

November 16, 2020 Louise Archer PTA Meeting Minutes

Call to Order 8:07 pm

Principal's Report

- Cohort 5 is on pause due to health metrics that came out today. One of the metrics was not met, so there is a pause and new cohorts or groups cannot begin in-person attendance. Possible return to school for cohort 5 will be re-evaluated on November 30.
- There are about 15 students that are in the building now; they will remain in-person for now.
- Updates on cohorts 5 and 6:
 - Cohort 5 – kindergarteners as well as some special education students and ESOL students; group 5 will add about 35 students to the building; there are 2 kindergarten classes.
 - Cohort 6 – first and second grade; group 6 will add about 50 more students; current start date is December 8.
 - Emails have gone out to parents of first and second grade students regarding class placements today (Nov. 16); families with students going into the building are getting additional information regarding safe return to school.
 - The cohorts do not mix. For example, adults will go into a classroom for specials instead of students leaving their classroom.
 - Both in-person and virtual student will use the same specials schedule.
- Grades 3-6 – expect return in January 2021
 - There is a pause for now on planning for additional grades 3-6 specials, such as strings and band.
 - The planning for grades 3-6 placements is paused due to planning for younger grades. It is more complex due to more classrooms and teachers. The planning will likely happen in December. Once everything is in line as far as teacher needs and groupings, then the school will reach out to families.
- Thanksgiving break
 - Thankful for school, community, and health; please feel free to thank the teachers.
 - Bell schedule – the current bell schedule will not change for now. However, it will change when junior high and high school students begin due to transportation needs.
- Future possible changes to family choice of virtual and in-person
 - Due to the preparation of classes for virtual and in-person classes, it is more challenging to change from virtual to in-person due to allotting the number of students per day in each classroom. If families selected virtual, then they will remain virtual for 100% of the time the rest of the year.
- Instructional aides and monitors for concurrent model – The goal is to provide support to teachers during the transition to a concurrent model. There will be front-loaded support for the younger grades, but the support may not be available for the entire year. Monitors

are additional adults that will help in the classrooms or monitor classrooms when teachers need to remain virtual.

- As the plan for return to school develops, the school will try to reach out to families where teachers have a need to remain virtual and there will be an adult monitor in the classroom.
- Questions and concerns – school administration is available to answer questions.

Treasurer's Report

- Membership and donations received through end-Oct is \$8,246; which is about 25% less compared to this point last year.
- The LA 5K in October raised \$5,885, which includes \$2,700 from sponsors and \$3,185 in registration fees. This does not include about \$3500 from family cheerleader donations.
- The only student program is currently MathCounts. The large difference in student programs is primarily due to the cancellation of camps this past summer. If we adjust for student programs, we are on track budget-wise.
- The PTA helped the school pay for additional educational licenses and reimbursed teachers for school-related expenses.
- Our cash balance is nearly \$51,000.

President's Report & Program Announcements

- **LA5k**
 - Thank you to Shannon and Erin for all of their hard work on the LA5k.
 - Update from Shannon –
 - There was a lot of participation and photos. Over 200 individuals signed up for the race.
 - Thank you to everyone who signed up and sent pictures.
- **Secretary Vote**
 - Lynde Herzbach as the new PTA Secretary was voted on and passed.
- **Dining for Dollars today at Chipotle.**
- **Reflections** – virtual ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 19 (update from Lisa)
 - There are 55 entries this year.
 - Packets for the virtual reception were available for pick up today.
 - Thank you to Karen and Preeti for putting the packets together.
- **Yearbook**
 - The cover contest was announced on the PTA facebook page. This year's theme is Spread a Little Sunshine.
- **Membership**
 - There is a continued need for families to join/re-join the PTA. Please go to the PTA website to purchase an individual or couples membership.

- Membership is down about 25% this year, which is not surprising given the pandemic and decreased enrollment numbers.
- **Amazon Smile** – fundraiser for Louise Archer PTA (update from Regan)
 - Make sure your Amazon account is linked to donate to the Louise Archer PTA. There are instructions on how to link your account on the PTA facebook page and website.
- **PTA events** – There is now an opportunity for pick-up events and outdoor events at the school, with permission.
 - The PTA is currently looking for community involvement ideas. Any ideas will need to comply with small group restrictions and mask use.
 - Email Kristin or the PTA for community building activities.
- **Sunshine Committee** (update from Allyson)
 - The Sunshine Committee continues to deliver e-gift cards for teachers for their birthdays. The Committee is also working on how to provide gifts for transportation and other groups in the school.
 - The Committee continues to look for new, fun gift items, such as towels with sunshine graphics and baby gifts.
 - E-scrip: Allyson presented information regarding E-scrip, which is a program to earn rewards from purchasing gift cards. There is about an 8% return. For example, Chipotle participates in the program and provides a 10% return for gift cards. There is an app, where users can upload purchases electronically to earn rewards.
 - E-scrip is something the PTA, room parents, and families could use to earn additional funds for the PTA. One example school earned \$10,000 dollars.
 - Allyson will post more information on the PTA facebook page.
- **Mini-Grants** (update from Sarah)
 - The Mini-Grants committee is looking for additional members to join, and also welcomes those who are interested in learning more about what the program does.
 - The committee is currently getting requests from teachers. Sarah is hoping to have a call soon to review the teacher requests and work towards granting the first round of mini-grants. The current teacher requests include a mix of books, ESOL materials, and other items.
- **School photos** (update from Michelle) – For now, Michelle has asked for the school photo representative to wait until spring, when hopefully there will be additional students in the building.

Meeting adjourned 8:57 pm