

Livonia PTSA Council Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021

In attendance: Andrea Malenfant, Sara Bennett, Nikki Watson, Mandy Gerstenbrand, Kellie Dummer, Debbie Yates, Jon Wennstrom, Andrea Oquist, Chris Chmura, Daniel Willenborg, Mike Testa, Patty Novak, Nicole Dant.

In attendance via Zoom: Amanda Walworth, Lynda Scheel, Robb Drzewicki

Meeting Called to Order at 6:07 p.m. by Mandy G.

Approval of April Meeting Minutes: Motion by Kellie D. 2nd by Lynda S. All in favor. Minutes Approved.

Superintendent Report – Andrea Oquist

- Thank you to Mr. Willenborg for coordinating Prom, Graduation, etc.
- BOE building staff currently at Riley due to BOE building work. Having fun being involved in some student events.
- On Monday June 14th, BOE passed a significant budget. Will be sharing a video message to families and staff about it. It's about the spending of general funds and COVID funds. Some of the items are as follows:
 - Academic and Learning supports. This helps achieve lower class sizes, more EST's, more paras, and full time Social Worker and Psychologist at the High Schools.
 - Activity Bus for after school activities for Middle Schools.
 - Reduced "Pay to Play" costs
 - Hiring a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion facilitator for the district.
- The district is trying to re-engage and think of the whole child and what they might need academically, physically, and mentally.
- 2 new principals: Tom Traub for Johnson and Sherry Mazzoni for Grant
- Mrs. Owen retiring from Emerson. Currently interviewing.
- Summer mitigation measures will be emailed to parents this week for summer school and Learning in L-Town programs. 1100 students signed up for L-Town camps.
- Kellie D. asked if there is a replacement for Transportation Coordinator Lynn Crosby. Andrea O. says not yet.
- Shout out to Dominic Testa for PNO Youtube channel.

Elementary Report – Jon Wennstrom

- Lots of end of year activities happening this week.
- K-Round up went great.

Respectfully Submitted by Andrea Malenfant

- Field Days currently happening.
- Teachers finished report cards and they will be viewable on Parent Connect on June 23rd.
- Chrome Books are coming back.
- Had Senior clap out at the Elementary Schools on June 3rd.
- Currently in the process of interviewing for new staff.
- Summer School/Summer SACC programs beginning soon.
- Thank you to LPS for the spirit wear for all LPS staff.

Secondary Report – Dan Willenborg

- Final assessments taking place.
- Report cards available on Parent Connect on June 24th or 25th.
- Thank you to PTSA's for all the Staff Appreciation treats.
- Happy that Prom and Graduation could take place.
- Start times for MS and HS will go back to normal.
- In the process of interviewing for Emerson Principal position.
- Excited for reduced "Pay to Play" fees.
- The district is planning to keep the reduced "Pay to Play" fees by putting it under their general fund.

New Business

Council Application – for Laura Ulaszek

- Mandy reached out to all her references. All responses were outstanding replies to Laura's character and leadership.
- All in favor of Laura joining Council.

Officer Training – Mandy G.

- Will be happening at Frost on June 23rd from 6pm – 8pm.
- Will send out the sign up genius again.
- 15 schools have people signed up so far.
- Reached out to Shaton Berry about speaking. Originally she said yes, but has not been responding to emails now. May need another speaker. Suggestions were Tracey Purvis or Tonya Pitkin.

Audit Party – Mandy G.

- Happening on July 14th at Frost from 6pm – 8pm.
- Encouraging units to do a practice run.

- Ask Liz Jarvis if she can get us a copy of submitted audits from last year in case we need them.
- Asking only 2 people from each unit to come.

2021 – 2022 Proposed Calendar

8/18 – LPTSA Council EB Mtg

9/15 – LPTSA Council EB and General Mtg

9/19 – Chamber Corn Roast: Council may do bake sale or 50/50. Robb D. will see if a city council candidate will sponsor doing bake sale.

Meet and Greet sometime in October hopefully

11/17 – LPTSA Council EB Mtg and Workshop

1/15 – Chili Cook Off

1/19 – LPTSA Council EB and General Mtg

Reflections Ceremony in January

2/16 – Founder’s Day

Bus Driver Appreciation sometime in March

3/16 – LPTSA Council EB Mtg and Workshop

4/20 – LPTSA Council EB and General Mtg (Elections)

YMAD Celebration in April

5/18 – Officer Training

6/15 – LPTSA EB Meeting

7/20 – Audit

2021 – 2022 Committee Chairs and Liaisons

- Chris C. added to ELVS committee
- Reach out to Laura U. to see what committee she is interested in chairing or joining.
- Everyone present is good to stay in their same roles.
- Amanda W. stepping away from Council. We thank her for her time and service.

OLD BUSINESS – Mandy G.

- Bus Driver Appreciation went well. Amazon list was a great way to get donations. Will need units to communicate better with office staff at their schools.

Officer Reports

President – Mandy G.

- MI PTA convention registration is now open. \$20 per person with a \$2 transaction fee.
- Convention is virtual and August 5th – 8th.

Advocacy – Mike T.

- 3rd grade reading law still out there. Trying to get the retention component waived. LPS is working with parents on waivers if child is set for retention.
- Over 3500 students in the state flagged for retention.
- Doesn't seem that the state will act on it.
- The LPS Budget passed on Monday night. It looks like a good budget. Parents should give feedback on how the money is being spent.
- Would like to do a possible Meet and Greet with those running for City Council. Or maybe do another forum? Mike T. and Robb D. will get together to discuss and create a plan.

Treasurer's Report – Nicole D.

- Received donations and last Founder's Day check for signs.
- Checks out to Mandy for monthly Zoom fee, check for YMAD supplies, and check to Sara B. for PEP winner gift cards.

Proposed Budget for the 2021 – 2022 Year

Founder's Day – increase to \$7,000

Convention/Training – increase to \$750

Remove dollar amount for YMAD (LEA) income

Add a line item "Fundraising"

All other items to remain the same

Chamber – Kellie D. and Robb D.

- "Livonia Love Event" on Friday July 30th. Adults only event. Band and beverages. \$10 per ticket.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion – Debbie Y.

- 15 FB posts since last meeting

- Started Diverse Books project. Once a month, each month, with a different focus.
- Attended a workshop on how to get kids to read diverse books.

Reflections – Debbie Y.

- Will try to recruit unit chairs at Officer Training.

Website – Debbie Y.

- PEP results posted
- ELVS flyers posted
- Will post Math APPS flyer but without signup link
- Created a DEI page

ELVS – Debbie P. and Chris C.

- 112 students signed up
- 29 volunteers signed up
- Book bags will be handed out next week.

Masterworks – Kellie D.

- Need to figure out if we will continue with this program.
- Has it all been converted to digital?
- Maybe send a survey to units to see who is still interested in doing it?
- Talk to Julie Turk at Kennedy. They got a digital version.

Dickenson Center – Kellie D.

- Dickenson Center being demolished. Need to clean out over this next year. All of our PTA records and such is there. Ask Oquist for a new space for storage. Get key from Liz.

Membership – Sara B.

- 1 new member this month.
- 2,263 members.

Proposed PEP List Changes – Sara B.

Add back Financial Best Practices and Bylaws Acknowledgement = 500 points each

Add back Convention = 100 points per person

Change Membership points: Meet Last Year's Numbers = 250 points. Every additional 50 members = 100 points

Add DEI Chair Person = 100 points

Add back Workshops = 100 points per attendee

Newsletter – Andrea M.

- Next newsletter going out June 28th. Will ask units to send articles about end of their end of the year events.

STEM – Patty N. and Nicole D.

- Math APPS starting July 6th until August 20th.
- 35 students signed up.
- 30 volunteers signed up.

YMAD – Debbie P. and Nikki W.

- Certificates went out.
- Video made and posted.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:23 p.m. by Nikki W. 2nd by Sara B.