

Lafayette Elementary



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2011-2012 Board Meeting Minutes

23 August 2011: 6:30-8:00 pm

Name	Role	Present	Name	Role	Present
Mary Wilkie	President	x	David Ziegert	Watch DOGS	
Stephanie Jackman	Principal	x	Mandy Brandish	Community Chair	
Lisa Chinnery	VP	x	Debra McCloskey	Green Team Chair	x
Wendi Hinrichs	Treasurer	x	Shayna Whitehouse	Membership Chair	x
Suzanne Hoagland	Secretary	x	Annette Gruba	Financial Co-Chair	x
Sue Grant	Teacher	x	Michelle Killpack	Financial Co-Chair	x
Steve Lohn	Teacher	x	Pam Ziegert	Communication Chair	x
John Meere	Teacher	x	Sheri Goodman	Copies	x
Renee Christofferson	Teacher	x	Debbi Serke	DPC Council Chair	x
Karen Mackie	Teacher	x	Allison Remund	member	x
Laura Hendrikson	Teacher	x	Linda Blaustein	member	x

Welcome

Review of Standing Rules - Mary

- discourse in meetings should be positive; good example for our kids & just makes sense
- come to Mary if you need help with communication with others, or if you are struggling with anything

Review of Organization Chart with introductions - Mary

- reviewed standing org chart, introduced people in Board roles
- proposed changes to org chart
 - 1 VP position is eradicated
 - moved Communications Chair and Classroom Reps under Secretary, as they are roles concerned with communication
 - moved Membership under Treasurer, as this is a role that brings in money

First Order of Business

Secretary Election Vote - Mary

- Suzanne Hoagland is running for position of Secretary unopposed
- Deb McCloskey made a motion to elect Suzanne
- Lisa Chinnery seconded the motion
- vote was unanimous in favor of electing Suzanne for Secretary

Second Order of Business

Adoption of proposed Organization Chart - Mary

- Annette Gruba made a motion to approve the adoption of the proposed Org Chart
- Pam Ziegert seconded the motion
- vote was unanimous in favor of adoption

Committee Reports

Review of new membership policies and incentives - Shayna

- encouraging higher membership numbers this year through more advertising at Family Events, Friday Folders, classroom incentives (February classroom challenge)
- goals to educate people on what PTA funds do, get more people involved
- offering discounts on Cougar Wear and Yearbooks
- all paid PTA members are welcome to attend (and vote at) the Board meetings; this is a national policy
- How do we get more teachers to join...?
 - suggestions to give big discounts on Cougar Wear
 - ask teachers in-person with the sign-up in-hand
 - Stephanie suggested we bring envelopes to ask staff & teachers during Parent-Teacher Conferences when parents are providing food
 - Sue added that making small signs stating that the parent-provided dinner was sponsored by PTA

Cougar Wear - Annette

- Ann Corson new Cougar Wear Coordinator
- there are several new pieces of clothing, such as fleece-wear and sweatpants
- we sold a lot of existing Cougar Wear at Back-to-School Night
- car magnets are now on sale at \$3 each (will be added to the CW order forms)
- order forms coming out with PTA newsletter on September 9th

Green Team - Deb

- in addition to running Green Team, will run Garden-to-Table this year
- met with Stephanie with regard to being a zero waste school
 - we are still making as much trash as before our recycling and composting efforts
 - need to make all people know about our lending closet (will use Classroom Reps to help with the awareness)
 - trying to figure out some incentive for kids to use the system well
 - thinking of having 4/5th grade monitors
 - want to better educate parents, i.e. that plastic wrap is bad
 - suggest that grade level newsletters educate parents on some of the worst trash makers; as well as the cost benefits of buying in bulk
 - suggest that someone make a blurb that others can use in their communications to parents
 - Bryce from the Growe Foundation will be here Friday at 2:40 to talk about lesson plans for the gardens for when the in-class curriculum happens; need more parent volunteers

Watch D.O.G.S. - Pam

- David (Pam's husband) is leading the program for the first year; he is the 'Top Dog'
- Date for pizza party - September 8 (Thursday) at 5:30 - 7pm
- David talked to a lot of interested dads at Back to School Night

- 3rd year of program at LES

All Cultures - Mary

- working with Stephanie & committee to redefine what All-Cultures Night looks like
- event has been too large for both safety and comfort
- had a committee meeting to look at what the goal is: came up with 'your community is your culture'; would like kids/families to feel that school is part of their community
- classroom figures out what 'culture' they can highlight with current curriculum
- might have 1 set of performances that repeats for families to rotate into
- food is important: discussed having a 'taste' of culture; considering having it catered
- please let Mary know if you want to join the committee to further discuss this important tradition at LES

Fundraising - Annette, Michelle

- upcoming events
 - Oct 5 - Jog-A-Thon
 - mid Oct - Original Works (still TBD)
- basket in classroom for PTA business
 - for Jog-A-Thon and Original Works, it would make a lot of sense to provide collection baskets for the orders/pledge forms that come back and forth
 - Sue suggests that we send out an all-staff email to nudge teachers to put out their baskets for incoming materials
 - Stephanie says she can send out a TWAG (communication to teachers every 2 weeks) to remind teachers
- putting more energy into Box Tops and Campbell Soup label collection (made \$700 last year) → will have an ice cream party for classroom who had the most
 - Allison Remund commented that her previous school was one of the highest Box Top money earners and that she'd be happy to share some of their practices
- Race for the Cause - half of all money raised/donated goes to PTA → next race is September 3 in afternoon (Sue Grant, a few other teachers & parents regularly do this)
- King Soopers grocery cards program is going well → Cindy has already handed out 50 cards this new year
- suggestion that we learn about Target's money-back incentives to schools

Financial Report - Wendi

- budget committee met several times at end of year
- audit committee met in July & we are balanced to the penny
- made money this Summer (\$1400) on grocery certificate
- made money on Cougar Wear at Back to School Night
- money in budget to pay for for Tax Accountant with experience with Non-Profits → would like to find someone at LES if possible
- reviewed budget handout
 - goal is to make \$30k of income; handout reports income prior to expenses
 - clarified that Calypso sound system is a one-time expense to build out a communication system in each classroom (projects teacher's voice)
 - added some money to help supplement volunteer background checks (volunteers are now required to pay for this expense)

- Sheri asked how to handle cost of reordering of PTA paper? Renee Tamborino will invoice PTA!

Third Order of Business

Budget allocation vote

- Lisa motioned to approve the proposed budget
- Steve seconded the motion
- vote was unanimous in favor of passing the proposed budget

Principal Report - Stephanie

- took a team up to Vail for leadership seminar - took 8 teachers who then trained the other teachers
- thanks to the PTA helped the Meet and Greet for kindergartners
- trying to update website quickly with all pertinent school business
- encourage feedback/input on communication, what's working, what's not
- would like to get some kids involved in Green and Safety initiatives

Additional Business & Member Commentary

Walk to School Day - Lisa

- national event on October 5 (same day as Jog-A-Thon)
- there will be an athletic shoe collection
- Sue has volunteered to run it; Lisa to send information from committee

District Parent Council (DPC) - Debbi

- last Wednesday was first meeting
- Bruce Messinger, the new Superintendent was there
 - very involved on local and national initiatives
 - biggest goals are working on the achievement gap
 - focusses on the 'whole child' and safe and positive learning environment
 - big believer in early childhood initiatives, likes we're using 3A money on preschool
 - invited him to be a reader for Reading to End Racism; could also invite him to All-Cultures to get a view of our culture
- will be advertising the next meetings for parents to attend - always the 3rd Wednesday of the month
- will be talking about Amendment 25 (Rollie Heath, CO State Senator will be there) at next meeting on September 21
- school board election candidates are on the October agenda