



LESTER PTA MEETING MINUTES

Time: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Location: Lester School Gym

Call to Order (Kristen Wiklund): 6:35 PM

Secretary's Report (Jackie Szalanski):

- Move to approve minutes of [Lester PTA Meeting Minutes 5.16.23](#): Approved

President's Report (Kristen Wiklund)

- Welcome to the new board who has already been hard at work!
- Bank transition successful
- Upcoming Meetings - all to be held at 6:30 in the Lester Gym. (Conflicts with Herrick - Kristen W and Mrs Novosel will discuss possibility of revising dates)
 - October 25th
 - November 29th
 - January 17th (Zoom meeting)
 - February 21st
 - April 17th
 - May 15th
- First Assembly will be Illinois Stormchasers on 10/12
- Working on ordering and collecting supplies for the PTA closet to help with class parties. Send ideas to president@lesterpta.com or if you have any supplies feel free to pass them along!
- Ensure all checks coming in are made out to "Lester PTA"
- Working with teachers on high level planning for PTA sponsored field trips
 - Planning: First Grade going to a play "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus"; Kindergarten going to Morton Arboretum
- Working with specials teachers on budgets for the year
- Teacher classroom fund and teacher grant ideas
- Ideas of timing of all school lunches
 - Mrs Novosel to give two dates that should work where all students here on Friday

Treasurer's Report (Liz Banaszak):

- Please see September 2023 Treasurer's Report for an up-to-date list of financial activity [September 2023 Treasurer Report](#)
- Congratulations to our Fundraising Committee for their excellent work bringing in sponsorships



President-Elect (Sara Schad):

- No report.

VP Membership (Bonnie Glass & Sara Schad):

- 196 total members, as of 9/13/23. 175 families and 21 staff
 - Lester has total of 342 families; 505 students
- Membership data from the past 5 years:
 - 22-23 - 227 families and 29 staff (256 total but only 160 as of this date last year)
 - 21-22 - 96 families and 21 staff
 - 20-21 - 79 families and 24 staff
 - 19-20 - 96 families and 18 staff
 - 18-19 - 155 families and 24 staff
- Directory is currently not viewable. Updates are being made and will be fully updated by the end of this month. Later this month, families are encouraged to log in to ensure their phone number/ email addresses are accurate. Active PTA members can access the directory by logging into Givebacks (formerly Memberhub)

VP Fundraising Report (Kara Gordon & Julia Mazurek):

- Developed a NEW yearlong sponsor program.
- Support from 24 local businesses totaling over \$20,000 in sponsorship revenue + additional In-Kind donations!
 - 85% increase in sponsorship revenue vs last school year
 - Front-loads PTA budget to balance activities throughout the school year
 - Helps underwrite 2 flagship fundraising events to allow focus on community building
 - A great mix of repeat sponsors & new sponsors
- Fun Run 2023
 - 220 families registered (last year 219 total)
 - 460 1-mile registrations (last year 466 total)
 - 120 more t-shirts ordered this year vs. last year
 - Race Day logistics
 - Volunteer help is needed on Race Day - See [Sign Up Genius](#). Especially:
 - 6:00am Race morning setup
 - ~9:05 Hummer Park setup
 - 12:00 Hummer Park cleanup
 - 6:00am Setup begins at and around Lester
 - 7:30-8:00 am Final race bib pickup, resolve final tshirt discrepancies
 - 8:00am Online Race Registration Closes
 - 8:30am Welcome & Warm Up on Lester's east blacktop
 - 9:00am 1 Mile race starts



- NEW: runners are suggested to line up according to grade-level flags along Lincoln Street. This is not mandatory, but suggested to help space out our 460 1 mile runners. Families are welcome to run together if that's what you prefer.
- Your timing chip will not start until you cross the start line. In order for your timing to be accurate, do not cross the start line before the race begins. And be sure to cross the finish line.
 - 9:30am (estimated) - 1 Mile Awards Ceremony
 - 10:00am (estimated) - 5k race starts; Families are invited to head to Hummer Park.
- Hummer Park Family Fun 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 - 258 RSVPs. Hot Dogs ordered + Kona Ice onsite. (Vendor payment?)
 - Also at Hummer Park: Family Photo Booth, Raffle Prizes & Silent Auctions, 5k Awards Ceremony, Music, Yard Games, and more.
- Experiences
 - Several fall and seasonal experiences are still open.

VP Programs' Report (Angie Erickson):

- Received approximately 80 responses to committee sign-up.
- Committee chairs will receive their list of volunteers this week. It is the responsibility of the chair to make contact with volunteers.

VP Communications Report (Kristen Avery):

- 9 e-blasts have gone out so far to around 650 parents
- The 2023-24 Lester PTA Budget is available on LesterPTA.com, [Lester PTA 2023-2024 Budget](#)

Principal's Report (Katie Novosel and Lauri Smith):

- Thank you to PTA for beginning of the year treats in the lounge! Teachers loved the nice surprise (and great variety!)
- Fall Benchmark testing complete- reports will be emailed to parents (date TBD by district)
- Spring 23 IAR reports will be sent home in your child's backpack on 9/28
- Behavior Expectations- video from principals, each class visit, whole school
- Morning Video Announcements
- R.O.A.R.S. - Really Outstanding Actions Recognized by Students
- School Improvement Plan: Math Goal & Behavior Expectations Goal
- Teachers are LOVING the iPad pens. They are finding them useful and using them regularly.
- We are fully staffed! (Including custodial!)



Teachers' Report (Gina Ciamprone, 4th grade; Amy Freitag, 3rd grade; Christine Torres, 2nd grade; Matt Leiser, 2nd grade):

- Amy Freitag: Thank you very much for all that you do to support the Lester students and the staff! This PTA is second to none! Thank you for the money that you provide to us so we can purchase supplies for our classrooms that will benefit our students. A big thank you for purchasing the Apple pens for each classroom! They are a game changer! My students are using them to annotate in reading, to do math in their journals and student books in class, and for other parts of their day. They have a sense of ownership and excitement when getting to use the pen everyday! They love them and so do I! Thank you so much! I look forward to another amazing school year!

Committee Reports:

- Sweetheart dance - timing and location
 - The date will now be in the winter, so we need an indoor location (Lester Gym wouldn't support the number of anticipated attendees).
 - Herrick's "big" gym is an option, free.
 - DGN has options, fee.
 - Park District space may be an option, i.e. Lincoln Center, Recreation Center.
- Variety show
 - Variety show will be in the fall this year, set for Sunday October 22nd. Will take place again at Downers North starting at 2:30p
 - Deadline to sign up to perform is this Friday, September 22nd. If your children are interested, please sign up. We are looking for more acts!
 - Don't have a performer at home, but have an artist wanting to show their talents? Deadline to submit cover art for the show's program is also this Friday. Vertical designs can be submitted to the office.
 - We will need parent volunteers to help with two rehearsals Oct 4 and 12, and to help with the day of organizing performers and backstage. Sign up for the committee and we will reach out for help!
- Reading Games - looking for more volunteers at the district level
- Birthday Bulletin boards - thank you to those that have signed up for this committee. We are excited to see all of the creative birthday celebrations!
- Book Fair - There is only one book fair this year. The dates will be 2/5-2/9. Hours are TBD.
- Room Parent -
 - Room Parents volunteer sign-up went out last week. They are still in need of lots of room parents so please consider signing up!
 - Classroom party volunteer signup sheet will go out the week of 9/25. Halloween party is 10/31/23, Holiday party is 12/22/23 and Spring party will be a Friday in May - TBD
- Lester Gardens - They are organizing a fall clean up/bulb planting workday in the next few



weeks. Details (date/time) to come out by the end of the week

- Fun Lunch - Fun Lunch Ordering is open now for September and October dates. Deadline to order is September 22nd and the first lunch is Culver's on September 29th. Sign up for day-of lunch volunteers was sent to the committee and volunteers are secured through January 1st.
- Fun Run - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!!!!!! See above for more details!
- Dine-outs - new committee this year. Erin Montana is chair of this committee and it is underway.
- World Fair - will be November 15, 2023.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business

New Business:

- No new business

Meeting adjourned at: 7:28 pm.

Please visit the Lester PTA website:

<http://www.lesterpta.com>