

Lakeshore PTO “Meeting Minutes”

Tuesday August 8, 2023 6pm-7:45pm

Meeting called to order by Robin

Attendance: Robin Miller, Beth Griffith, Dani Dedman, Jake Lau, Amy Haines and Principal Jen Kish.

Budget 23’/24’ school year: The projected revenues and expenditures are in the amount of \$15,990. Robin and Tiff (Treasurer) had met prior to tonight’s meeting and reviewed budget line by line to move some funding around and match projected needs for the year. A few line items were discussed in more detail, one being that next year’s Bingo Night will also be a Title event. Because of that change the PTO is able to reduce its projected spending for that night. It was clarified that the “Spiritwear” funds will be used to purchase Lakeshore T-shirts for new staff hires made during the year. The other main budget item discussed was the mini grant vs. Wish Fish Funds. Robin is planning to reach out to staff members early in the year to let them know that we, as a PTO, are here to help them. Whether it’s funding events such as the kindergarten gingerbread making or fulfilling a wish fish. There was discussion about moving the wish fish to a virtual platform such as an Amazon wish list. The thought behind this was to simplify things for anybody looking to support our staff. It would be easier to access and then those purchased items could be shipped directly to school. Ms. Kish also wanted to clarify that mini grants are meant for project-based ideas whereas wish fish are intended more for supplemental items, i.e. markers.

Upcoming PTO events: staff potluck, ice cream social and Halloween carnival. Upon reviewing the upcoming teacher workdays with Ms. Kish, Thursday August 24 was decided upon for the All Staff Pot Luck. Jake will be making a sign-up in the coming days asking for donated items to be dropped off by 9am that morning in the staff lounge. The ice cream social will be held on Thursday Sept 28 from 6-7:30pm. Robin has reached out to local grocery stores in effort to secure donations for this. Robin also mentioned at the end of the year picnic a parent had stated that they would like to help chair this event. Jake will be making a future sign-up for this event looking for more volunteers. The Halloween carnival will be on Friday October 27 and will be chaired by Nika (Vice President).

“Let’s Play at Lakeshore” campaign for new playground equipment. The goal of this campaign is to raise money for new playground equipment. Robin has already started to form a committee (Justine Johnson, Michelle Cohen, and Kim Hennings) that will work solely on this. She has a photographer, Megan Holmes, coming this Thursday August 10, to take pictures of the wear and tear of the current equipment that will be used in a marketing fashion for future fundraising efforts. Robin mentioned verbally that our savings is currently around \$31,000 and this campaign will likely be looking to raise around \$100,000. She wanted to reiterate that this will take a few years. By October, she is hoping to have a plan in place that details many multifaceted ways to raise the funds. Ms. Kish noted that in conversations with her peers some other fundraisers that have worked well were a Read-a-Thon, pasta dinner, and chicken dinner drive thru.

Principal’s Report Ms. Kish stressed that as a district there is a very high need for Hmong bilingual ed assistants, including one needed at Lakeshore. Lakeshore will also be welcoming a new social worker to the team. With several new staff members joining this year, Ms. Kish is hoping to establish and build a strong community feel among her staff. She also stated that this school year her staff will have monthly meetings for social emotional learning, working towards helping students build strong character skills.

She has also requested that all staff members attend a PTO meeting during the year. Another note was title funding is closely tied to how many students are receiving free and reduced lunch so at Welcome Back Day it is their goal to have all families fill out an application form. Ms. Kish recently took inventory of the Color Our World Crayola products and reports they are in good supply but noted that every few years it may be needed for the PTO to help purchase more. Ms. Kish has noted that reading curriculum district wide will be changing to the Science of Reading. Lakeshore was a pilot school last year for our first-grade students and Ms. Kish reported they were seeing some promising results already with those students. Staff will be receiving more training on this curriculum change. She mentioned that she has been recommending the podcast Soul to Story to her staff and thought parents would also find it to be informative as it talks about the curriculum change in a way that's very easy to appreciate. Ms. Kish has recently learned that the 4th grade district field trip to the Ice Age Trail is no longer an option due to changes with the DNR. District is looking for other ideas to replace this field trip and Ms. Kish is open to ideas from parents and staff as well.

Partnership Care Coordinator Report Dani brought forth a discussion about the Read and Feed program. A handout with the Read and Feed chairperson's responsibilities and duties was provided. It was then discussed at some length how much the program was serving us anymore. Last year, it was hard to find volunteers for popping popcorn, the custodians were left with a mess, lots of confusion from families about what the program even is, stress from students when they didn't have a quarter and questions about how much the students are gaining from it and their understanding of the charitable side of it. Ideas such as reducing the amount of read and feeds this year, bringing back students voting on the chosen charity, moving to more of community service-based project were all floated. Dani will discuss with staff on what they would like to see, and this topic will be revisited at the September meeting. In other things, she mentioned having a staffed PTO table at Welcome Back Day would be helpful. Jake is to make a sign-up for this, and hours are 8am-1pm and 2-4pm. Mentioned that PTO should work on selecting a date in December again to clean staff break room as that was very much appreciated last year.

Additional items from PTO President Robin Miller. The completed 23'/24' PTO magnets were brought to meeting, that display all of the PTO supported events, and to be distributed at Welcome Back Day. She has confirmed with Mrs. Gransee-Paral and Mrs. Janke that Art and Music night will be happening next year, and they have selected 5/9/24 to hold it. Robin assured them that the PTO will continue to support this. Robin also brought to our attention that she had received feedback from fellow parents and staff the there was disappointment that the entire school did not have an end of the year carnival on the last day of school. PTO would like to continue to celebrate the graduating 5th graders on that last day of school for now and would like to see the teachers and staff support any type of all-school carnival at this time. Concerns were raised about finding the PTO volunteers, during a workday, to support an all-school type carnival.

Meeting closed with voting on and adopting the proposed budget. **Budget was approved by all members.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. Minutes compiled by Beth Griffith, secretary.