

LONGFELLOW PTO MINUTES

Longfellow School Library
Every Third Tuesday at 3:20

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Meeting Call to Order: 3:27pm

Meeting Adjourned: 4:09

In Attendance- #21 in total

Tricia Canaday, Co-President
Jennie Sue Weltner, Co-President
Dallas Inman, Vice President
Andy DeMaria, Treasurer
Heidi Bode, Secretary
Deborah Watts, School Principal
Teachers, 4-5 teachers: Megan MacKenzie, Julie Cook, Vanessa Ingram
Kacy Berliner and Kira Pfisterer, AIR Coordinators
Additional Parents: who signed in: Aleja Stacey, Alicia Cullison, Amy Cook, Rejane Kocemba, Dana Owen, Tani Theiler, Susan Noland

1. Open Meeting: Time 3:27
Introduced Board

2. President Report: Time 3:28

a. Mission Statement

With the school population growing and the budget growing every year, it is beneficial to have a mission statement for clarity and consistency in running of the PTO. Comments from those attending were all positive. If anyone has comments, please let Tricia Canaday know. Deb Watts will put the mission statement in calendar for everyone's review. It will be voted on at next meeting in October.

Longfellow Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Mission

"Longfellow Elementary PTO strives to enhance the educational and academic experiences of our students.

- We foster and facilitate an open dialogue between parents and Longfellow Staff,
- We promote parent volunteerism, good communications and community atmosphere,
- We raise funds to provide expanded educational opportunities in all academic disciplines, including; art, health, language arts, mathematics, music, physical education, science, social studies, technology and world language."

b. Calendar

- i. MOSS- Deb Watts is still looking into MOSS. This is an organization based in McCall, which has outdoor science camps. Seeing if we will bring instructors on-site
- ii. Carnival Chair- Tani Theiler will help chair carnival, but would appreciate if someone could co-chair with her.
- iii. Book Fair- Discussed date. Nimi Sandhu, organizer, is not going to be able to attend October 30th. Discussed different options. Date will remain, as having fair during conference works out nicely, so there is time for parents to browse. Volunteers can run it the day of the fair.
- iv. Art Fair- culture carnival and art people can get together and possibly combine Art fair and Art auction.
- v. Need backdrop painted- On September 26th September have someone paint back boards. Can have a tagline, “while women running Women’s Fitness Celebrating come paint back drop.”
- vi. Library Book Fair- There are two book fairs, one for PTO and the other for library. The Library book fair will be in April 2010.

c. Enhancements

i. Communications

PTO is working on improving communications between PTO and school community, by:

- a. Using e-mail- when request from school for directory goes out, there will a request to e-mail PTO with e-mail address (this way they won’t need to type all the e-mails in the computer and there will not be as many errors). E-mail information to BoiselongfellowPTO@gmail.com
- b. Creating a Blog
- c. PTO Newsletter- this will continue. The school newsletter will go out every 2 weeks and the PTO newsletter will go out every month and likely be on the back of the school newsletter.

ii. Bike Corral

This will be placed on the north/east side of the building. It will be 20x30 fencing cemented into the ground with a gate and lock. This should be up in a couple of weeks. All bikes and scooters will go in here. Although riding and biking is encouraged, with 250 children it becomes difficult to manage them all. Mr. McKenna will lock the bike corral after the bell rings.

iii. Xeroscaping and Garage bans

School needs new trash and recycling bins for outside the school. In addition the PTO would like to landscape the front area of the school with xeroscaping. PTO plans on applying to NENA for a grant for both or one of those items. Still researching costs. Trash bins that were originally wanted are very expensive. Deb has contacted Facilities and Operations and asked about the garbage bins. NENA usually gives grants to schools, though they just finalized their budget. Thus, if they don't agree to it this year, they probably will next year. In addition, the city's Neighborhood Reinvestment grant (up to 40k) is a possibility.

iv. AIR report- Kacy Berliner and Kira Pfisterer, co-organizers

- a. Artist in Residence- Renda Palmer was unable to attend meeting, Kacy and Kira spoke on her behalf. They went over some of Renda's resume: she was is Art Weekly magazine, taught at Eagle high school, and is a parent of two Longfellow students. She will teach once a month. They have transformed the art room in the basement to accommodate art lessons. Gary Davis and his company ADAS, donated 4 adjustable tables.
- b. Air Support- Can volunteer in your child's classroom or can help prepare activities for classroom in advance.
- c. Art Auction- February
- d. Art Kits for classrooms- From classroom enhancement budget preparing art kits for each class. The Artist in Residence is looking into resources and needs of each classroom. The Art Kits are about \$200 per classroom. Deb said they were discussing customizing kit for each classroom and will talk to each teacher. Want to be smart how money is spent. They want to make sure to use right package and the content fits best with each classroom. Tricia has basic budget done and thinks they will be done in the next couple weeks.

3. Treasurer's Report (Andy DeMaria): Time 3:51

A. 2009-10 Budget

- i. Review- Finances are in good shape. Approximately \$30,000 cash for the future. 7 of past 8 years there has been a surplus except for last year. Will go over this year by 4,500 dollars. This is

due to some big costs, such as the Front Row system (did get grant for matching funds). This is a one-time cost. Budget is a work in process and is currently an estimate. If anyone has any questions about funds and where they are being used, let Andy know.

- ii. Format- Budget is in a different, more readable format this year. Andy also can prepare it in Quick Book.
- iii. Classroom Enhancements- Last year 5K (part of which was from NENA grant) was given to teachers for classroom enhancements. PTO bought books, scanners and cameras for classrooms. This year the Front row system was about 8k. Approximately \$2,000 is going towards classroom art kits.
- iv. Field trips- lower- last year school district paid for some. Not sure if that will be cut. Question about whether that should be increased. Answer - Not thought to be a need as Assembly and math lab will cover that. Change Math Lab to “Science Expenditures.” Ms. Ingram will do Math before school again. Last year had Science Days. Still in planning phase. So far MOSS seems best price and brings in instructors from outside to teach.

4. Principal’s and Teacher’s Report (Deborah Watts): Time 4:03

- a. From now on Principal’s and Teacher’s Report will be combines and there will not be a “teacher representative.” Teachers will attend when they are able.
- b. There are 250 students. 8-10 students overflowed to neighborhood schools
- c. Back to School night- Would like feedback on it. In future Deb will pick a date before school ends, so people will know in advance.

5. Read-a-thon (Anne Anderson): Time 4:05

Anne unable to attend Deb Watts spoke on her behalf

- a. Working on getting BSU athletes, such as football players, to help kick off Read-a-thon. Flyers are being prepared.
- b. Kick Off on Sept 30th at morning assembly at 11am (so AM kindergarteners will be able to attend). One week to collect, then children will stop collecting and one week for reading.
- c. Need Theme ideas! It is not necessary to be an international theme. Anyone who wants to perform at assembly and possibly dress-up in accordance with the theme, please talk to Ann.
- d. Benefits to raise money and encourage reading to children.

6. New business- 4:08

None

7. Close Meeting: Time- 4:09