

September 14, 2021 - PTA Meeting Minutes

Call to order 8:03 pm

Principal's Report

- It is wonderful to have everyone back. The school has implemented layered mitigation strategies, including mask wearing and social distancing.
- Some mitigation strategies have been adapted, including desk arrangements to allow 3 feet of space wherever possible. For lunch, there is a tent that is used for some students for lunch. Different classes will rotate through having lunch in the tent on a weekly basis. There are anywhere from 5-6 classes outside at a time. The school expects that each class will rotate through every 3-4 weeks. Also, plexiglas was placed in middle of the cafeteria tables at lunch.
- Goal now is to complete some assessments and to see where the kids are, so over the course of the next few weeks there will be some different assessments. The assessments will be worked into the usual school day. Depending on the grade level, there will be more communication about testing, but feel free to reach out with questions. Some tests are new, but others are same assessments from previous years.
- Thank you to the parents for behind the scenes, and for keeping kids home when needed. Also, thank you for keeping the school informed as to a student's symptoms, which helps a lot.

Treasurer's Report

- 2021-22 Budget review
 - Some budget estimates are based on the last time the PTA had in-person events
 - Approved budget will be available on the PTA website
- The 2021-22 budget was voted on and approved.

President's Report & Program Announcements

- **Beginning of school year** – Thank you to all of the continuing and new volunteers.
- **Join the PTA** – there are different membership levels available; join at the Louise Archer PTA website, which is <https://louisearcherpta.org/>
- **Shadow needed for Sunshine Times** –

- We are looking for a volunteer to “shadow” the Sunshine Times external operations during the 21-22 school year and then to take over these operations during the 22-23 school year. This role is currently held by the parent of a sixth grader.
- The Sunshine Times is a newspaper published in the late winter and mid-spring to highlight student writing and artwork. Currently, two PTA parents work together to publish the newspaper. The operation is broken into two components: 1) external operations—advertising the dates for student submissions, collecting and organizing the entries, writing students’ thank you notes, and distributing the newspaper to students and teachers and 2) design and publication—graphic design/newspaper layout and printing.
- LAES is extremely lucky that our graphic designer will be staying on for the next few years.
- Please let us know if you are interested in shadowing the external operations position. Time commitment is minimal—about 3 to 5 hours per publication.

[post-meeting update – we have a volunteer for the shadow now, thank you!]

- **Amazon smile loyalty program** – the PTA has received generous donations due to members choosing the Louise Archer PTA as their charity of choice on both the smile.amazon.com website and the amazon app. Don’t forget to add the Louise Archer PTA to your amazon app! It’s easy, first choose the three parallel bars at the bottom right to open the settings menu, then under the “Gifting & Charity” menu heading, select Amazon Smile. On the next page, you can search for and choose the Louise Archer Elementary PTA.
- **Spirit Wear** – From Friday, September 24th to Monday, October 11th there will be free shipping on all orders. It is a great way to show your Louise Archer spirit, and earn additional funds for the school.
- **Covid update and Sunbeam/Facebook/Website** – the PTA is excited to start planning activities again, but we need to be flexible given any changing or unexpected situations. It is important to sign up for the Sunbeam newsletter, which is sent out weekly – sign up on the PTA website (specifically, <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/aIfInPp>) There are also frequent announcements on the Louise Archer PTA website and facebook page.

Before/After School Activities and Building Use Requests

- Registration is open but closes on Wednesday. There are quite a few students that are signing up.

Reflections

- Reflections is a National PTA arts competition with visual arts, music, writing, dance choreography, and more. There has been great participation in the past.
- Deadline is October 13
- All submissions will be all virtual
- Forms and information on the PTA website and facebook
- Ceremony may be in-person, but the back-up option is a virtual ceremony, which was done last year

Dining for Dollars

- Kicked off last week at Ritas
- Next dining for dollars is Thursday, Sept. 30 at Social Burger

Louise Archer 5K

- Moved to a virtual option, there will be several routes suggested
- Sat., Oct. 16

Vienna Foodies Initiative at Louise Archer

- LAES PTA partnered with Vienna Foods
- First goal for September meal was reached via go fund me

Two new types of testing

- Social emotional testing – flyer went home to opt child out
- Virginia growth assessment – short Sol type questions, about 30 minutes, for language arts and math, but not the extent of the SOL; only grades 3-6

Additional Questions from Members:

Snacks - The school is trying to not have snacks currently to mitigate risk and have reduced time without mask. The feedback from teachers is that students are doing okay. There is also breakfast first thing that is free to all students. If there are specific situations, please reach out to the teacher. Many kids are eating better at lunch now. Goal is not to have punitive decision, it was to reduce risk. It also limits needs for contact tracing to limit the time without masks.

Cafeteria – The tent will be used for some classes during lunch on a rotating schedule. There are only 2-4 students on one side of each table, and there is Plexiglas in the middle. LAES has one tent but is not looking to add another tent. Right now, there are six classes outside for lunch, which reduces the number of students in the cafeteria. Facilities and maintenance stated that having an air purifier in the cafeteria is not recommended due to the size of the space. Parents have donated or provided air purifiers in certain classrooms. The school is hopeful that donation and support will continue, especially for filters and upkeep of the filters.

Classroom windows - Teachers were reminded it is possible to open windows but the heat has not allowed for it. However, the facilities report stated it was not necessarily recommended or needed for air quality. If any parent wants a copy of the facilities report, please email Michelle.

Call meeting to close – 8:43 pm