

## Lowrie Primary PTA 01/29/15 General Meeting Minutes

- 1) Call to order 6:30. Welcome and introductions.
- 2) Principal's Minute – Patrick Meigs. (see Vimeo for full video)
  - Thank you to PTA Executive Committee – continue to work on vision, mission and thoughtful decision making
  - Parking lot discussion lead to new striping and painting in parking lot, to help end of day issues brought forth.
  - Professional development days very helpful, focusing on math last two years – lead to idea of Math Night for families. More info to come!
  - SnowBall appreciation! Great time!!
- 3) Treasurer's Report – Travis Tadema.
  - Dina Elhakim had to leave role, very sad for her to leave EC.
  - Travis took over for interim, got books reconciled. Prepared current report. Will now be a report each month at each PTA General Meeting.
  - In good standing. In good order to meet \$15,000 goal for end of year, so PTA will be funded next year.
    - o The \$15,000 is the amount needed to meet line-item, already budgeted obligations year to year, plus wiggle room for items that may change (taxes, fees, etc.). Began year with all profits from last year's amazing Auction – split those profits to be used over two years. So we made about \$30,000, split in two means \$15,000 for each of two years, until we have the next auction.
  - Paid \$12,000 to school for books and materials, all from profits from Wheel A Thon fundraiser in fall – Travis Tadema.
    - o Learning: all wheel a thon profits went to school for books, became the expectation from families, staff – so none of Wheel A Thon monies went into general fund, to possibly fund other requests.
      - Question: How did that happen? Answer: Became expectation/common knowledge, and EC wanted to follow through on implied promise, with understanding we will be much more clear from now on.
    - o Will make more clear next year, so can be more flexible with funds raised, not tied to one specific thing – can spread around more to other things teachers/staff/admin/PTA may request funding for.

- o Patrick shows off books purchased through Wheel A Thon monies for leveled literacy library:
  - Question: how is leveled literacy different than library books?  
Answer: For teacher's use in small groups, leveled to student's needs, can be reading books on same subject at each child's level. Includes Spanish, fiction, non fiction. Will include "Mentor texts", or books teachers can find specific strategies in – descriptive words for writing, predictions for reading, etc. to show and use with kids as models for their own reading and writing.

4) New Executive Committee member vote/discussion – Travis Tadema.

- Split Treasurer role into two parts – Bookkeeper and Treasurer (Executive Committee).
  - o Bookkeeper – Divya. Will do all check writing & reimbursements, reconcile deposits, withdrawals, etc. Doing a fantastic job already!!
  - o Treasurer – EC participation in decision making, taxes, etc.
- Reminder of check policy (see Vimeo video for more info) – For reimbursements or invoices for items purchased for PTA events, programs:
  - o Put original receipt or invoice with Check Request Form in PTA box – please fill out all information, have signed by Committee Coordinator. Expect a check in 2 weeks or less.
- Motion to accept Mary Charpentier as new treasurer and Jamie Goodpaster as new President Elect.
  - o Discussion: Mary's background. Was 911 dispatcher, then stayed home with kids, has had bookkeeping business for 7+ years. Has worked with non-profits, loves numbers, math, looking forward to it!
  - o Discussion: Jamie's background: moved back to Oregon 2 years ago from Kentucky, grew up in Oregon, has 2 kids, works full time, took on auction last year, did an amazing job (interjected from audience!). Wants to make kids' educational experience as rich as possible.
- Vote. All in favor of accepting Mary as Treasurer and Jamie as President Elect. Motion passes. Yay, a full Executive Committee for the first time this year!

5) Hospitality Committee Request – Travis Tadema. Requesting additional \$750 to accommodate increased costs, plus end of year catered lunch for staff.

- Can move \$150 from Watch Dogs and \$150 extra classroom grant money. Means \$300 more.
- Will try to work out catered lunch another way, if funds available.
- Motion to approve movement of funds. Discussion: Why can't totally fund? End of year lunch is quite expensive. Do not currently have funds. Will try to find through other means. \$300 increase meets current needs due to increased staff levels. All approved, motion to move funds passes.

6) Budget Committee forming- Travis Tadema. Interested parties?

- Chelsea, Robyn, Andrea all volunteer. Anyone else interested please contact [president@lowripta.com](mailto:president@lowripta.com).
- Budget item – last year's taxes will be late, incurring a fee. Due to transition of Treasurer. Unavoidable.
- Budget committee will meet soon to address new funding requests. Date TBD.

7) Motion to have all PTA-sponsored events be nut free. Not just peanut, all tree nuts, too – Robyn Mesdag.

- Discussion. Question: how dangerous is exposure from other places (example, kids eat almonds, don't wash hands and come to school?) Answer: can be very harmful. Can have anaphylaxis if exposed after child touches common pencil, for example.
- Current policy to alert families if there is a severe allergy in the classroom. This would be for all PTA events. All in favor, motion passes.
- Up to PTA to enforce, make all coordinators aware. Developing folders/binders for each coordinator role, will be in basic information.
- Question: isn't it a liability to say we are, and may make a mistake? Answer: It is hard to make it 100%, but we must do our best. These allergies are becoming more and more common.
- Question: Can we send home examples of things kids'/families can bring? Can PTA do that? Can school do that? Answer: Yes. PTA will add nut-free snack suggestions to folders/binders for coordinators.

8) SnowBall update. – Jill Saucedo.

- Jill supported new coordinator, April Pruss (who was very sick!), but very successful event.
- Final numbers to come, but should be in the black for event total.
- NHS volunteers did a great job – should send a thank you!

9) Meeting adjourned late (7:42 pm). All discussion of Parent Education commenced afterward.

**Parent Education Discussion:**

Jenn Dalglish – coordinator, lead discussion.

1) What do we want it to look like?

- Have opportunity to partner with Boeckman Creek PTA for speaker – Love and Logic presenter from Wood Middle School.
  - Idea to include dinner for participants, back up to Club K pick up time?
    - Mary C. – Zoup! To provide dinner, or discount?
    - Dinner first, to draw families in!
  - Idea to include childcare
  - Idea to push for new people - not just English speakers, not same people as always come, like last time.
  - Must have translation services!

2) What topic do we want discussed?

- Power struggles?
- Incentives/intrinsic motivation
- Communication
- How does school support natural consequences?

**Next PTA meeting February 26th, 2015 at 6:30 pm.  
Hope to see you!!**