how many cash boxes are needed. Amy stated she is hoping to keep that number low. Last year the water booth and popcorn booth had a cash box. Not planning to have hot dogs this year, only snow cones. We need to make sure that we let people know that other items will be available during the event to purchase.

HOSPITALITY – ADRIENNE SANFORD

Ali Workman stated that the teacher luncheon for Parent/Teacher Conference Week would be held on Wednesday, October 22. A Signup Genius was sent around and most spots are filled.

HARKINS PRESALES – HEIDI KILBOURNE

Heidi Kilbourne stated that 15 orders have come in. Deadline is Friday, October 24, 2014. Heidi asked if anyone has any ideas for her she would love to hear them. They will be hand delivering gift cards this year to teachers because of last years challenge. An email to the Class Liaisons will need to go out this week to remind them about the Order being due on Friday.

It was brought up that some people are not receiving emails from Liza Burns, PTO President. She is working on correcting this problem and will probably be using a new email address soon.

PROPOSED PTO PROJECTS/TEACHER REQUESTS – LIZA BURNS

Liza Burns discussed how we propose to allocate the money from the DIRECT. In May 2014, the LOM PTO gave the school \$21,000 to purchase smart boards. The current bid from the District on backfilling all the classrooms with Smart boards is apx. \$46,000. This bid is not correct because it has items listed that we do not need. Mrs. Johnson, Principal, will be getting a correct bid. It was discussed that although we are getting smart boards at a discounted rate, the cost of installation is apx. \$2,000 each. Although the PTO would love to outfit the entire school with smart boards, we need to make sure that we keep enough money in the LOM PTO bank account to function. Michele Baselice wanted to remind everyone that we do not have another large fundraiser until the Spring and we need to make sure that the account is not depleted. A question was asked of how much money upfront is needed for the fall festival and it is about \$6,000. A comment was made of who actually gets the smart boards, do all the classrooms need it (i.e. Art classrooms). A motion was made to give \$10,000 for additional smart boards by Ellen Hoiby, Karen Huttenmeyer seconded the motion. Dena Wingert brought up that the DIRECT DRIVE was pushed as a Technology Fundraiser and would it be bad if we were only spending \$10,000 on technology. Many would like to wait and get more information from the Administration in regards to exact cost. The School currently has \$21,000 to start the Smart Board project and PTO would like accurate numbers before funding more of it.

Question regarding installation was made and Ms. Barrett was not sure on when they would be installed. Projects of this size tend to take a long time. LOM has been working on the additional smart boards since May 2014. We are still in the bidding process according to Mrs. Barrett.

Ellen Hoiby retracted her motion for \$10,000 to be given. LOM PTO will wait to see what the actual costs are before giving more money.

PRINCIPALS REPORT – AUDREY BARRETT

At the District Meeting last week, LOM was recognized for improved growth points, A rating and continuous improvement over the past 3 years.

Site Council will meet tomorrow evening. A new member has joined the Site Council, but another parent and a community member are still needed.

Parent Teacher Conferences are taking place this week (Monday – Friday). Wednesday the special teachers will be in their classrooms from 5pm-7pm and LEAP Teachers will be available from 4p-7p.

Cross Country has begun and meets will be starting soon. Boys Basketball has also started. New plastic trays are being used in the cafeteria.

In regards to facilities, the builder and the architect of the school are reviewing the water pooling on the playground. Last week LOM experiences a power outage but it was not a facilities problem, it was an APS problem.

Karen Huttenmeyer asked about the interim math scores. Ms. Barrett stated scores would be discussed at the Site Council Meeting tomorrow. These interim tests are useful to the teachers to make sure there is proficiency of the standards.

CONTINUED...PROPOSED PTO PROJECTS/TEACHER REQUESTS – LIZA BURNS

Ms. Johnson, 2nd Grade Teacher, has asked for \$500.00 to purchase a router to be used in her classroom. She sent an email to Liza Burns, PTO President who read the email. Ms. Johnson needs this router for the iPads that she had funded by Donors Choose. She did not anticipate the cost of the router \$700 to be so much from the district. She will be using the \$200 check given to her by the PTO at the beginning of the year to off-set some of the cost.

During the discussion, several questions were raised:

- 1) Will other classrooms be using these iPads? No – these iPads were purchased via Donors Choose program and will be solely used by Ms. Johnson, 2nd Grade classroom.
- 2) Would the router be able to be used by other classrooms to? We are not sure of what the distance the router will provide.
- 3) Was the district / administration aware of this fundraising? Not to our understanding – it was similar to a teacher writing a grant and getting it funded.

- 4) What would be the cost of getting routers for the entire school? Not sure what the cost for that would be. Maybe if putting the router in a different room would give better coverage.
- 5) What is the wants of the teachers? Do they want smart boards still or different type of technology? Ms. Barrett said that Teachers voted for smart boards back in May. They are hoping to get all classrooms with smart boards so that the classrooms are standardized. Ms. Barrett also mentioned that Routers are only beneficial to the teachers who have the ipad technology. The schools laptop cart could possibly use it to, but the laptops are outdated and she is not sure if they are in working condition.
- 6) When is the next time a ballot can be done for a bond for technology and who does that? Ms. Barrett stated that it is the Governing Board of the District. The vote is always in November and she has not heard of any decision for next year.

After much discussion, it was decided that PTO cannot fund individual teacher request. That if a teacher is doing their own fundraising they need to fundraiser for the whole project. The PTO would be happy to share the Donor Choose information on the LOMPTO website and Facebook page. Another option for the individual request is to submit it to Site Council for a grant from the school.

The PTO will look into the cost of getting routers for the entire school and also if Smart boards are still the project that teachers want to have in the school.

However we also need to make sure that Teacher's and PTO are not running fundraisers at the same time. We are asking for money from the same individuals and we don't want to compete with each other.

Mrs. Gleash, Kinder Teacher/Yearbook Teacher, has asked Liza Burns to find out where she would get cameras for yearbook to use. Previous years cameras are not working great. Liza Burns said she has an old camera she can donate. Someone mentioned that this maybe a Student Council activity. Maybe we can put on our website to have people donate their older cameras for the yearbook staff. Also send out info to parents to send in their pictures of different events throughout the year for the yearbook staff to use.

Briana Beveridge is currently working on setting up assemblies for the school. Her ideas include the Phoenix Symphony, Harlem Globetrotters and others. She has asked if anyone has any ideas to please contact her. Daria Preston mentioned that she has a friend who is a Hispanic artist that might be a good fit. Liza Burns will give Briana Daria's contact information.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:49am.

ATTENDANCE: Liza Burns, President / Karen Konetzni, Vice President / Michele Baselice, Treasurer / Jennifer Dunnion, Secretary / Audrey Barrett, Vice Principal / Jeanne Serene / Heidi Kilbourne / Amy McIlroy / John Martin, Dads on Duty / Crystal Luckie / Ali Workman / Bethany Taylor / Karen Huttenmeyer / Sue Diaz / Daria Preston / Yvette Speers / Kristen Solheim / Dena Wingert / Erica Cozby / Ellen Hoiby