

LOM PTO Minutes

Monday, March 30, 2015: Lookout Mountain Elementary School Cafeteria

Liza Burns called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

WELCOME – LIZA BURNS

Welcomed all to the meeting

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2015 MINUTES – JENNIFER DUNNION

Due to a copying error, the February minutes were not approved. February and March will be reviewed and approved during the April Meeting.

PTO FINANCES – MICHELE BASELICE

Harkins Fundraising for the year made \$1283. Expenses for the past month were batteries for the laptops. Spring Fling final numbers were \$4,050.53 of revenue (possible reasons for lower revenue – lower revenue due to lower attendance.) Sue Diaz had a question regarding the final number of the Direct Drive numbers from the fall. Michele stated that it is the \$17,000 number Sue Diaz was looking at.

SPRING FLING / CLASSROOM LIASIONS/COMMUNITCATION – LIZA BURNS

Spring Fling

The festival is not a money maker and a lot of work. Weather, marketing, communication were all factors in lower attendance this year. But there was also the lack of volunteers to support this large of an event. Should the Spring Fling continue as is? Is this a fundraising event or a community event? Should we change it to be every other year? Maybe do a Talent Show instead?

John Martin, said that he feels the Spring Fling is a well supported, well attended event and we should continue it. He felt that maybe there was a lower attendance due to the date changing from fall to Spring. He also felt that with the Father Daughter dance he had a lack of volunteers and everything ended up running smoothly.

Karen Huttenmeyer asked that maybe we start securing volunteers earlier and only do 30-minute volunteer spots.

Tricia Johnson said that this year PTO did a great event that tried to make it less work for all parents. Parents were not asked to donate to classroom baskets as they were in the past. Also Cake Walk cakes were purchased with PTO funds. We need to get the Junior High School and High School more involved with volunteering at these events. Establish a idea of "Giving Back to your Elementary School" were students in JR. High and High School already have an idea of coming back to volunteer at the Elementary School.

Liza Burns said the Spring Fling ran very smoothly that day, there was definite chaos leading up to the event because of the lack of volunteers. The weekend as a tough weekend because of so much going on.

Leah Weber remembers the festival being in the evening and what great fun it was. More of a Carnival Theme. Her kids were very sad when they changed it to a daytime event. Tricia

Johnson agreed that maybe look into changing it to be a night event. Or maybe move it back to be a fall event.

Sue Diaz said maybe we hold the Boosterthon along with a Fun Family Day.

Classroom Liaisons / Communication

Many parents have made comments to Liza Burns, that they are not receiving emails from their class liaisons. This could be adding to parents not knowing about things going on at the school. Not all email addresses were gathered and maybe the reason is they did not want to sign up for PTO. For next year an idea of asking for email addresses to stay up to date on activities happening at the school, not necessarily say for PTO. Recently a survey was sent to all students' families via Classroom Liaisons, asking several questions about what they would like to see from the PTO and how parents would like to be communicated with in the future.

Dena Wingert, said that there is not a lack of communication from the PTO to the student body, that there are fliers, signs, electronic billboards and emails that go out regarding the events.

Sue Diaz, said that the flier for the Spring Fling did not go out until the week of the event and many already had plans for that day. Tricia Johnson, Principal, said that maybe there is a need to have a school wide day that fliers are sent home. This would make all outside and PTO aware of when a flier needs to go out.

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PRINCIPALS REPORT – TRICIA JOHNSON, PRINCIPAL

This is a busy time of year. We are in the 4th quarter and staffing and classroom sizes are being evaluated for next year. Staff will be told on Wednesday regarding changes made for next year. It will also be discussed at Site Council. WESD has not changed the classroom size from last year. Calculations on staffing are based on the 100th day. Because of these calculations, Ms. Johnson was not surprised at the staffing that was allotted for Lookout Mountain Elementary School. Many have asked, "Why don't you just take less variance children" and the reason is that it would not lower our classroom sizes, it would only eliminate staff. There will be staff changes, due to teachers leaving. Full details will be coming out in the future. There will be 6 sections of kindergarten in 2015-2016.

In regards to the state budget cuts, Ms. Johnson has not heard of how it will affect WESD or Lookout Mountain Elementary.

AZ Merit testing is the week of April 13-17. Not testing on Monday. Testing will be Tuesday – Friday with makeups the following week. Students have been preparing to take the test and the staff feels very comfortable with the test. Ms. Godfrey wants to remind parents that there is still early release the week of AZ Merit Testing on Wednesday. Release time that day will be 1:45pm.

Smartboards – the remaining money the PTO donated for the smartboards has been used. Installation will hopefully happen as soon as possible.

Karen Huttenmeyer asked about the Interim Math Results. Results were just received per Ms. Godfrey. Several 5th and 6th grade teachers are offering extra tutoring for students.

Karen also asked when AZ Merit Results would be in. Due to the test needing to be graded by scantron and by hand, they are not sure. The State Department of Education is in charge of the scoring.

With the end of the school year comes teacher assignments for the next year. As a reminder, teacher request are not to be made. However if you are unhappy with your child's teacher, please feel free to give Ms. Johnson a call and she will work on it for you.

BOOSTERTHON – DENA WINGERT

We are currently a month out from the Fun Run. PTO will be doing more work to obtain more of the total donation amount (anywhere from 64-68% will be given back to LOM PTO). Boosterthon will be at the school on April 8 to talk with teachers. The start date will be April 20 with a Pep Rally that the Boosterthon will be here for. Then Huddles will be done in the classroom during breakfast time, so no one will be losing recess. The PTO will give out prizes during lunchtime and this is where students will be given the Classroom goals. Boosterthon will be back on April 29 to run the Fun Run.

Volunteers will be needed during the entire time of the Boosterthon. We will need volunteers during the run, distribute packets on the first, count money and hand out prizes. The lunch time volunteers will need to be animated and need to be here for a couple of hours each day to hand out prizes. Ms. Johnson said to feel free to decorate the cafeteria to the kids in the spirited mood. Karen Konetzni will speak with the church and ask them not to take down the decoration.

Ms. Johnson also suggested having theme days to go along with the Music theme of this year. (Country, Rock N Roll, etc).

Incentive for teachers' maybe 100% of the donations collected, a percentage will go straight back to your classroom.

Sue Diaz asked if there would be gift card awards for the best decorated doors of classrooms. Last year they gave out gift cards to teachers to get them more excited about the Boosterthon.

DADS ON DUTY – JOHN MARTIN

Father Son Kickball will be held on Sunday, April 12. It will be hot and volunteers are needed. Fliers have gone out to all students. DADS ON DUTY is able to spend up to \$250 on supplies without approval from the PTO.

OPEN FORUM

Sue Diaz – Evening of the Arts

Sue along with Leah Kelly is helping put together the Evening of the Arts on May 19. They are in need of help with cutting paper for Panels, putting panels up and artwork on the panels. Maybe 1 -2 hours of volunteering is needed. Please let them know if you can help. They will also need volunteers to work the event and need Dads on Duty to help with crowd control and helping with security for the night.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56p

ATTENDANCE: Liza Burns, President / Karen Konetzni, Vice President / Michele Baselice, Treasurer / Jennifer Dunnion, Secretary / Tricia Johnson, Principal / Jackie Krzak / Sue Diaz / Sherry Godfrey / Audrey Sangerman / Tabitha Jecmen / Karen Huttenmeyer / Leah Weber / John Martin – DADS ON DUTY