

Liberty PTA – General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018 – 3:00PM

1. Call to Order at 3:01 PM
2. Welcome – *Jen Robinette*. Welcome to everyone! Please excuse some of the exec board because we have kids in after school programs so it might be disjointed.
3. PTA Workshop: Common Sense Media - *Ms. Thomas & Ms. McNeive*

Common sense media is also "being a good digital citizen or digital citizenship". You're now part of interacting with this outside world in the community. How do you leave a good digital footprint behind you as you go? We have some set lessons that we teach our K-5 students: keeping info secure, being safe online, finding the truth, cyber bullying and leaving your online footprint.

There is now a fun game for kids called Google Interland that touches on the main lessons we teach our students. Each game is fun, too. Students in grades 3-5 play this at school.

What can parents do at home? Ask questions and be present; check out who they are talking to and what they are doing. Make sure to open up communication so parents can handle it when something occurs.

A couple of extra parent resources: Commonsensemedia.org is an organization at the forefront of keeping kids safe online. There is a "Parents" tab at the top of this site. It gives a lot of info and answers a lot of questions. At Liberty, we are fortunate to have technology for our students but we make sure we are not constantly on our devices – balance out tech vs off-tech. There is a resource list about apps, games, and movies: what it is, age range, etc. The Liberty Library page has the commonsensemedia.org website on it.

Liberty is Common Sense Media Certified as a school. All grades 2-5 get multiple lessons. Children receive lessons about this at SMART Lab, guidance, and library, as well as their teachers. In guidance they talk about approval or non-approval (getting likes, etc.) on online media. This could be incorporated more throughout the different disciplines.

Student data is protected in many different ways here at Liberty. Classlink runs LCPS Go. It makes sure that students' info is all encrypted. Google Classroom is through LCPS Go. This means that these apps are no longer getting our kids' info at all. These apps have all been vetted and are OK for student use. Most programs do not receive their information at all. LCPS Go has the information from Kindergarten through 12th, as long as they are with us.

We hear a lot about talking in the viral video challenges. We talk about making good choices and how it can come back to you in future years. In SMART Lab we talk about this starting in January but in the classrooms the teachers touch on this regularly.

4. Principal's Comments – *Paul Pack*

5. President's Report – *Jen Robinette*

- a. Social Media - Ways to reach you. How are you guys getting the information from us? A poll by show of hands showed that some people on all 3 main social networks. Facebook and Twitter are where people are. A lot of information gets put out on our Facebook page. It's a great place to ask questions. Twitter usually relays the same information. Jen is usually on Facebook but other exec members are on Twitter a lot. How many people use Remind? There is also a Remind for the PTA. Text number 81010: Text "@LIBPTA" to sign you up for the PTA Remind notices. Remind is a way that we post things last minute.
- b. Laps for Liberty – Brief touch on it. Thank you to each and every single parent that helped out, supported, cheered on, tallied! It was so smooth this year and I cannot thank you enough. Even with parents coming in, they were asking us how they could help out. It was incredible and such a sense of community. I was so happy. It made me proud to be part of this community.
- c. Children Diversity Night – October 18th
- d. Bus Driver Appreciation Day October 24th – You'll see a signup come out for this. This is an opportunity with our volunteer coordinator. Sometimes we will ask for donations if not time. This event is one we need donations for. We will ask for goodies for our bus drivers to be recognized before their bus run.
- e. No November Meeting – This first Tuesday is a day off for Liberty. We will send out any important info via Facebook, Twitter, email, etc.

6. Treasurer's Report – *Lisa Geurin*

- a. Laps for Liberty donations profit \$29,000 collected so far. We budgeted for \$34,000 collected this year. This is amazing! As of exec meeting we were only at \$20,000. So this past weekend we got another \$9,000.

7. Recording Secretary – *Jill DeLorenzo* Motion to approve meeting minutes. Christy Banks, Poonam seconds motion to approve meeting minutes. All in favor of approving them, yes. None opposed.

8. VP of Fundraising – *William Perry*

- a. Sponsorships – Dream Smile \$250 level, TigerDen \$500 level.
- b. Spirit Nights – Added Chuck E Cheese (Herndon) on 2/18/19 for a spirit night and Monster Mini Golf in Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly on 10/22/18 (Teacher Workday) – open 2-9 p.m. You have to mention you are there for Liberty PTA. This week we

have Coal Fire from 11:30 a.m. on. You can do a pickup of lunches or dinners; mention Liberty and we get the profit share.

9. VP of Events - *Smitha Tumuluri* – Children’s Diversity Night (defer to Sandy) and School Dance in November (report below).
10. VP Committees/Volunteer Coordinator Report – *Poonam Upadhyaya*. I personally want to thank everyone here and all the parents who volunteered for Laps for Liberty. Laps for Liberty was amazing and it went really smooth. We requested 150+ volunteers and we had more than 100% filled. This was an amazing feeling.
11. Corresponding Secretary Report – *Tez Nettimi*. Thanks again for everything for Laps! I spread some messaging about a nonprofit 5K that took place. They will be giving a donation to our school. We also had information night about creative competition programs.
12. Committee Reports:
 - a. After School Enrichment – *Jen Robinette*. We had a lot of students and a lot of interest. Today we have Chorus which has 140+ students. This will be a very busy program. We had two teacher-led programs: GEMS and Creative Writing. We hope by the spring to have more teachers on board to take on some more of the classes. One of the classes will be “Girls Who Code”. We want more teachers to take on more of these programs and will be keeping our vendors.
 - b. American Education Week – We have some of our volunteers and will start to plan this soon. This is in November.
 - c. Box Tops – *Karin Lisack* Our first box Tops ends October 19. Peachjar had info about the competition. This is a free way for us to make money. They have started a new app that you can download so that you have the ability to download, click and scan the receipt.
 - d. Children’s Diversity Night - *Sandy Toor* – 10/18/18 6-8 p.m. The outline of the program is similar to last year. The music teachers are working with the students on some songs already. We have a new portion to the night: talent! Not just dances. Sing a song, recite a poem, play an instrument from another part of the world. I’ll send the Google Form link to Mr. Pack today and he will post it on our website. The slots are on a first-come, first-serve basis for performances. There is no talent search screening. We are looking for parent volunteers to help out with workshops. I’d like to pair a teacher with a parent to help with students’ attention to follow the outline of the activity. There will be more info coming out about it this week. There are posterboard activities. Last year we had students make their own posters; this year we have a “fill in the blank” to help guide them. There’s another one about talking about how they are unique or diverse. Sandy has a form ready for the teachers. They’ll get the students to write their names on it. SCA Students will help create a paper chain from the entrance to

the gym and we will need teachers' help from it. We are doing the Braille machine again. American Sign Language. Get your name written in different languages, etc. None of this has to be unique to just YOUR language or culture; it can be about a culture you are interested in.

- e. Eagle Eye Dad – *William Perry*. Eagle Eye Dads started yesterday. The kickoff was not well attended. However, the donuts were well-received throughout the school! We have added a little extra on the signup about “what’s something you’re good at that you can offer while you’re here?” so that parents can help fit in parents where they can help extra.
- f. Fifth Grade Celebration Parent – We have a group of parents that have come together about this. We will start incorporating these parents this month about what they’d like to do.
- g. Laps for Liberty – *Anne Corej*. Anne did a phenomenal job making sure everything was put together: the envelopes, forms, etc. She put a lot of effort into this whole event.
- h. MSAAC – We haven’t had a rep established yet.
- i. Newsletter – *Jill DeLorenzo* – a brief overview of the newsletter. We expect the next newsletter to come out soon.
- j. Odyssey of the Mind – *Tez Nettimi* – We have the registration for this now closed. The other creative competition programs are still open.
- k. Reflections – *Meenal Manikandan*. There is a lot of information about this on the PTA Reflections tab. The deadline is October 31.
- l. Room Parent Coordinator – *Sandy Toor*. Sandy created a Room Parent Guide to help them figure out what they are supposed to do. They don’t have to do EVERYTHING; the job is to help get help. It’s a way for the teachers to have a uniform outline of what to expect of parents. This has been given to teachers and room parents who have signed up. There’s a Google Form for room parents to help get info from the teachers: their favorite foods, drinks, etc. for holidays. Working with PTA webmasters to work on this to spoil them in a way they deserve to be spoiled. Hopefully it will work out in a positive way and they will continue it next year. This guide talks about managing funds and other key parts of the job.
- m. School Dance - *Kerri Lewis* November 16. There are a lot of flyers being made and she’s sharing some info with the board.
- n. School Supply Kits – VACANT.
- o. SEAC – There is a meeting tomorrow. Alisha Vaughn will be the rep.

- p. Social Media – *Jill DeLorenzo/ Jen Robinette* You'll see posts online from Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- q. Spirit Wear – *Jeff Geurin*. Jeff will pick up the order that was placed in September. The students will see it early next week by the time it gets sorted and delivered to the teachers. We need to look into the next opening of spirit wear ordering, sooner rather than later.
- r. Teacher Appreciation Week – VACANT. This is in May and this position requires coordinating a teacher breakfast, lunch, and special goodies during the week. If you are interested in stepping up, please do! We need a point person for this.
- s. Website – *Jen Robinette, Jill DeLorenzo, William Perry*. Jen is happy to be learning about the website. We have some backup for this to make sure we have the PTA page up to speed and so you can find all your info fairly easily.

Paul – From the meeting last week, we wanted to review something. We used to send out school communications on a webpage set aside. There is a new version on a Google site (that I'd like to be a collaboration with the PTA and me). There are buttons that lead to existing pages. These are standing buttons that would come out every week. It's the exact same info but with a cleaner format. It just doesn't have the greetings of the "Dear Liberty Families" that I like to do. There are other parts embedded as well. PTA sponsors, STEM partners, PBIS, newsletters, etc. These standard buttons would make it easier to do. Over the course of the next year, it would be nice to eliminate the website altogether and put everything on this new Google site. If you have suggestions or things you'd like to include, let me know. We don't want to bulk it up but there are other things that could be included on it.

13. The book fair will be the week immediately after Thanksgiving. We can have volunteers for setup on Tuesday before and pack up on Friday. Poonam will assist with this.

14. Adjourn

Meeting replay video available here:

<https://twitter.com/LCPSLiberty/status/1047199790340169728>

Sign-in sheet attached.