

May 4, 2020 Louise Archer PTA Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual

Call to Order at 8:04 pm

- **Principals Report**

- It's been great seeing all of the children online. The teachers have been working making the meeting time meaningful. They are now meeting for 1 hour in the morning and have office hours in the afternoon to connect.
- Special thanks to Mrs. Condra for working with the teachers to incorporate specials into the schedule.
- The teachers should be sending an email at least once a week providing information about the classes and offering additional activities.
- The school building is still closed. We understand that the students have many items left behind, but we currently do not have information about when we can re-open the school to pick up items.
- So far we've only been able to allow a small group of teachers 10 minutes to quickly grab a few items that would help with their distance learning.
- We are also thinking about the end of the school year and trying to come up with ideas to celebrate. Especially celebrate the 6th grade class for moving onto middle school.
- We are also thinking about next year, but cannot make any plans until we have more guidance from the county.
- As in year's past we will have the input survey available to parent feedback. The link will be sent in Friday's News You Choose and posted to the website. It will be up for about a week and a half.
- The renovation is still in the planning phase. The plans are being developed and in the next few months we plan to have a sit down to see the design and suggestions. We still plan on have the community provide input, but we don't have details as to when that will happen.
- Teacher Appreciation Week: thank you for all the teacher appreciations today. We loved seeing the chalk drawings and a special thank you to Mrs. Condra for coordinating the "Heroes Work Here" lawn art. It really brighten the teachers and staff's spirits.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Donations were down, primarily because we starting providing memberships as part of the donation packages.
- Fortunately our fundraising efforts were completed before the schools closed. To date, our fundraising income is down a \$2800. This is primarily due to the LA5K bringing in

- \$3200 less than last year since the cost for running the race cost more. Pizza Bingo/ Silent Auction made more money and so made up for some of the losses.
- Before and After School costs increase, primarily because last year's bills were paid this year which is a timing issue. Most partial refunds as a result of the closings have been processed. There might be a few that have not been refunded yet.
 - As a result of the closings, our student support costs are down.
 - Overall we will have a small loss, but not as much as what we budgeted.

- **President's Report and Program Announcements**

- **Vote on Treasurer and Secretary Positions:** Alice Suh was nominated for a second term as Secretary and Cathy Chen was nominated to replace Roger as Treasurer. The motion was voted on and passed.
- **Giant Gift Cards** – As many of you know we've been collecting gift cards and encouraging the community to donate to Belong! To help support our students that need food assistance while the schools are closed. Since we have extra funds in the Azzarra fund, we will be giving a donation for gift cards to support Louise Archer students that would normally get food for the weekend from the Louise Archer pantry.
- **LA5K** – given the uncertainty of how things will reopen, we were thinking of changing the LA5K fundraiser to a virtual Run-A-Thon fundraiser. An idea is for the students run independently during a weekend and record their time. Perhaps to raise more money, the students could get sponsored by friends and family for the run. We would still pass out t-shirts to the runners and would encourage parents to post pictures and results on the Facebook page. We are still looking for co-chairs for this, so this is a chance to re-make the program!
- **Teacher Appreciation** – Thank you to everyone who's participated in today's chalk your walk for the kick off of Teacher Appreciation week. Tuesday, we will be encouraging the students to wear their spirit wear or class shirts and on Wednesday, the room parents will be providing gift cards to treat the teachers to lunch. The PTA will be coordinating the gift cards for those teachers and staff that do not have a room parent. Thursday we will have our annual Louise Archer Bingo drawing. We will post a Facebook live to the Louise Archer Facebook page starting at 12:00 pm. Thank you to the room parents for coordinating the gift cards to fill the Bingo board, and thanks to all the parents who provided extra gift cards or donations to fill the rest of the board.
- **Sunshine Times** – we are now accepting entries for the Spring edition of the Sunshine Times, which will be electronic only this time. Please submit your poetry, articles, short stories, recipes, comics, art, etc. to Sunshinetimes@louisearcherpta.org by May 7th at 8 pm.
- **6th Grade Celebration** – While the traditional 6th Grade celebration has been canceled, we are working on alternative plans. We are still planning on passing out the 6th Grade T-shirts to all the 6th Grade students and hope to have a little sendoff celebration once we

- see where things go. We are also working on the slide show and hope to show it during this celebration. We will find a way to share the slide show with all the students. The 6th Grade gift has already been purchased thanks to the help of the PTA, which included mice for the computer lab and games for the school. Based on the contributions so far, we are confident we will be able to pay the PTA back.
- We have many Open Positions for 2020-2021 school year. If you are interested in any position or have a suggestion for someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to Kristin, Regan, or Alice.

 - **LA5K:** We need 2 co-chairs for the virtual LA5K. This should be a lot simpler than year's past since we don't need to coordinate the route, police, or school availability.
 - **LA5K Fundraising Support:** Our current LA5K fundraising chair will be continuing on next year, but needs help tracking and the collecting checks.
 - **Before and After School Programs:** We are looking for 2 more chairs for the Before and After School Activities team. Volunteers to either help organize some of the activities, and/or someone who is near the school from 4-5pm who can help with some of the day to day when needed. For example, when one of the vendors cancels a class or just doesn't show up, and we need to help the school get the word out and get kids home etc.
 - **Yearbook:** We need one more co-chair to join the yearbook committee.
 - **Field Day:** One of our two field day coordinator's will be leaving after this year, so we are looking for one person to join the team. The main duty will be managing the ice for the event. This involves contacting Madison before the event and arranging a couple of pickups throughout the day.
 - **Walk to School/Safe Routes:** We are looking for someone to help and shadow the current walk to school chair. So if you have younger kids and like to walk to school, this job is perfect for you!
 - **LA Runners:** Do you like running? This is the last year for our LA Runner's chair so we need someone to take over next year if we want the club to continue.
 - **Garden Club:** Since our current chair did a fabulous job getting Weiler's to sponsor our school garden the garden club chair position is easy peasy. We just need a PTA liaison to continue the relationship and communicate any needs between the school and our sponsor.
 - **School Supplies:** We need a chair or two to help coordinate supply distribution in August and ordering in the spring.
 - **Reflections:** One of our two co-chairs will be continuing, so we are seeking one person to help run this program that encourages students to express their creativity. Commitment is primarily from September – November with updates in the Spring if any LA students progresses to higher levels.

- **Picture Day Coordinator:** We will need a picture day coordinate for next year. This person helps confirm the room is set up and coordinates the volunteers who help pass out the picture cards and manages the lines.
- **Facebook admin:** We need a volunteer to help manage the Facebook page. This person would monitor the content and approve members. Book Swap
- Box tops have slowed down considerably. Please remember to scan in your receipts within two weeks of purchase.

- **Question and Answer Section**

- Q: Is there any news about summer or fall schooling approach or scheduling?
- A: At this time we do not have any information. We are getting the news when you all are.

- Q: Do we know how testing in the fall will be impacted?
- A: Unfortunately we have no information about testing. The group that manages the tests has not providing any information about the fall tests.

- Q: Would you consider pushing Highroads to the spring?
- A: We have thought about some options, but cannot make any decisions and won't know how we proceed until we have guidance from the county on school events.

- Q: Can you share more about the grading system?
- A: Fortunately most of the 3rd quarter was complete before the closings, so we will have 3rd quarter grades, but there will be no 4th quarter grades.

- Q: How will it be decided which 6th graders will be eligible for Algebra 1 in MS vs. Math Honors
- A: More information should be forthcoming about Algebra 1 vs. Math 7 Honors. There hasn't been a decision made at this point. We will certainly let you know when we know more.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm