

LOM PTO Minutes

Friday, October 23, 2015: Lookout Mountain Elementary School Staff Lounge

Liza Burns called the meeting to order at 8:33pm

WELCOME – LIZA BURNS

Welcomed all to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2015 MINUTES – JENNIFER DUNNION

No corrections to the September minutes, meeting minutes were approved.

PTO FINANCES – DENA WINGERT (See attached Treasurers Report)

Dena passed out the Treasurers Report for the Months of August, September and October. Book fair has a -\$301.32. Bethany Taylor asked why the book fair has a negative number. The \$301.32 is a total of volunteer gift certificates (\$5.00), tax that PTO pays when children don't bring enough money and various prizes given out during the book fair. The book fair fundraiser is in the amount of Scholastic Dollars that are given to LOM at the end of the fair. We do not have the exact number of Scholastic Dollars from this event.

There was a terrific turn out from the Pei Wei restaurant night. We received \$330 dollars from that evening.

DADS ON DUTY – LIZA BURNS FOR JOHN MARTIN)

Father-Daughter dance updates – The theme for the event will be Alice in Wonderland. Duke Photography will be doing the pictures. Souvenir tickets will be sold. Photo packages will be available. They will send 3 photographers.

DIRECT DRIVE – SHELLY REARDON

A total of \$20,132 was collected for the Direct Drive. Participation was at 37% of the student body, which was a big increase from previous year. Many children brought in money from their piggy banks. It was a great success.

FALL FESTIVAL – JODI STANLEY

Everything is coming along great. We are starting to get the word out about the need for volunteers. We need about 78 volunteers total. If each teacher gets 3 volunteers, we would have more than enough. Changed the volunteer schedule to 45 minutes. 30 was too short and 60 minutes seems too long. Many teachers have already volunteered to work. There are a few concerns regarding the Football Cave and how to get several games on at once. Liza Burns and Mrs. Johnson suggested that they show only 1 game per room and utilize two rooms for the event.

Committees are all hard at work. There will be 5 games total, a mix of games for older kids to younger kids. Food will be provided by food trucks. Mrs. Johnson suggested having them set up on the drive through line outside the cafeteria. We can do some outdoor seating there and in the cafeteria. There will also be a game truck that will need to be on the field. Jodi and Mrs. Johnson will walk the field to make sure to avoid all sprinkler heads.

Cake walk has been turned into the Candy Walk. Instead of doing cakes, movie theater size candy will be handed out. This will save the event apx. \$900 in fees for cakes.

Jodi suggested that tickets be able to purchase water. Liza Burns said that it should be only cash for drinks and food, to keep it simple.

We are on track for staying within the budget of \$7,000. We are looking for small sponsorships from local companies; Jodi has several letters that you can send out if you think of anyone.

Mrs. Johnson suggested that the tickets be sold during the evening hours of parent/teacher conferences. Bethany Taylor suggested that we do a daily post on Facebook about different activities that will be available during the Fall Festival. Jennifer Dunnion will get the information from the committee and do daily postings for this. A suggestion was made to also increase the amount of Facebook likes we have on our page by running a contest to increase our likes. Jennifer Dunnion will research this and return with more information.

HOSPITALITY – ALI WORKMAN

Signups for the Teacher Luncheon during Parent/Teacher conference week is going well. Dilly's Deli will be catering this event and delivering it. They will be providing some gluten free options along with veggie sandwiches. Teachers will need to be sent an email via Audrey Damon to remind them that lunch is being provided on Wednesday, October 28, 2015.

HARKINS FUNDRAISER – KIM BAKER

Fliers have been distributed this week. Kim asked Jennifer to post via Facebook too. Forms are due back by Friday, October 30, 2015. All of the items will be in the form of a voucher, so this will make deliver a lot easier.

PRINCIPALS REPORT – TRICIA JOHNSON

A new night custodian has been hired. The marquee has been updated with information regarding hearing/vision, parent teacher conferences (and we will add Fall Festival information). District has said that Wi-Fi will be distributed to all the Middle Schools first and then to the elementary schools. We will most likely see the Wi-Fi installed around January 2016. The money for the Wi-Fi project is via a grant that the district received. We are one of the first elementary schools to received Wi-Fi due to our new system and our building is already set up for it.

AZ Merit scores are in. You will get your child's score mid November. Historically, LOM has been 12%-20% higher than the state averages and district averages for AIMS testing. This AZ Merit still shows that increase of percentages over the state averages and district averages.

Parent Vue will be opening soon for everyone to use. Parents will receive a passcode to view their child's progress on a daily basis. K-3rd grades will not see more than is on a report card, however 4th – 6th will show each assignment and the weight of that assignment.

Mrs. Barrett mentioned that Novembers Community of Caring is to Honor our Veterans. We will be doing Banners of Honor to celebrate those in our families that served our Nation. Jodi Stanley asked if we could have a blurb of what is going on for the month in Community of Caring so as parents we can reinforce the ideas at home.

NotMyKid's presentation for Monday evening will be for parents only! An email blast will be sent out later today regarding this event.

PROPOSED PTO PROJECTS / TEACHER REQUESTS – LIZA BURNS

Mrs. Johnson and the teachers at LOM have asked that the next PTO funded project be tablets in classrooms. WESD has given the PTO an option of Chromebooks that cost apx. \$250 each and have a 3 year warranty and a product manager. In addition there is a charging/lockup station that is \$1250 and holds 36 tablets. Jennifer Dunnion asked the question of why not forgo the charging station and purchase more tablets with that money. The charging station (per Mrs. Johnson) is a great way to secure the tablets and have the teachers able to checkout more tablets if needed. It would also be a way for the school to track who have the tablets.

It was asked why the district decided on the Chromebooks. Mrs. Johnson stated that in the November 2016 vote, the WESD would be proposing a bond that will improve technology in all of its schools. They decided that they needed to have a set standard of norm for technology and the Chromebooks was their decision.

Mrs. Johnson mentioned that having a set of 36 per grade level would be terrific. That would make the grade level feel ownership in the tablet. However the cost of that would be more than the PTO can afford.

Mrs. Johnson wants to make sure that the tablets are assigned to a classroom, not a teacher, because teachers can come and go year to year.

It was suggested by Bethany Taylor that the administration should figure out exactly what would work best for our school in means of having a cart to secure or just giving tablets to each classroom.

Mrs. Barrett said that with the laptop carts there were concerns of laptops not being returned or properly charged. Mrs. Johnson mentioned there is a definite benefit to having even two tablets in a classroom. Ms. Johnson, second grade teacher, has done a great job of incorporating them into her daily teaching. (Ms. Johnson has two tablets in her classroom via a group fund me page).

Micah Miller asked if the cost of the Chromebook included a case or what case needs to be purchased. Liza Burns responded that it is her understanding they are so durable there is no need for any additional case.

Karen Konetzni suggested that the higher grades 4 – 6th receive more tablets per classroom vs. the lower grades. Mrs. Johnson did not feel that there needed to be an increase in the upper grades.

Prior to the cost being provided by WESD, PTO had initial thought of 6 per classroom. However that would be far more than PTO can afford.

Karen Konetzni stated that the cost of 3 carts and 108 tablets would be apx. \$30,000. Jennifer Dunnion asked if there are any other projects that the school is currently asking for. Mrs. Johnson stated that every room has a Smart Board and the tablets are the next piece in advancing the technology of LOM. Mrs. Johnson has requested curtains for the stage in the cafeteria in the past and would like those in the future. Liza Burns stated that the idea was to have the Evening of the Arts new silent auction money go directly to fund the stage curtains.

Shelly Reardon suggested that instead of purchasing umbrellas each year for the outdoor tables we think of getting a shade structure for that area. Liza Burns said that the cost of the shade structure is apx. \$30,000 and we are currently spending \$500 a year on new umbrellas.

A question was raised if the tablets need to have Wi-Fi to operate. Mrs. Johnson said no.

Kim Baker asked if we approve the money to be spent how long till our students would be able to use them. Mrs. Johnson thought that we would be able to have them at our school end of December/beginning of January.

It was then discussed whether the PTO provides enough funds to purchase 3 carts and 108 tablets at apx. \$30,750 (not including tax) or purchase 4 carts and 144 tablets at apx. \$41,000 (not including tax).

There was a discussion regarding if the money from Spring Boosterthon had been used – apx. \$37,000. It has not been. That money is available to be used. The current balance in the LOM PTO account is apx. \$75,000 (Dena Wingert stated there are some written checks that have not cleared).

It was also asked what happens if the tablets are less money, does the PTO get money back? Mrs. Johnson stated that it goes into the furniture/equipment budget for LOM. However she will be purchasing as many tablets as she can with whatever amount the PTO approves.

Dena Wingert made a motion to give \$45,000 to Lookout Mountain Elementary School to purchase tablets. Jodi Stanley seconded the motion. All meeting attendees approved the motion.

Bethany Taylor suggested that we promote the tablet purchase via Facebook. Jennifer Dunnion will do that.

OPEN FORUM

Liza Burns mentioned the following:

- Hearing and Vision needs two volunteers still. Kim Baker offered to take the afternoon shift.
- Tuft & Needle has donated a mattress to LOM PTO. This mattress will be raffled off at the Fall Festival.

Bethany Taylor reminded everyone regarding the NotMyKid event taking place on Monday. There will be an assembly for the 5th & 6th graders during the day and an evening Parent presentation. Children are not allowed to attend.

She also mentioned that Conrad Storad would be coming to talk to the students during Read Across America Week. He is author of Don't Call Me Pig! A Javelina Story. He has offered to donate signed copies of his books to the library, along with signing books for kids.

She is working on getting a BMX presentation for the end of the year too.

Bethany Taylor asked if the Early Enrichment Class has a class liaison or if they are included in school wide events. Liza Burns stated that they have not been asking to be included and because they are a WESD program and not a LOM Program we cannot force them. Bethany Taylor suggested she could take on the role of liaison for them if they want one.

Bethany Taylor also asked that PTO get involved in getting more information out to our parents regarding the state decision to take funding from public schools. She would like to suggest parents to write letters to their legislators asking them to make Arizona education a top priority. Liza Burns stated that the Executive Board has decided to not be involved in political activities. Mrs. Johnson stated that as a school they are not also able to request parents to write legislators but are able to provide information for organizations that provide parents with detailed information. She will focus her Principal Corner in the newsletter for next week to this idea. Jodi Stanley also suggested that the WESD Parent Leadership Board meets on Monday night and this is their program agenda for the evening. She suggested that Bethany Taylor attend the meeting if possible.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10am

ATTENDANCE: Liza Burns, President / Karen Konetzni, Vice President / Dena Wingert, Treasurer / Jennifer Dunnion, Secretary / Tricia Johnson, Principal / Audrey Barrett, Vice Principal / Kim Baker / Heidi Kilbourne / Shelly Reardon / Micah Miller / Ali Workman / Bethany Taylor / Carrie Kaput / Jodi Stanley