

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board Meeting

January 19, 2022

In attendance: Andrea Malenfant, Mandy Gerstenbrand, Sara Bennett, Jon Wennstrom, Nicole Dant, Debbie Pline, Kellie Dummer, Laura Ulaszek, Dan Willenborg, Andrea Oquist, Nikki Watson, Debbie Yates

In attendance via Zoom: Robb Drzewicki, Chris Chmura, Lynda Scheel, Patty Novak, Mike Testa

Meeting called to order: 6:03 p.m. by Mandy G.

Approval of November meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Kellie D., 2nd by Nicole D. Minutes unanimously approved.

Elementary Report – Jon Wennstrom

- iReady math for K – 6 currently happening
- Planning for a Winter field day (at Buchanan) in February if there's snow
- Currently planning for March is Reading Month
- Kindness challenge
- Will be doing self-care work for both staff and students with tips from MEMSPA like "gratitude" journals

Superintendent's Report – Andrea Oquist

- Updated protocols regarding COVID were sent to parents
- Andrea M. suggested that the district make close contact & vaccinated student protocol clearer. There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding this for parents.
- The notification process will still happen although it may just be through one format
- COVID dashboard is continuing to be updated daily
- District is planning to eventually keep all COVID notifications in one place in the future instead of constant emails.
- Blessing Bags (about 2500) given to LPS and Clarenceville staff from Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church as part of the Livonia Kindness Initiative. The staff will also be given a pizza lunch in February.
- Emerson, Cooper, Coolidge, Kennedy, and Randolph are scheduled to have air conditioning and Kitchen renovations this summer. 6 other schools are scheduled for air conditioning placement only.
- Mrs. Oquist would like to have the district DEI committee do a presentation at Council's next meeting.
- Next BOE meeting will be recognizing Robotics and a high school state championship swimmer who is also the first female on the boy's hockey team. They will also recognize the members of BOE for BOE month.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Malenfant

- Debbie Y. asked where we stand on staff shortages. Mrs. Oquist stated that they are constantly monitoring the situation and they are able to fill the gaps so far. Transportation is the hardest hit right now and there is also a strong need for paras. The sub shortage was significant the past few weeks. This week was better. There was an uptick in COVID cases after the break and subs were not coming back right after the break so there was less availability.
- The district is not planning to use people from other positions to cover absences. They have good back up plans.
- Chris C. asked what the response amount was for the ESSER survey. Mrs. Oquist stated there were 2400 responses, primarily parents. Two major points stood out to be important: Social/Emotional support for students and more Academic supports during the year for students. The district has an initial plan for this, but they can modify it if needed over the next 6 months.

Secondary Report – Dan Willenborg

- Will be ending the semester with unit assessments instead of traditional final exams.
- High schools have 3 half days next week, Middle schools have 2 half days and 1 day off
- New semester starts February 1st. February 2nd POC day (K – 12). Students report in the afternoon.
- Next week is in-school preview night at the 3 High Schools for 8th grade students. It will be staggered to help eliminate over crowding
- Winter sports is in full swing
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be virtual again. March 3rd for M.S. and March 10th for H.S.
- There is a change in date for commencements. Frankin will be Thurs June 2nd @ 7pm, Stevenson will be Fri June 3rd @ 7pm, and Churchill will be Sun June 5th @ 12pm.

***Due to Founder’s Day postponement, the next Council Meeting will be moved to Wednesday February 16th. There will be no March meeting. ***

NEW BUSINESS

Founder’s Day – Kellie D.

- New date is Thursday March 24th at St. Mary Convention Center
- New RSVP date will be March 7th

Nominations Committee

- Kellie D., Lynda S., have already offered to serve on the committee
- Robb D. offered from the floor
- Chris C. offered from the floor

- Must present the slate at the February meeting due to the March meeting being canceled

OLD BUSINESS

- Food service appreciation went very well
- Will plan to do Bus Driver Appreciation in the beginning of March. Will set up Memberhub store to accept monetary donations for it. Will set up Amazon list. Plan to deliver bags on March 9th.

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – Nicole D.

- Received deposit refund from Schoolcraft for \$143
- 1 school has paid for Founder's Day so far
- Received a \$30 donation
- Renewed Insurance, paid \$375
- Paid \$30 for STEM bags from Holiday

Corresponding Secretary – Mike T.

- Recommend keeping it more low key for BOE month due to current parental climate. Use Council's FB page to acknowledge them.
- Expecting more MI PTA Call to Action in the next few weeks

Recording Secretary – Andrea M.

- Was approached by Mr. Fryer at Emerson regarding Civil War Days. He would really like all 3 M.S. to do it. Frost doesn't do it. He thought Council could help somehow. Andrea will get budget costs that both Emerson and Holmes PTSA's pay towards it and will share that with Frost PTSA to see if it is something they could contribute to if Frost were to do it.

President – Mandy G.

- Mandy G., Andrea M., and Kellie D. went to a presentation by Mr. Rudy the "edu-tainer" of his Anti-Bullying Campaign that Livonia Rotary A.M. was hoping could be done in LPS schools.
- We felt that the program is a little outdated and really needs a social media/texting/messaging component to it.
- We also need a more detailed explanation of cost. Is there a minimum/maximum number of students for the different cost prices?

- Maybe ask if they can update the presentation and ask Rotary to pay for 1 presentation so we can see if it's something that would be beneficial.

Committee Reports

Clothing Depot – Kellie D.

- No need for general donations right now
- They do need larger women sizes sweats and leggings
- Laura will put that need in the newsletter
- Maybe asking for a \$25 donation from each unit? That would set up the Depot for a while.

DEI – Debbie Y.

- Met with the district DEI task force
- They did some brainstorming and threw out ideas
- Debbie made some FB posts for them

Reflections – Debbie Y. & Andrea M.

- 144 entries from 17 schools
- Judging is complete. Winners were announced. 47 entries from 15 schools will be moving on to the State Competition.
- We are postponing the celebration. Hoping to do it in March

Website – Debbie Y.

- Updated PEP
- Made some minor home page updates
- Adding Laura U. as an admin to help

ELVS – Debbie P. & Chris C.

- Should be getting things started in April
- Would like ELVS and Math Apps information to go out together this year

Male Engagement – Robb D.

- Suggested a Council Event at Grand tavern maybe?
- Will check on Night of Lights volunteer donations that were supposed to be received. Nicole D. stated that Parks & Rec reached out to her and said that they will give a donation to Council and to the units who also volunteered

Masterworks – Mandy G.

- Mandy has someone who is interested in doing it
- Currently waiting for all of the Masterworks stuff to be moved to Cass

Membership – Sara B.

- Currently have 2,610 members
- The membership challenge was won by Grant PTA who had an 11% increase in their membership. Andrea M. will reach out to Betsy to see if they have an event they want us to help at.

PEP – Sara B.

- Current standings in PEP posted. Currently Kennedy, Webster, and Franklin are in the top 3.

STEM – Patty N.

- Made 100 mini kits for students to do over the holidays. Put together by the Robotics team
- Dropped off the kits to the schools
- If we do this again, recommend asking parents to share pics of their students doing the STEM projects
- Will coordinate Math APPS with ELVS

YMAD – Debbie P. & Nikki W.

- Not sure about a celebration yet
- Will send a reminder out to units for YMAD count by February

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56 motioned by Nikki W., 2nd by Nicole D.