

September 9, 2020 Louise Archer PTA Meeting Minutes

Call to Order 8:03 PM

Principal's Report

- It's been a very busy summer. And it showed through yesterday with the virtual start. We had a great start to virtual learning! On the first day only 12 students did not sign into virtual school and today only 6, so to us that's a huge success to be able to get kids online.
- Some of the things we've done include making the connections right away with the 10 minute meet up. And continuing some familiar things like morning announcements on LATV and morning meeting.
- We've also put into place interactive online tools including Pear Deck and Padlett which some teachers are already using.
- Technology support has been a huge piece of getting ready. We've distributed close to 350 laptops. Our technology support has been working tirelessly to help you. The volume for Tech support from the county has been huge and our number one priority is to get the students into the classroom.
- We are working on an opportunity for students to pickup books from the library. We hope to start that at the end of September.
- In the every other week news you choose, we will highlight new information, reminders, and other highlights.
- The school did shrink this year. Last year we ended with 570 students, and this year we started with 530 students.
- Back to school night is 9/24 in the evening 5:30-7:00 pm. It will be recorded for access later if you can't attend. Teachers will be sharing routines, and other information at that time.

Assistant Principal's comments

- Welcome! Our teachers were so happy to see the kids, and were so excited to share and be with the students. Everyone has worked so hard to make the experience great. We are trying to get into each virtual classrooms and we plan on doing virtual birthday celebrations every few weeks starting with this Friday. If you have other questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a teacher.

Treasurer's Report

- **Audit**

- The Audit committee met on July 22nd over Zoom, which was allowed by the guidelines this year. We were able to review everything thanks to Roger sharing documents electronically and dropping off materials at committee members houses for review. There were somethings different such as many community events being canceled due to the pandemic, but everything lined up, and we were able to pass the audit with no material issues. The biggest issue was separating online transactions such as membership vs donations. This issues has been fixed for the upcoming school year.
- The Audit report was voted on and passed.

- **2020-21 Budget**

- The Executive Team met over the summer to discuss the budget for the new school year. We did reach out to all of the chairs to see what their programs will need, but there are a lot of unknowns, especially with fundraising and expenses. In the end we kept the budget relatively similar to last year.
- While fundraisers are relatively the same, we did decrease the income and expenses for LA5K because it's going virtual. We took out field trip expenses, since they are canceled for the year. We are also not sure of the plans of the community events this year and we set aside \$4,000 for Covid-19 related needs for the school.
- Similar to last year, we included \$3,700 for licenses, of which \$1,500 will be used for Pear Deck.
- The budget also includes a \$4,000 COVID reserve fund for any new/unexpected expenses/resources/supplies the school might need due to COVID.
- The budget includes \$100 for teachers and staff to use for supplies.
- Our cash balance was \$42k at the end of the audit and now closer to \$45k due to membership and donations within the last few weeks.
- This detail and summary will be uploaded to the LAPTA website.
- The 2020-2021 LAPTA Budget was voted on and passed.

President's Report & Program Announcements

- Welcome everyone to the school year. If you do not get the Sunbeam please go to the LAPTA website to sign up. Our first one was sent this past Sunday. We want the PTA to be a resource to you, and we are trying to brainstorm ways to engage the community this year. We are looking for ideas for the students to connect and would love for our members to share their ideas. We are also always looking for people to help with events. If you're interested in a committee please reach out to us. We'd love more parents involved in our programs and events.
- **Membership**
 - It is time to join/re-join the PTA. Please go to the PTA website to purchase an individual or couples membership. And while you there, also please consider donating! Every donation, large or small, makes a big difference. Please help in any way you can.
 - Note: only the Family Cheerleader level includes a couples membership. You still need to add an individual or couples membership in addition to the other donations levels.
 - Also, if you choose to be a Family Cheerleader, you can get your family name on the LA5K t-shirt! (Just make sure to purchase the Family Cheerleader level by Oct 2nd)
- **LATV Announcements**
 - Ms. Simpson is happy to include PTA announcements on LATV. Please email her at least a few days in advance to get your PTA announcement read during morning announcements. The announcements are prerecorded so she needs know in advance to have an announcement made on a particular day.
- **Teacher Appreciation**
 - Thank you to everyone who donated to stock the fridge, the teachers really loved it.
 - Teachers will be doing another push for room parent, so please think about if you can help with your class and volunteer.
- **Amazon smile**
 - Don't forget to mark the Louise Archer PTA as your Amazon Smile donation site. Instructions will be sent via the Sunbeam and posted to the Facebook page.

- **LA5K**

- We are planning a Virtual LA5K for October 24th.
- Since the 5K is virtual, we will be lowering the cost this year to \$10 for child and \$15 for adult. Everyone who registers by the deadline will get a LA5K t-shirt.
- There will be more on the website in the next few days.
- We will be asking students to submit artwork for the t-shirt and the signs and will have a committee meet to vote on the t-shirt design.
- We will have several different routes to choose from. And plan to have signs at our sponsors' locations so participants can take pictures along the way.
- We will still have award and swag bags although they may be different this year.
- We will try to do a warmup video on Facebook.
- Most importantly since it's virtual this year, people can do it on their own time and won't have to worry about sports conflicts.

- **Reflections**

- We are really excited we can continue this program and working with the county to make it all digital submissions.
- Reflections is a national arts competition where students can create original works in various art media. We have more updates coming, especially in the visual arts category, but it will be photos instead of physically art submissions this year.
- We think it's a great way for extra enrichment during some down time and encourage all students to participate. The theme this year is "I Matter Because"
- Submissions are due October 14th and the reception will be virtual. We will still have a reception to recognizing each student by name, and provide awards and treats so we all have a way to celebrate with our families. Please feel free to email the chairs if you have questions.

- **Sunshine Times**

- We will be having a digital paper this year. Leslie will be sending notifications and we will advertise on LATV, so everyone should get plenty of notice. Our first deadline will be January 19th, and then we will have it available at the end of January or the beginning of February. After that, the next deadline for the spring paper will be April 30th.

- You can view past copies on the PTA website.
- **Box Tops**
 - Box Tops is a free program, all you need to do is set up an account and scan your receipts for qualifying purchases and the money goes automatically to Louise Archer. Instructions on how to use the App are on the PTA website.
- **Spirit Wear**
 - LAES Spirit Wear free shipping goes until September 14th. Go to www.louisearcherspiritwear.com to see all 18 updated logo designs and plenty of new color and style options including facemasks! available for you and your loved ones. Let's show some school spirit!

The President also noted that the PTA calendar will be posted to the website and then adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM