



LESTER PTA MEETING MINUTES

Time: Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88343561232?pwd=LO8E48Z6jl0Lz5C0fYuYHBrkbr3Szn.1>

Call to Order (Kristen Wiklund): 6:31 pm

Secretary's Report (Jackie Szalanski):

- Motion to approve minutes of [Lester PTA Meeting Minutes 2.22.24](#) approved

President's Report (Kristen Wiklund):

- Penny Wars was a success! Over \$900 raised for the PTA. 4th grade winners got their popsicle party this afternoon.
- Be on the look out for a volunteer appreciation event in May as a thank you to all who have participated and volunteered in any capacity for the PTA this year.

Treasurer's Report (Liz Banaszak):

- April 2024 Treasurer's Report and April 2024 Budget to Actual Report.
 - [April 24 Revised Budget to Actual.pdf](#)
 - [Draft Proposed 2024-2025 Budget Presented at 4.18.24 Meeting.pdf](#)
 - [April 24 Treasurer's Report.pdf](#)
- Please submit any outstanding requests for reimbursement (including Teacher Classroom Fund requests) no later than May 1 to treasurer@lesterpta.com. We know some of you have receipts for past events that you want to turn in!
- If anyone has any questions about the budget for remaining activities this year, please reach out to Liz. It is very important that we stay within our budget for our end-of-year activities.

President-Elect (Sara Schad):

- No report.

VP Membership (Bonnie Glass & Sara Schad):

- 271 Members, 33 Faculty/Staff, 238 Families (1 Faculty added since Feb)

VP Fundraising Report (Kara Gordon & Julia Mazurek):

- Congrats to **Kara Gordon & Adriana Karawan** for another incredibly fun & successful Winter Fundraiser! The event netted **\$37k for Lester PTA** - over delivering the event's fundraising goal! A huge thank you to all committee members, experience hosts, event attendees, purchasers of experiences and more, and sponsors for the support!



- 2024-25 School Year: Looking Ahead
 - **Fun Run:** initial planning kicks off this spring! Fun Run committee seeks additional members to help with planning & execution of activities over the summer and early fall. Let us know how you can help via this [form](#).
 - **Winter Fundraiser:** after 5 incredible years, Kara Gordon is bidding adieu to her post at the helm of Lester's Winter Fundraiser. Also passing the torch is Adriana Karawan after co-chairing this year's event and many years on this event committee. Lester PTA is seeking **2 new co-chairs** to lead planning for the annual Adults Night Out FUNdraiser!
 - **NEW! Donations Committee:** Lester PTA will create a NEW committee that will help with Fundraising Efforts throughout the school year. This committee will support both Fun Run + Winter Fundraiser and will help coordinate additional fundraising activities through the year (Dine Outs, Penny Wars, Yard Cards, and more). The efforts needed to raise the funds that support all Lester students needs a larger village! Watch for this in the spring committee sign up and please consider helping to FUND the FUN.

VP Programs' Report (Angie Erickson):

- Thank you to all of our committee members and chairs. If you decided you are no longer interested in chairing your committee next year, please let me know (if you haven't already). Spring committee sign ups will be going out by the end of April.

VP Communications Report (Kristen Avery):

- No report.

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

- IAR/ISA testing complete.
- MAP Testing is starting Tuesday April 30th
- Open House Tuesday April 23rd: 6:00-6:45 A-M, 6:45-7:30 N-Z - Art show in the gym 6:00-7:15
- McTeacher Night Tuesday, April 30th - Teachers are excited!!!!
- Zones of Regulation Kick-Off was last week. The purpose of the zones is to have common language and strategies to support self-regulation.
- Teacher appreciation week is coming up! May 6-10.
- Enrollment - We are at about 95% with enrollment. The office is starting to plan for next year!
- We are excited for all of the end of the year events coming up! Keep an eye out in Lester Living for all the fun things planned.

Teachers' Report (A. Andorf, J. Conyac, L. Novotny):

- All teachers expressed thanks for PTA's support of the teachers.

Committee Reports:



- After School Clubs - We will need an after school club committee chair next year and would love any ideas you might have of new and exciting club ideas!
- Author Fest - Next week Lester will be visited by Greg Pizzoli, Jasmine Warga and Kate Hannigan
- Dine Outs - McTeacher Night 4/30, Chipotle in early May and Crumbl for Mother's Day are all up and coming!
- Expressions Art Show - I am still in need of volunteers to help hang art after school next Tuesday, I've already put it in the PTA blast and facebook pages, any other help to get the word out is really appreciated!
- [Lester: Expressions Art Show \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)
- Field Day - Field day will be 5/28 be on the look out for sign ups!
- Hospitality -
 - Teacher Birthdays/Conferences -
 - Teacher Appreciation Week - Swiftie Themed Teacher Appreciation Week beginning May 6th. Keep your eyes peeled for sign ups and ways to make your teachers feel special! There are ways to involve your kids ahead of time - including making friendship bracelets for teachers and staff! Start now so we can have a lot!
- Special Person Events
 - Kickball will be Friday, May 10th. Links to purchase tickets have been sent in the eblast, Lester Living and posted to facebook. If you are available to help please contact Shayda Murdakes or Leslie Greskowiak.
 - The Dance is Derby and Floral and Fascinator themed and will take place at Herrick Friday, May 3rd. Links to purchase tickets have been sent in the eblast, Lester Living and posted to facebook. If you are available to help please contact Shannon Matesi or Sahar Slocum.
- Lester Gardens - There will be spring workday Saturday, May 18th. Be on the lookout for signups!
- Philanthropy/Scholarships - We have our three Scholarship winners picked! We will share the names at the next PTA meeting. Each recipient will be receiving a \$1000 check.
- Reflections - Lester student Mitchell Onken had his Reflections PTA entry move on to the National Level along with 4 other entries in District 58. Lester student Lydia Onken received State Honorable Mention for her photography entry. Congrats to both!
- School Supplies - Sale will run 5/1 to 6/14. Details coming soon.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- Motion approved - The Nominating Committee (Jackie Szalanski, Jen Shea, Katie Frick) moves forward two excellent candidates for the position of President-Elect 2024-2025. The



candidates will be voted on during the last PTA meeting of the year on May 15, 2024 by simple written ballot. All eligible PTA members present may participate in the vote. Votes will be tallied and the winner announced at the meeting. The two candidates have submitted biographical information to provide the PTA at large more details about what they have accomplished and what special skills they bring to the table.

- Candidate 1: Sydney Musselman - Sydney is the mom to 4th grader, Luke. She is a graphic designer, a hiker, an artist, and an enthusiast of anything she takes on, and someone who never stops learning. She has been involved in the Downers Grove community as chair of the Downers Grove Historic Society's Historic Home Committee, and served as a two-year member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council, and is currently the only non-faculty member on District 58's Community Communications Committee. She is also the New Member Coordinator for Cub Scout Pack 3086, and has doubled the size of the pack during her tenure. Within the Lester community, she chairs the Teacher Support Committee and co-chairs the Book Fair Committee. Through all of these experiences, she has developed a wide set of leadership skills. She takes the time to form relationships with the people she works with, is not afraid to ask for help or learn what she needs to get the job done, and is comfortable with delegating tasks to make sure all of the work gets done efficiently. She champions "inclusion," and she calls herself a "data driven creative." She loves coming up with new ideas to solve problems and is very organized. If elected, she looks forward to the opportunity to help support and improve collaborations between parents and teachers at Lester.
- Candidate 2: Julia Mazurek - Julia is the mom to two current Leopards, Nicholas, a 6th grader, and Theo, 1st grader, and one former Leopard, Luke, an 8th grader. She has nearly 9 years of being a Lester parent and another 4 to go, offering a unique perspective. Julia started off her volunteership with Lester with the Lester Community Playground Committee in 2019. As that wrapped up, the pandemic hit. What started as an inquiry to the PTA on the challenging year ahead, eventually led to a PTA board position the following year. As VP of Communications, Julia introduced a PTA survey to generate parent and teacher feedback; the results led to actionable recommendations on what the PTA does and how it does it. She also overhauled the PTA weekly eBlast newsletter and the PTA website to improve the communication to Lester parents. As the current VP of Fundraising, in collaboration with 3 other dynamo Lester moms, she helped to overhaul the sponsorship program. This was a huge undertaking which resulted in more impact for Lester's generous sponsors, a more efficient and effective effort for the volunteers, and most importantly, more funds to invest in programs for Lester students. Her "day job" of VP of Fundraising is co-chairing the Fun Run alongside Katie Frick. Together they introduced many new elements at this year's race, continually seeking ways to improve the event. These experiences set up an opportunity to make a positive impact as PTA President.
- Budget presentation and any questions



- We are presenting our Draft 2024/2025 Budget tonight.
- We have proposed reducing a number of budget lines to bring our spending in line with our anticipated fundraising for next year. Some notable reductions include reducing the PE and Library budgets to be in line with the other Specials, reducing the number of PTA-funded assemblies next year, reducing the overall PTA-funded field trip budget, no purchasing or subsidizing of yearbooks (other than for F&R students), and reducing the number of scholarships we will be offering to Lester alumni. In many cases, we have merely returned funding to our pre-COVID levels now that we have spent the remaining budget surplus from those years.
- The final budget will be voted on and approved at the final meeting of the year - May 15th. If there is any discussion or questions in the next month please don't hesitate to reach out to treasurer@lesterpta.com.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:07 pm

Please visit the Lester PTA website:

<http://www.lesterpta.com>