



LESTER PTA MEETING MINUTES

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

Location: Zoom

Call to Order (Kristen Wiklund): Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

Secretary's Report (Sara Schad covering for absence of Jackie Szalanski):

- Request to approve minutes of [Lester PTA 11.30.23 Meeting Minutes - Google Docs](#)
- Meeting minutes were approved.

President's Report (Kristen Wiklund):

- Ben's Bubble Show Assembly 12/21 was a success. Kids really enjoyed the bubble assembly; may explore going back to more interactive assemblies. Teacher feedback - kids perception was that it may have been too long, although they did like it. Game show and weather were also big hits.
- Chicago Boyz Athletic Team is officially booked for the last assembly of the year.
- Kona ice truck is reserved for end of year.
- After school clubs are underway for the winter/spring. We are happy to offer 3 days including Language Labs, Science Club and Chess Club. If you would like to get involved we need an after school club Chair for next school year!
- This is a leap year - presented the idea of hiding frogs throughout the school as something fun for the kids. Mrs. Novosel approved this idea.
- All area PTA's are also following the district's request to not have gender-specific special person events. Schools have shifted to events for students to choose between two events and bring any special person.
- Shared ideas for a Penny Wars fundraiser with the students.

Treasurer's Report (Liz Banaszak):

- Please find attached the January 2024 Treasurer's Report and Budget to Actual Report
- The Executive Committee met in December to draft a Proposed Revised Budget (attached), we are circulating a copy today and plan to hold a vote at the next PTA meeting on February 22
- Please submit any outstanding receipts for reimbursement to treasurer@lesterpta.com

President-Elect (Sara Schad):

- No report.

VP Membership (Bonnie Glass & Sara Schad):

- 270 Total Members - 238 families and 32 staff



VP Fundraising Report (Kara Gordon & Julia Mazurek):

- Winter Fundraiser tickets went live on Wed 1/17; event is sold out.
- Anticipating \$2,000 from 4 sponsors for 2nd installment sponsorship dues
- Ensure (2) PTA Sponsor Banners are displayed at the following upcoming PTA events:
 - Family Reading Night - Wed2/28 - A.Hassan
 - Book Fair - Date? - S.Musselman, K.Kadlec
- Committee leads for Platinum Plus events & Fundraising team must connect for Presenting Sponsor signage/benefits:
 - Science Olympiad (Sponsor: MGFS) - Tues 3/5 - A.Erickson, K.Wiklund, S.Schad
 - Sweetheart Dance (Sponsor: Whittaker Pelhank Group) - Fri 4/19 - S.Matesi, S.Slocum
 - Kickball Event (Sponsor: Whittaker Pelhank Group) - Date? Chairs?
 - Expressions Art Show (Sponsor: George Bagley LLC) - Date? T.Nammari
 - 6th Grade Party (Sponsor: Zach Frasier Ortho) - Date? A.Karawan, S.Matesi, K.O'Donnell, S.Slocum

VP Programs' Report (Angie Erickson):

- We need a new committee leader or co-chairs After School Clubs for next year.

VP Communications Report (Kristen Avery):

- No report

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

- Thank you for treats before winter break... this helped keep the teachers and staff fueled during the final days before break.
- Safety presentations in the classrooms with Mrs. Novosel and Mrs. Smith.
- MAP testing almost complete.
- Debrief from amazing e-learning days. Seamless instruction in all classrooms.
- Signups for parent-teacher conferences are now live - conferences begin next week.

Teachers' Report

- Mrs. Snyder - thank you for all support from the PTA. Exciting field trip in December - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Thank you! It was amazing. Thank you cards were sent to the PTA.
- Mrs. Salisbury - 6th grade - Thank you for the holiday gifts.

Committee Reports:



- After School Clubs - We need a new committee leader or co-chairs for next year.
- Cub Club - New co-chairs for next year Abby DeMong and Katie Ley
- Expressions Art Show -
- The Book Fair - February 5-9; second week of parent/ teacher conferences. Students will look at books during the school day but they do not shop during this time. Book fair will be open afterschool during the week. Volunteers are needed throughout the process of the book fair, from set up to take down.
- Family Reading Night - Tentative date has been set for Wednesday, February 28th at 6:30PM. More details to come!
- Fun lunch - additional volunteers are needed for tomorrow.
- Ice Cream Social - No report
- Kickball Event (to replace Midway with my Main Squeeze) - A Kickball tournament will be held on May 10th at Washington Park from 4-8. More details to come!
- Room Parent Coordinator/Class Ambassador - Emails will go out soon to solicit items from families for the Winter Fundraiser.
- School Supplies - We are looking for a new chair for this committee for 24-25 school year. The current chairs will train and help you through the transition!
- Science Olympiad - The date is Mar 5, 2024 6:30-8:00pm. More information and sign up sheets will be coming soon. LOTS of opportunities to volunteer!
- Spirit Wear - In person event sales: Sweetheart dance? Kickball Tournament? Family Reading Night.
- Sweetheart Dance - Dance will be held in the Herrick cafeteria April 19 6:30-8:30. More details coming soon!
- Winter Fundraiser
 - Tickets went on sale yesterday, 1/17 and **SOLD OUT** by the end of the night! 🥳
 - **Experiences:** These events would not be possible without the generous support of our host families! We are looking for families that are interested in hosting experiences. If you or anyone you know would be interested please have them email winterfundraiser@lesterpta.com. Ideally, we'd like to have all experiences locked in by February 2, but that's not to say we wouldn't accept any confirmed after that date. We just need enough time to be able to finalize dates and descriptions.
 - Experiences are 100% funded by the Experience host families; the PTA does not fund any experiences. 100% of the money raised from the experiences goes back to the students and school.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:



- New Proposed Budget. Due to projected spending the executive board met and scrubbed every line item to find some budget favorability and we are proposing the attached budget to finish out the 2023-2024 school year.
- Major Changes and highlights:
 - Lowered Anticipated Fun Lunch Expenses. This is a result of updated calculations and does not in any way effect the funding for fun lunch by the PTA for children who need it.
 - Increased costs for the PTA funded portion of the 6th grad yearbook. This is primarily due to larger class sizes. This will be evaluated and taken into account for future years.
 - Decrease to family reading night budget due to holding only 1 for this school year.
 - Elimination of One Book One School. Will re-evaluate for future years.
 - Elimination of the teacher grant and supply refresh for the year
 - Elimination of the award winning and reading games book purchases for this year.
 - Lowered assembly and guest speaker costs based upon actual anticipated spending.
 - Lowered budgets for Teacher Appreciation and Teacher Hospitality. The plan would be to solicit help from parents for snacks, etc.
 - Lowered annual scholarship amounts to provide 3 vs. 7 for this year.
 - Lowered cub club/class ambassador due to actual spending
 - Lowered funding for free and reduced snacks due to actual spending trends. Note that funding for fun lunch for these students is included in the fun lunch budget.
 - Lowered office supplies and postage due to actual spending.

Meeting adjourned at:

Meeting adjourned at 7:18PM.

Please visit the Lester PTA website:

<http://www.lesterpta.com>