

MINUTES, PTA Meeting 8/6/18, Leslie Darling's house

Introduction of new board members and breathing exercise led by Leslie Darling.

Statements of intent to:

1. Do a live stream of meetings on FaceBook.
2. Provide babysitting at all meetings.
3. Switch meeting days to try to accommodate more people's schedules, and switch meeting locations periodically.
4. Post meeting agendas and minutes on the school website as well as on FaceBook page.

Discussed goal of establishing a mission statement, working together as group to define goals and values. Preliminary draft reads:

The LPS PTA strives to establish activities and programs that...

Instill in our kids a sense of confidence in themselves as students and friends, and a sense of purpose about their abilities to be a positive force for change in the world.

Provide support to and establish strong collaborative relationship with the teachers and staff at LPS.

Invest in our community, which we mean in the broadest, most inclusive sense--school, families, businesses, neighbors, and local environments (both natural and urban).

Reflect the values of our families and community--respect, tolerance, kindness, mindfulness, "doing our best work," ...

Increase membership and meet purposeful fundraising goals. [Define goals]

Asked members to provide key words, themes, values, goals, etc. on post-it notes, which will be used to refine mission statement: "Sense of security and safeness for kids"; "Role model for kids"; "Integrate kids and community diversity"; "Include kids in [PTA] process in each event to build responsibility"; "Love environmental focus! Could we use words like sustainable and green? Perhaps an educational statement at the start of each event explaining this part of the mission?"; "Promote *all* families and kids being included"; "1. Community, 2. Build teacher/student/parent relationships, 3. "Provide opportunities for social outlets."; "Respect, taking care of each other"; "Mindfulness"; "self-care." **Suggestions welcome. Send to lpspta2@gmail.com**

Leslie Darling expressed a goal of implementing a reuse/recycle philosophy for PTA events.

Lindsay Sherwin introduced the idea of using Square (a credit-card payment app) for membership payments. Square has no purchase fee or annual fee, but it charges a fee per transaction. After discussion, approval was given to acquire a Square device and for the PTA to absorb the fees for at least one year, keeping our membership dues of \$10 unchanged for now while we assess Square's usefulness as a membership tool.

Request was made for more transparency of PTA fees (local, state, national).

Ice-cream social: Leslie Darling proposed the idea of having a dunk tank for the ice-cream social. \$300 was approved for the tank. One member suggested using the dunk tank as a membership incentive, offering a break on membership fee if you purchase a dunk.

Readers Breakfast: One member raised concern that families new to the school may not know about the Readers Breakfast. Request was made to ask Principal Quinones to send out an email with upcoming events, highlighting the August 31st deadline for the Readers Breakfast, and to post the library reading slips on the school website and on FaceBook.

Spirit wear: Request to have spirit wear available more often throughout the year. Liz Horvath, Chair of the Spirit Wear committee, will look into dates of sale. One member raised suggestion that old, "gently used" spirit wear might be made available throughout the year, some sort of "spirit wear swap-out day."

Assemblies: Discussed ideas for assembly on 11/21 (the day before Thanksgiving). Eyes of the Wild is one option. The idea of a mindfulness assembly--or mindfulness exercises being built into another assembly--was raised, with vocal support.

Leslie Darling introduced the idea of letting specific grades be responsible for organizing specific PTA events. PTA would create to-do lists for each activity, and the students and parents in that grade would be responsible for making it happen. The goal is to streamline volunteer work. There could be a dedicated PTA member associated with each activity, and room parents could assist with communication for events. There was general support for idea, and we will pilot the idea with the ice-cream social.

Leslie Darling outlined goal to have room parents selected before back-to-school night. Effort will be made to canvass at the ice-cream social and to invite volunteers on FB and on website, with a clear outline of responsibilities.

In attendance:

Leslie Darling (President)

Reggie Ross (VP)
Lindsay Sherwin (Treasurer)
Stephanie Volmer (Secretary)
Jen Chernowski
Filomena Hengst
Liz Horvath
Lorie Howe
Corinne Lindquist
Kelly Peck
Sherri Underriner

Upcoming events:

AUGUST

Monday 8/27: School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 8/29: Kindergarten orientation, 8:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 9/4: First day of school!

Thursday 9/6: Ice-cream social, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday 9/13: Back to School Night

Thursday 9/20: Readers Breakfast

OCTOBER

Tuesday 10/16: PTA Meeting, LPS Library

Wednesday 10/10: Picture day