

# Liberty PTA – General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 3:00PM

1. Call to Order at 3:00 PM
2. Principal's Comments – *Paul Pack*. We didn't have a PTA Meeting for November and we are glad to be back. We will hand it over for the Parent Presentation. Sheri Maza is one of the most knowledgeable people doing things with our kids at Liberty. Nicole Moore is our counselor, working with kids at all grade levels. We will link the parent communication website to the PowerPoint. We're trying to spread the word where we have childcare in the SMART Lab during PTA meeting times. Thanks again for coming.

Additional remarks before PTA Workshop:

- a. *Stephanie Worthley* – Thank you for the delicious lunch for American Education Week!
  - b. *Alicia Coleman* - The library truly appreciates all the help from the book fair.
3. PTA Workshop: Best Practices at Home.

Objectives: we will explore responsibility, social skills, conflict resolution, effort, and organizational style and how they relate to your child's learning success. Teachers are part of the team to help parents at home, so they have the best outcomes in their life.

Responsibility: to have successful students, you need a certain level of understanding of student responsibility. Impacted by parental involvement: "buy-in". Not having responsibilities absolves children of not only the work, but of learning that work has to be done and that each one of us must contribute. This impacts our students' success at school. Long term: when will they learn to participate, own it, and jump into those tasks? This doesn't come suddenly. Peer collaboration groups – Ownership/participation for learning.

We have to let our children have some failure and learn from it. When they finally have that moment when they haven't met the benchmark, they'll crash and burn. It'll be a huge fall, rather than a learning moment.

Coping Strategies: Delayed gratification – I have to wait for something and THEN I get something. Dealing with disappointment builds ability (being able to hit walls but eventually being able to go back to that wall), perseverance, grit, and skills.

Friendships: Try not to overschedule your child with after school activities. (Especially in this area it's really hard to create that balance.) Allow free time and unstructured playdates. They need time to decompress, be creative, and be more of a critical thinker. (How does overscheduling grow them working as an adult in the workplace? It doesn't.) Emphasize manners and "give and take".

Understanding Conflict/Resolution: Parental withdrawal is more harmful to a child than engaging in open conflict. Skills: Ownership = making a mistake helps children grow and learn. Compromise = We are not always happy but you can see the possibilities. (You won't always be thrilled with the negotiation but it's not a horrible thing.) Moving forward – letting go. (A lot of times the kids will want to stew in what happened and it's already been resolved. Kids have a hard time letting go: it's time to turn the page and move forward in the book.)

Grit and Growth Mindset Impact Effort – TED Talk by Angela Lee Duckworth. Significant predictor of success: GRIT. (Across all social situations) We know very little scientifically about how to build grit. Best idea so far is “growth mindset”. Ability to learn isn't fixed but can change with effort.

Value effort over failure: Growth mindset. “Trying and trying again” – thriving on challenges and sees failure not as evidence of a lack of intelligence but as a platform for growth and for stretching our existing abilities. Avoid telling children they are “smart”. Use words like “you put a lot of effort into that”. Emphasize the process and what they're doing. When they fail then they'll think they're not “smart”.

Growth mindset concept: Instead of “I'm not good at this” ... try “What am I missing?”

Organizational Style: After school/backpack/launchpad. Agenda check-in's everyday: should have an idea of your child's homework situation through the week. Have some decompression time after school before starting homework. (What this looks like will be different for each child.) Homework time – your child should have some access to a parent. (Presence depends on different age levels.) Backpacks should be checked for items/snacks – ready to roll for the morning.

Resources: [How to Raise an Adult](#) by Julie Lythcott-Haims and [The Self-Driven Child](#) by William Stixrud, Ph.D., and Ned Johnson

4. President's Report – *Jen Robinette*
  - a. PTA General Meeting called to order at 3:28 p.m.
  - b. American Education Week - Thank you to Alisha Vaughn and Kasheka Codner! They were here decorating the lounge and putting it together.
  - c. Dance - Thank you to Kerri Lewis! That's her baby and she took a lot of time to get that together. We had a lot of volunteers that helped and came last minute to help too as we saw the work ahead of us.
  - d. Family-Oriented Spirit Nights – We're moving toward more family-oriented spirit nights to be out and active with our kids like the Ice House. This year we will try the ice skating and possibly roller skating. We'll see what we can look at moving forward.
5. Principal's Remarks – *Paul Pack* (in addition to above): Thank you to PTA for American Education Week. We have the spirit night at the Ashburn Ice House and Matball next year.

6. Treasurer's Report – *Lisa Geurin*

- a. Budget update: We had \$600 in ticket sales from the school dance. We didn't have quite as many expenses as last year since we reused a lot from last year. We had a spirit night at McDonald's but I am not sure what we made yet.

7. Recording Secretary – *Jill DeLorenzo* Motion to approve meeting minutes. Becky Pierce, Stephanie Worthley seconds motion to approve meeting minutes. All in favor of approving them, yes. None opposed.

8. VP of Fundraising – *William Perry*

- a. Spirit Nights – We made \$15 from the Chilled Nugget Tray fundraiser at Chik-fil-A South Riding. We'll try that again. We have one scheduled during the bowl games. You can order the trays ahead of time – but you don't have to pay tax. They pay PTA \$5 per tray. They come chilled, then you heat it. There's a signup we put out about two weeks beforehand. I'll ask if parents can pick it up hot but with enough notice maybe they can. This was the first time we tried it so now we know more of the logistics. The signup is through Chik-fil-A. (It's a Google Form sent out by PTA but received by Chik-fil-A.) If we bring in under \$100 it may not be worth the effort.
- b. McDonald's - \$300 check from the most recent fundraiser. WE have them in March again.
- c. Ice Skating – Ashburn Ice House, Saturday 12/8, 6:20-7:20 sales window.
- d. Vocelli Pizza – All day 12/17/2018. They deliver.

9. VP of Events - *Smitha Tumuluri* – No report.

10. VP Committees/Volunteer Coordinator Report – *Poonam Upadhyaya*. To be honest I'm blessed with all the volunteers we have. For book fair we initially didn't have many volunteers but if you see, we had most of the slots filled up. Some volunteers who couldn't make it asked for subs. We had so many people helping with pack up. School dance was amazing because the school was closed the day before that and parents anticipated that we might reschedule the dance. Parents volunteered right before the event even without being on schedule. When there was the need, they came in and helped. Our next event is bingo. We have 44 slots and we need 9 to be filled. Those 9 include pre-K.

11. Corresponding Secretary Report – *Tez Nettimi*. The PTA Newsletter went out with all the latest information. This includes info about the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math competition.

12. Committee Reports:

- a. After School Enrichment – *Jen Robinette*. This is the last week for ASEP. This week I have a parent survey for the programs that are in place. That should go out to parents soon. We are starting on moving toward the spring. We're starting with

teacher-led programs. I'll fill in whatever seems to be missing with vendors. We have teachers leading a science program, juggling, eagle enrichment (excelling in academics), and more. Teachers are coming up with awesome programs. *Paul* – I heard teachers talking about end dates for enrichment program. Can you make sure someone sends an email to Becky or Anaheeta about classes ending when? The administration was trying to use the bulletin board in the office for monthly events. That way teachers will know when the classes are ending. *Jen* - The teachers' ones are all ending on the same day. Barring any snow days, they should all end the same day.

- b. American Education Week – *Alisha/Kasheka*. We loved doing it, and we are glad everyone enjoyed it!
- c. Bingo – *Jen Robinette*. Teachers, if you see there isn't someone from your class, please help with that. If you don't recognize the name of the person who is the coordinator on your class, it is someone who "adopted" the class. This is just someone to have the gentle "I'll lead but I need someone else". Let's make sure nobody's left behind. The baskets get better and bigger every year. They'll be on display in the library. Due date for baskets is 1/17. That way, coordinators can take advantage of after-Christmas sales so nobody's spending a whole lot. Baskets this year will be tiered so we don't have to worry about value not being equal. Smaller value will be first couple rounds, and larger value toward the end. Most valuable at the end. That way nobody feels bad about this.
- d. Box Tops – *Karin Lisack*. The end date for Box Tops Collection #2 is in the newsletter. (Due by December 14)
- e. Eagle Eye Dads – *William Perry*. We've had more than 24 signups. That's still going on. I'm trying to get ideas for ways to differentiate Eagle Eye Dad walking around the school. Shirts would be tough because of sizing. Maybe a cape or a greeter vest? Crown was a no-go. Some schools have it where people who sign up need to pay \$5 for a t-shirt to wear the day of. If you wanted to do it again you can wear the same shirt.
- 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. Smitha and I will talk more about this.
- g. Laps for Liberty – *Anne Corej*. Anne may not be doing this next year.
- h. Newsletter – *Jill DeLorenzo* – a brief overview of the newsletter. The December newsletter came out today.
- i. Odyssey of the Mind – *Tez Nettimi* – No update.
- j. School Dance - *Kerri Lewis* - No updates from Kerri.
- k. School Supply Kits – We are looking for someone to do this now.

- l. SEAC – *Alisha Vaughn* - There is a meeting tomorrow night.
- m. Social Media – *Jill DeLorenzo/Jen Robinette* You'll see posts online from Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- n. Spirit Wear – *Jeff Geurin*. A new order just opened. Orders are due by December 17. There's a lot of choices for everyone: zipper hoodie, vintage logos, PJ pants, and more.
- o. Teacher Appreciation Week – *Alisha/Kasheka*. This is in May and we've begun the process for this.

*Final comments from Paul* – Laps for Liberty fundraising: PTA provided a lot of the school requests. We went to the various teams and have had a wealth of things throughout the years but every item that was requested by the teachers was able to be purchased. Thank you for that. We tried to invest a lot in literacy this go-around. A lot of grade levels have content area books, libraries, and more. Thank you, PTA.

13. Adjourn at 3:50 p.m.

Sign-in sheet attached.