

Liberty PTA – General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 5th, 2019 – 3:00PM

1. Call to Order at 3:04 PM
2. PTA Workshop: Library Resources by Alicia Coleman

A lot of parents don't realize that there a lot of resources they can access online for the library. Go to the library site on Liberty's homepage; it is its own tab. The kids may not always tell you about these resources.

<https://www.lcps.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=63070>

You can see all the electronic resources available from home on this page. They can be accessed 24/7/365 through LCPS GO. They can also look at their library catalog online. We have the icons across the top to help with genres. You can see the print books we have with popular titles. We have two libraries: this one you can walk in and the one in the cloud. We have audiobooks accessible and we have a lot of links. If you ever want to go to Library of Congress, Encyclopedia, Gum Springs library, etc.

We put the book fair info up on the website.

We have great book recommendations. A lot of websites will have great recommendations for "what is the next book in the series?" It's on a link called Sequels and Series. These are great resources to give your kids ideas.

The big section they'll never tell you about is the Bibliography Help. Everything they need to know to create or format a bibliography is on here. I have links to citation creation sites. They can access this all the time. In 5th grade they have to create a citation by hand and then I show them the sites to help them. They know it's there; they have seen it there since 4th grade.

When you have LCPS GO downloaded, you have access to all the electronic info that Loudoun County buys. They need their student number and secret password. No one else can get into their account.

As a librarian, I can access everything K-12 but on your child's, this "Epic" doesn't work. Parents can buy a subscription to it which gives you access to thousands of books at homes. Parents buying it allows them to use it for free at school. The teachers use it a lot because it supplements the classroom library, especially in their "All About".

Library resources: e-books, audiobooks, e-resources, World Book online and Britannica, etc. What I want to show you is MackinVIA, a LCPS based e-library. All students have their own account; even staff members have it. I purchase e-books for this e-library. When I open my backpack, I can put as many books in my "favorite" account as I want and check out as many books as I want. Later on, they can take electronic notes in their e-books and

the notes stay in there through their electronic account. There are groups geared toward grade level projects. A lot of the PBL projects: we've created a group inside MackinVIA where they can access those. I can also insert videos and websites. They can even do their homework on a snow day! Sometimes families take extended trips and are there for a long time. The kids can access this and work on a project and work on books. A lot of times they won't tell you about that.

The public library has Hoopla to download audio and videos for free. You need your library card. They have Overdrive which is the equivalent of our MackinVIA.

Between the LCPL and LCPS, there is a wealth of information you can access online.

Beanstalk: free personalized information you can set up. Input your interests and it gives you recommendations for what you want to read.

Passwords? They just need to log into their LCPS GO (student number and special password). Once they are in, they can get into everything inside the library resources. I had the second graders logging in at the beginning of the year and we were doing research.

They will not see the middle school or high school things, just the elementary things.

iPads in the library at school: you would choose your grade level and access from 25,000 titles. They can even search for books using keywords. They can access LCPS GO through this. Today, first graders were researching people and using the iPad apps to do it.

In MackinVIA, kids can put books on hold. For the books in person, they have to come to the librarians and ask them to do it. The icon looks like a pinwheel.

MackinVIA is associated by school. They get different access depending on the schools. A teacher can put up a book and everyone can see it and read it.

The Tumble books are awesome too. They are interactive. I have Tumble books in the cloud. The younger kids are used to the Tumble books where the characters are dancing around.

"I can lead a horse to water but I can't make it drink." It's up to you if you want to use it.

3. President's Report – *Jen Robinette*

- a. PTA General Meeting called to order at 3:21 p.m.
- b. Bingo in January was a huge success. From start to finish, from the moment every classroom brought a basket (some brought a couple more!) to the timing of bingo being during a really stressful time for a lot of parents, to showing how many people came. I purchased 600+ cards thinking I'd have enough for next year too. We went through all of them! 247 students received a free bingo card. It was so good to see all the families. It was a free event unless they wanted to play bingo for \$5 a card. The gym was packed! I needed more tables and chairs. I can't say enough good things about our emcees running the show. Bingo isn't intended to

be a fundraising event; it's a family fun night. Similar to a lot of our fun events, the goal is to have the Liberty families come together and spend time together. Laps for Liberty is our one main FUNdraiser. The rest is icing on the cake.

- c. Looking ahead to 2019/2020: If there are things you want to participate in, we have a lot of seats coming up that'll be vacant. Even if you don't want to be a lead, and want to be a "right hand person" we would love you. Nominations and elections are coming up. Voting is in April.
4. Principal's Remarks – *Paul Pack*: I wanted to remind everyone we are gearing up for STEMmerday and Matball. Once my team wins the tournament, Becky and Stephanie I'll show you my trophy!

Just a couple things to draw to your attention: LCPS will send out a Community Survey to parents. The change: a few years ago, it was a principals' survey not shared openly. Now it's part of Virginia Department of Education record and encompasses the whole school. Our school is a very positive school community. Whether or not you're here or another school, people are 7 times more likely to fill out a survey if they're dissatisfied. If you feel strongly about this school or another school, be cognizant of the survey and fill it out. It gets published to everyone. Students, teachers, and administrative staff get a lot from your positive feedback. Any constructive feedback too, please share.

The other thing, piggybacking off Alicia's presentation, I want to make sure the community knows that next year Liberty is due to get a complete technology refresh. K-2: kids get new computers. 3-5: each student is issued their own Chromebook. When they exit 5th grade they give it back to us. All these online materials will be even more accessible to us. This is going to be one of the biggest game changers since we adopted our iPad philosophy. The K-2 kids will still get that. What's great about our school is that the shared technology K-5 will now be for K-2. Our school will be in a really great situation next year. We'll put on parent coffees with administrative staff on how kids can care for their Chromebooks. That is something to get excited about. The devices for 3-5 can bring the devices home. K-2 is a similar model to what we currently have. It'll be all new computers. Sometimes the Loudoun County devices are so old that they're unreliable. Now we can have capable devices all throughout the building.

5. Treasurer's Report – *Lisa Geurin*
 - a. Bingo: even with giving out 247 free cards to students, we made almost \$3,000. That was a huge success.
 - b. Budget update: we have after-school enrichment funds coming in but we have to pay out our vendors and teachers for their services.
 - c. After the last PTA meeting, I completed and filled our FY17-18 taxes.
6. Recording Secretary – *Jill DeLorenzo* Motion to approve meeting minutes by Sandy Toor, Lisa Geurin seconds motion to approve meeting minutes. All in favor of approving them, yes. None opposed.

7. VP of Fundraising – *William Perry*

- a. Spirit Nights – 2/18: no school but we have Chuck E Cheese Herndon by Clocktower fundraiser. 3/28: McDonald's.

8. VP of Events - *Smitha Tumuluri* – Bingo was a huge hit; thank you to parents and volunteers. Looking ahead we have 3/9 STEMmerday 3/21 Matball and 6/6-7 5th Grade Promotion. These dates have all been approved. 6/7 is 5th grade party.

Paul – The team lead is Courtney Peckham. If I can help with anything, by all means... last year we had a change where some events were inside. We worked that out.

Sandy Toor – Courtney is the lead on the 5th grade promotion this year. She wants to know if we want to do the same thing this year as we did last year.

5th grade team meets this Thursday after school, in Courtney's room (#28).

9. VP Committees/Volunteer Coordinator Report – *Poonam Upadhyaya* – No report.

10. Corresponding Secretary Report – *Tez Nettimi* – Free spontaneous workshop at Liberty coming up. The team is asking for canned goods donations.

11. Committee Reports:

- a. After School Enrichment – *Jen Robinette*. Registration ended yesterday. Our primary goal was to have teachers primarily leading. Unfortunately, with the number of students enrolled we cannot fill all the programs. We will have to drop them down. About 4 of the classes didn't meet enrollment minimums. Parents have to be able to see it and expect it and then we can get enrollment up again. Just because it doesn't go this session doesn't mean we won't try it again. Because we unified everything with 6Crickets platform (even with vendors), we gave parents one spot to pay into. Then we can take care of vendor fees.

Sandy – You couldn't see how many were enrolled and how many were left from the parent side. The age groups: it was tough for me having a kindergartener and a 3rd grader to have options they could do together. I liked having the multiple days (all days but Friday).

Jen - I tried to offer a K-2 program and 3-5 program concurrently. Some teachers gave the age range they wanted. Some of the vendors also wanted two separate days for different age groups. Tennis and flag football wanted two separate days. This might be where we are headed. This starts the week of the 17th/18th. I'll contact parents whose classes won't be going. The other advantage is that on 6Crickets, there's the option to transfer into another class. We don't have to keep refunding money.

- b. American Education Week – *Alisha Vaughn*. Alisha loves a good party. She rocked it this year and will do it again next year. Alisha also loves help! This year she co-chaired it so she'd love someone to help.

- c. Bingo – *Jen Robinette*. This chair position is open for next year. It's not so hands-on except for Costco runs and making sure things are set up. I'm happy to talk to anyone interested.
- d. Box Tops – *Karin Lisack*.
- e. Children's Diversity Night – *Need a 2019/2020 Chair*. Sandy Toor can talk to anyone interested in chairing this.
- f. Eagle Eye Dads – *William Perry*. *Paul*: Every Monday and Friday we have someone here. They are doing more with enrichment for certain students. Katherine Houston has grade-level enrichment kits. They are pulling small groups of kids who can use differentiation.
- g. Fifth Grade Celebration Parent – *Coy Brown-Taylor*. I'm going to contact Mr. Pack with requests for different things and meet with teachers on Thursday.
- h. Laps for Liberty – *Need a 2019/2020 Chair*.
- i. Matball – *Jen Robinette*. This is my second favorite event (maybe first). I love any event that gets all our families together in one spot. Theme is Harry Potter. Ms. G, our art teacher, did the shirts design. You'll start to see flyers for those going out. We have 4 teams instead of 2 – not grade level based. Each teacher is assigned to a "house". When you're selecting your shirts there are 4 different colors (gold, green, burgundy, and blue). The gold and green will have black writing and burgundy and blue will have white writing. Our spiritwear has last names and numbers on the back.

Paul – Would someone from the PTA be able to have some sort of symbol with teachers' numbers and house outside their classrooms? Something where kids walk up and down the hallways... we can sell both sides of the bleachers if we publicize it enough. We will create commercials for the Mo Show. This will be the theme for STEMmerday too

Jen – Yes! The person across from you could be a different house.

- j. MSAAC – *Need a 2019/2020 Chair*.
- k. Newsletter – *Jill DeLorenzo* – a brief overview of the February 2019 newsletter. The newsletter is just about approved and will be distributed this evening.
- l. Nominations Committee – We need to have people volunteer for this board to help us put our slate together for elections.

Paul – Put Alex Gray on there. He's building relationships with Eagle Eye Dads and can talk to them about volunteering for positions.

- m. Odyssey of the Mind – *Tez Nettimi* – See above under Tez's report.

- n. Room Parent Coordinator – *Sandy Toor* – I told parents to take \$2 from all the funds they were receiving to help with bingo baskets. I wanted to put out a feedback request to see what their thoughts were about bingo baskets. The baskets were amazing this year. I would need the list of who signed up online. If you want to communicate anything to the teachers in general, from your grade, please send me an email.
- o. School Dance – *Need a 2019/2020 chair*. The kids love it so it'd be great to have it again next year.
- p. Supply Kits – *Lisa Morales*. She's established her contact with the school supply kits.
- q. SEAC – *Alisha Vaughn* – Info is in the newsletter.
- r. Social Media – *Jill DeLorenzo/Jen Robinette* – No report.
- s. Spirit Wear – *Jeff Geurin*. No report.
- t. Teacher Appreciation Week – *Alisha Vaughn*. She's putting together everything. She has a baseball theme for this.
- u. Welcome Back Luncheon – *Alisha Vaughn*. This happens after the Open House for the students. She'll need a co-chair.
- v. Website – *Jen Robinette/Jill DeLorenzo/William Perry*. This will be updated soon.

12. Adjourn at 3:51 p.m.

Sign-in sheet attached.