

LOM PTO Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2014, 7:00pm, Lookout Mountain Elementary School Cafeteria

Liza Burns called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – LIZA BURNS

Liza Burns introduced herself as the new PTO president for the 2014-2015 school year. She then asked for everyone to go around and introduce themselves and let us know if they are in charge of any positions in the PTO.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2014 MINUTES – LIZA BURNS

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

2013-2014 Finances– LIZA BURNS (FOR MICHELE BASELICE)

The Treasurer Reports for 2013-2014 year were distributed. Last year we had a lot of major PTO Projects – bleachers, DocuCams and technology (SmartBoards). We were able to donate \$21,000 to the school for the technology because of the success of the Boosterthon.

Budget 2014-2015 – LIZA BURNS (FOR MICHELE BASELICE)

We are starting the year off great. Our biggest expense, to date, is checks that we cut to the teachers. These checks help in supplementing their classrooms.

DIRECT DRIVE – DENA WINGERT

After receiving negative feedback regarding the Fall Catalog (fundraiser from last year), we decided to try a direct approach of getting donations directly for our school. This means that 100% of the money donated will go directly to our school. In the past, the Fall Catalog, we typically get about 50% of the sales. As of today, we have collected about \$8,900, however that is only 11% of the school participating. Bethany Taylor if it could have been the wrong time of year to do a fundraiser like this. Liza Burns said started it early because we wanted to get ahead of all the other money that is requested at the beginning of the year. We may need to try it again at a different time, possibly end of September-beginning of October. Meggan Jacks asked what the participation was for fall catalog. Dena said she was not sure, but people did buy more with the catalog. Last year, a total of \$18,784.71 was spent on the Fall Catalog. LOM PTO made \$9,630.91. Meggan Jacks also asked if we should have waited until the Class Liaisons were all up and running. Dena and Liza both agree that maybe it is more than a few obstacles (slow donations and signs disappear). Offering lanyards as an incentive was suggested for next year. Suggestions were made that although the direct drive paper says it ends on September 19, that the LOM PTO will take donations any time. A suggestion of having a money jar available at the Fall Festival, maybe we do this three times a year and send out a reminder in December regarding a tax deductible donation. It was discussed that for next year we would need to review a few items (time of year to run it, rewards for the kids and rewards for the teachers, give parents a idea of what technology cost and see if parents can hit that goal). Dena said that although we will try this again next year, we may also do a fall catalog type fundraiser. Plus, just a reminder we will do a fundraiser in the spring – Boosterthon.

CLASS T-SHIRTS – AMY MEHR

Amy said all is going well. She is going to submit the order by Friday, September 19. We should have the order within two weeks. In the future we need to make sure that the teachers have a set deadline.

FALL BOOK FAIR – LIZA BURNS (FOR JAMIE BASHAM)

The Fall Book Fair will run Monday, September 22 – Friday, September 27. Thank you to all the volunteers that have signed up on signupgenius.com. All spots have been filled.

FALL FESTIVAL – LIZA BURNS (FOR AMY MCLLROY)

Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 11am-3pm. We will have a planning meeting on Thursday, September 18 at 2:30pm in the Teachers Lounge. A question was raised “What is the Fall Festival”. The Fall Festival is a community event that is also a fundraiser. At the Fall Festival you will find a cake walk, bounce houses, slides, games, hair spray station and food.

SILENT AUCTION – JENNIFER DUNNION

This year we have decided to go for donations from the community and corporations vs. going to the parents and asking for money to purchase baskets. We currently have approximately \$4,000 in donations received. In the next couple of weeks, we will have a planning meeting for anyone who would like to assist with solicitations for the silent auction. If anyone would like to be part of this please see Jennifer Dunnion after the meeting.

PASSIVE FUNDRAISING – LIZA BURNS

As a reminder there are several fundraisers that are on-going for the LOM PTO.

Amazon Smile – is a great way to support LOM PTO every time you shop at amazon.com.

Restaurant Night – enjoy a night out at a restaurant that gives back to the LOM PTO

- Yogurtini – Sunday, 9/28 (12p-3p) – 20% of all sales (only at the 7th S & Bell Rd)
- Barros Pizza – Wednesday, 10/1 (all day) – have to mention Lookout Mountain but when you do 20% of all sales go to LOM PTO.
- Pei Wei – hoping for November
- Barros Pizza – Last school day in December. A lot of teachers order pizza that day, so thought it would be good to capture some those sales too.

Escrip – Safeway, only debit card transaction – a portion of all sales gets returned to LOM PTO.

CLASSROOM LIAISONS – LIZA BURNS

We are getting the classroom liaisons up and running. There are a few teachers who still need – Kennell, Kahldon, CCB, Freeman and Ms. Neal. John Martin volunteered to be the liaison for Mr. Kennell.

PRINCIPALS REPORT – TRICIA JOHNSON

The start of the school year has been amazing. Very smooth, first couple of weeks. Very exciting things happening in our school – enrollment is up, A status again, new school and no student was held back in third grade. This year our A status exceeded last year by 5 additional points. We will be focusing this year on math. This is an area we are always improving. Primary grades were using investigation and 4th, 5th and 6th grades did not have a book from which to teach. During early release Wednesdays, teachers are doing a lot of math training.

Bleachers have been ordered in royal blue. They will be delivered soon. Technology was placed in the Kindergarten classrooms recently. Additional docucams were distributed last week. Money for the Smart Boards is still being looked at. The district has purchased smartboards that are refurbished at a fraction of the cost. We will start filling smartboards in the upper grades and then work down from there. All of 4th, 3rd and 2nd should be filled. LEAP Teachers will receive smartboards through money from the school (not PTO money).

It was discussed that if parents had an exact amount of money it would cost for their teacher to get a smart board, we may have parents that would donate that amount of money. It is very hard to get a correct amount of what it would cost, due to the changing cost of the technology, the cost of installation and if the classroom is set up properly for it.

A current issue has been the parking along Coral Gables during pickup. There is constantly jaywalking which is very dangerous. The district will be placing No Parking signs on the south side of the street to help with this issue.

OPEN FORUM

John Martin – Dads on Duty will be having BINGO night on September 27 at 6:30pm. Dads on Duty will also hold the Father-Daughter Dance and Annual Kickball Game. Any dads that would like to get involved should see John after the meeting.

Adrienne Sanford – Teachers Hospitality luncheon will be on October 22. Please look for a Sign Up Genius to come out for items that need to be donated.

Liza Burns – Mrs. Barrett has asked for the PTO to purchase new umbrellas for the outdoor tables. We would like to put it out to the attendees to vote. Mrs. Johnson said that this would be greatly appreciated. A discussion was started that maybe we should do a more permanent structure. Mrs. Johnson mentioned that the cost of the permanent shade structure at the drop off walkway was close to \$17,000. Although a great idea, it would be more expensive than the purposed \$1,000 to be spent of 10 umbrellas. Leah Weber made a motion to purchase 10 new umbrellas that would cost no more than \$1,000. Karen Huttenmeyer second. All approved.

Karen Huttenmeyer suggested we purchase curtains for the stage in the cafeteria. It is her understanding that some music classes are taking place on the stage during lunches. Mrs. Johnson said the new curtains cost close to \$9,000. Kristen Solheim mentioned that she is looking to getting grants for the curtains.

Meggan Jacks mentioned that there are currently 3 positions available on Site Council. Mrs. Johnson said that there are 2 parent positions and 1 community position available. To serve on site council you will be part of school improvement planning, short term problem solving and school budget review.

Thomas Richards asked what will happen with the large amount of Kindergartners go into first grade. Mrs. Johnson explained that the prior year numbers were so low for Kindergarten that they did a lot of recruiting for the school. She was worried about the kindergarten program filling up. Three weeks before school began the enrollment jumped and had to hire another kindergarten teacher. In the future, procedure may change for open enrollment. They may have to consider moving the district classes, CCB and special needs preschool, to another school, to free up classroom space.

Mr. Henderson thanked the PTO for the check that was written at the beginning of the year. He appreciates the support and the extra money goes a long way.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM.

ATTENDANCE: Liza Burns, President / Jennifer Dunnion, Secretary / Tricia Johnson, Principal / Kim Baker / Annie Hartman / Heidi Kilbourne / Meggan Jacks / Autumn Smith / John Martin / Michelle Cline / Regina Haffey / Judi Lowe / Dena Wingert / Thomas Richards / Amy Mehr / Melissa Kovalesky / Crystal Luckie / Ron Henderson / Adrienne Sanford / Ali Workman / Tanya Roof / Jeanne Serene / Sally Mallan / Elle Perry / Annette Gulinson / Bethany Taylor / Leah Weber / Karen Huttenmeyer / Sue Diaz