

Liberty PTA – General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 – 3:00PM

1. Call to Order at 3:02 PM
2. Principal's Comments – *Paul Pack*. Welcome everyone to the January PTA meeting. We've been starting with a parent presentation for the first half hour. This is one we are looking forward to. If you're seeing some of the effects in elementary school, we can use some of these strategies now and going forward. We have our two counselors who will present on this topic and help us create a partnership between home and school. The actual presentation will be up on the Liberty website.
3. PTA Workshop: Bullying Prevention by Nicole S. Moore, M.A. and Ellen Foley, M.A.

Welcome and thank you for coming to the presentation!

“Bullying” means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. “Bullying” includes cyberbullying. “Bullying” does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict. (Code of Virginia § 22.1-276.01).

Big points for little kids: mean stuff, on purpose, over and over again. We don't give them the verbose definition. We try to sift out what's a one-time occurrence and what's been going on a lot. Sometimes we will see that things are just a one-time accident. See if there's a pattern. Is this occurring on a regular basis? We try to reiterate that not every single thing is thrown under that bullying umbrella. This is getting everyone to understand what these strategies are. If they don't like what someone said or did, and it's not a bullying situation, they really should be using the strategies.

With the older kids: R.I.P. Repeated, Intentional, Power Imbalance. It might be a bigger kid picking on a little kid or someone picking on someone who's different.

Four Types of Bullying. At Liberty we mostly see social/emotional type stuff.

Physical: Hitting, kicking, inappropriate touching, threatening

Verbal: Name calling, starting rumors, teasing, threats

Relational: Exclusion, rolling of eyes, etc.

Cyberbullying: Online, using social media platforms, texting, Tik Tok, emails, etc.

Relational aggression (RA): Exclusion: ignoring, alliance bullying, cyberbullying, gossip (real or false), whispering (can be a form of bullying).

Motivations for RA: fear, power, control, popularity, security. RA is addressed only 4% of the time. It's harder to catch.

Bullying isn't a one-time thing, accidental, or two students who go back and forth in an argument. (Use conflict/resolution strategies for this). Kids: ask yourself: is there something you need to apologize for? Learn to compromise and come up with solutions. Always get help if it doesn't get better. Bullying isn't gender-specific. It's about 50/50 with boys and girls engaging in behavior.

Classroom Guidance Lessons: "Stop, Walk, Talk" construct for PBIS Bullying Prevention Program. Goals: Teach students to identify and label inappropriate behavior; teach students strategies to employ when faced with bullying.

STOP: Students should be taught that if they experience or observe bullying behavior they should tell the perpetrator to "stop". Because talking may be difficult in emotional situations students may choose to use a physical signal for "stop". "I" message: "I feel _____ when you _____ because _____. Please _____!" Kindergarteners use a "bug and a wish". "It bugs me when you _____; I wish you would _____."

WALK: Sometimes, even when students tell others to stop, problem behavior continues. When this happens, students are to walk away from the problem behavior. If a student is on the carpet and can't physically walk, you can use other strategies to ignore.

TALK: If the strategies didn't work... Even when students use stop and they walk away from the problem, sometimes students will continue to behave inappropriately toward them. When that happens, they should talk to an adult. There are forms on the guidance team's doors where they can submit a note about a problem anonymously.

Classroom guidance lessons:

K: learn what bullying is, the 3 steps to stop a bully, and identify a trusted adult in the school.

- 1: review definition of bullying, SWT, and identify trusted adults at school and in the community.
- 2: learn the difference between big and small problems.
- 3: learn the 3 roles in a bullying situation (bully, victim, bystander)
- 4: talk about the importance of being an upstander.
- 5: explore ways to avoid and combat cyberbullying.

STOP-WALK-TALK

Common language: all students should be using the SWT language and practice strategies taught (words to use). School-wide expectations: all staff here have zero bullying tolerance and are ready to respond to bullying situations right away.

What can I do at home? Model positive behaviors. Use the SWT verbiage. Encourage your child to solve small problems on their own. Identify who trusted adults are that your child can seek out at school and in the community.

Parent resources: [Odd Girl Out](#) and [Odd Girl Speaks Out](#) by Rachel Simmons; [Queen Bees & Wannabes](#) by Rosalind Wiseman; "Mean Girls" movie.

Books for children: Any book by Trudy Ludwig. My Secret Bully, Trouble Talk, Confessions of a Former Bully, Just Kidding!, etc.

4. President's Report – *Jen Robinette*

- a. PTA General Meeting called to order at 3:20 p.m.
- b. Welcome! Happy New Year, 2019!
- c. Overview upcoming activities: Paul touched on what's coming up. This month we have Bingo and it's a really fun night. Some baskets are already coming in. Baskets are due on the 17th and the excitement starts. Following up, February doesn't have any big activities but we follow that up with a big March. Matball is a month with customized spiritwear.
- d. Looking ahead to 2019/2020: It's January so I'm looking ahead to next year. As we're going ahead with these events, I want to invite parents. If you're interested in an event, it's a great time to jump on board as a chair position. You can also join in and help out on the board. My youngest is in 5th grade so President will be open. Bingo chair will also be open next year. The invitation to jump on board is open to shadow us in events, etc. The more members we have working together, the more fun we have. I want you to continue asking questions. I started as a room parent and took baby steps to where I am.

5. Principal's Remarks – *Paul Pack* (in addition to above): I wanted to thank the PTA for all their support in 2018. We're really excited about 2019. I was just talking to the PE department about upcoming events. March is the month we're most known for: STEMmerday and Matball. We're changing up the Matball format to make it more interesting and intense. All that is impossible without the PTA support. We're really excited about the year ahead. We have Bingo and other events leading up to it. March is a celebration of all we stand for and that's our community and the culture of what goes on here. It's a great showcase for that.

For next year: You may not know what it's like to be part of the board. Money falls flat if not for the PTA members and board. You become more active in the PTA once you make that leap. It's really rewarding. It's a lot of work to be a board member but I think as Jen leaves here and she realizes her contribution over the decade plus, you can see it tangibly. Without Jen and people like her, the school wouldn't stand for what it is. If you feel like you're someone who wants to make a contribution, I feel like we're easy to work with. We enjoy working with our PTA and appreciate them for it. We appreciate even just thinking about being part of the board.

6. Treasurer's Report – *Lisa Geurin*

- a. Budget update: It's been a quiet month. We got a check from ice skating for \$72. The only other thing is the budget on the back of the agenda. I have a motion to vote to move \$4,000 from Technology Upgrades to School Requests. Moved by Jen Robinette. Second by Poonam Upadhyaya. All in favor, none opposed.

- b. *Paul* – We are beyond excited. Next year LCPS is supplying students with devices and refreshing technology. The current technology has been purchased by the PTA. For the LCPS devices, next year we will have devices for each kid in grades 3-5. They'll get it in 3rd grade and give it back at the end of 5th grade. Therefore, we don't want to invest in more Chromebooks this year. We're investing in more literacy-based resources for this year instead.
- 7. Recording Secretary – *Jill DeLorenzo* Motion to approve meeting minutes by Lisa Geurin, Tez Nettimi seconds motion to approve meeting minutes. All in favor of approving them, yes. None opposed.
- 8. VP of Fundraising – *William Perry*
 - a. Spirit Nights – 2/18: no school but we have Chuck E Cheese Herndon fundraiser. 3/28: McDonald's. Nothing scheduled for April because of spring break in there. 5/20: Chik-fil-A.
 - b. Ice Skating – Ashburn Ice House, Saturday 12/8, 6:20-7:20 sales window.
- 9. VP of Events - *Smitha Tumuluri* – No report.
- 10. VP Committees/Volunteer Coordinator Report – *Poonam Upadhyaya*. Looking at the beautiful baskets, we'll have a good number of baskets. On January 25, we will need 12-15 volunteers. The signup has been posted on our website. That's pretty much it.
- 11. Corresponding Secretary Report – *Tez Nettimi*. I sent out the holiday cards to some volunteers and sponsors over winter break to say how much we appreciate them.
- 12. Committee Reports:
 - a. After School Enrichment – *Jen Robinette*. Up and running for winter/spring. All ASEPs will be using the 6Cricket platform. This will allow our parents to enroll from one spot and see who's already registered, plus pay for classes. This will make it more parent-friendly so they're not having to go to different locations to sign up for these classes. The schedule will be sent out on the 10th and registration will be on 1/17. They start the week of 2/17. All teacher-led programs will end before spring break. (We have a lot more teacher-led programs this session!) This is barring any snow days. The vendor programs are 10 weeks long.
 - b. American Education Week – *Need a 2019/2020 Chair*. Alisha and Kashika did it this year. They ran it effectively and efficiently and can answer questions.
 - c. Bingo – *Jen Robinette*. Baskets due 1/17. As they come in, they'll be placed around the library for kids to see. The event is 1/25. Bingo is a fun night. We need volunteers.
 - d. Box Tops – *Karin Lisack*. We just got a check for \$640 for the first set of Box Tops!

- e. Children's Diversity Night – *Need a 2019/2020 Chair*. Sandy Toor will not be back this year. She did an amazing job this year. Questions about that can be directed to Sandy.
- f. Eagle Eye Dads – *William Perry*. *Alex Gray*: Booked up through March but there may be a couple days left if you know anyone interested. We have them working with students, helping with behavior in hallway and cafeteria, and being a cool male role model.
- g. Fifth Grade Celebration Parent – *Corey Taylor*. We're planning it for next year.
- h. Laps for Liberty – *Need a 2019/2020 Chair*.
- i. Matball – *Jen Robinette*. The theme is Harry Potter. You'll see more about this with shirt order forms. We'll need volunteers to help with setup, breakdown, concessions, etc.
- j. Newsletter – *Jill DeLorenzo* – a brief overview of the newsletter.
- k. Odyssey of the Mind – *Tez Nettimi* – Gearing up for March tournament in progress. There are 4 teams.
- l. School Supply Kits – *Lisa Morales*. They went really smoothly last year. The best part is when you get to deliver the kits to the teachers. We'll need all hands on deck in August.
- m. SEAC – *Alisha Vaughn* - There is a meeting tomorrow night. Jill has the notes for the newsletter. We talk about a lot of sensitive things. I try to give back information for workshops that parents would like to go to. I encourage parents who have subjects like this close to their hearts to attend in person.
- n. Social Media – *Jill DeLorenzo/Jen Robinette* You'll see posts online from Facebook, Twitter, etc. Please send us corrections if there are any you see.
- o. Spirit Wear – *Jeff Geurin*. The order should be in very soon from the recent order. There were only 20-25 items total. We'll do another spring one.
- p. Teacher Appreciation Week – *Alisha Vaughn*. We have a theme! This will go very well.
- q. Website – *Jen Robinette/Jill DeLorenzo/William Perry*. This will be updated soon.

13. Adjourn at 3:39 p.m.

Sign-in sheet attached.