General Meeting Minutes

PTA: Liberty Elementary School PTA, General PTA Meeting
Date: November 12, 2019
Time: 3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Executive Attendees: William, Lisa, Smitha, Jill, Caitlin, Paul

I. **Educational Services:** Gifted, EL and Reading with Katharine Houston, Katie Brunk, and JoAnn Kowalski.
   - Katie Brunk introduces slideshow outlining what EL is and how diverse our student population is. All children from homes speaking more than one language are screened at welcome center or at school. Assessed in listening, speaking, language, and writing. Inclusive environment is priority but pull out for intervention in a quiet setting is needed in some cases. Goal is to allow students to access the general curriculum and help them bridge the gap. Assess yearly to determine placement next year.
   - Katherine Houston introduces SEARCH, our gifted resource. Collaborates with classroom teachers to meet the needs of higher achieving students who exhibit a different way of thinking. Social and emotional support for gifted students is important. Pulls out to work on lessons for portfolio, standardized testing, and teacher recommendation for identification. County decides what gifted programs looks like. SEARCH, Futura, Edge. Different programs focus on different components based on grade. Edge focuses on high level reasoning for underrepresented populations.
   - Joanne Kowalski explains multiple roles of reading specialists. Assessments, intervention, implementing Lucy Pathways. DRA and PALS assessments teachers do in classroom and reading specialists can assist. Intervention is done by pulling students because the school is so populated it helps keep student focus. Coaching, co-teaching, assisting classroom teachers for older students. New reading program dictates students cannot be pulled during core instruction, so schedules vary. Slide with suggestions for building a better reader at home.
   - Paul says that PTA does not need to answer parent questions about specials. Wants to be sure PTA asks for any presentations we want to hear more about. Testing, Eagle Eye Dad, Counseling, etc. Send email with suggestions and requests. Will Smith suggests raising the profile of school exposure. Paul wants to be sure we’re focused on school work during the day. Won’t send signals out for exposure but opportunities may come up. There is some advantage to branding a school for partnerships but not our focus.

II. **Call Meeting to Order at 3:17pm by William**

III. **Introductions**

IV. **Approval of Minutes**
V. Reports of Officers
   • Treasurer’s Report - Lisa Geurin
     o Surpassed our budgeted profit for Laps, $33,000 profit rather than $30,000. School dance is next event. Runover in school requests dues to carry over from flex seating. Move $3,500 into school requests. Motion by Paul, second by William. At a surplus with $3,000 over profit for Laps, and will have $1,200 at the end of the year. Will be down to $800. Other profits coming in, including after school enrichments. Paul says reminder went out that teacher allotment was due. Still excess money there, Lisa has received many in the past few weeks. Paul wants a time frame on that, so money isn’t trickling in. William says we never hit budget, but we won’t have to lower it in case new teachers need it. End of Jan cut off. No opposition to vote.
   • Principal’s Report – Paul Pack
     o CDN was fantastic. From attendance to the work the music teachers did with PTA, the performances, and having it in one hallway with activities. Sometimes too spread out but this was comfortable and well organized with a lot of volunteers. One of the best we’ve had. Thanks to PTA for American Education Week. The county doesn’t have us do a lot with national AEW next week, so we like to do it this week. Kickoff with Veterans Day assembly, breakfast, dance, lunch, etc. Nice to take the focus off of having parents come in each day. Teachers feel that PTA is always there for them and there’s a great atmosphere in the building.
   • Fundraising - Jill DeLorenzo – Disney update
     o Jill gives explanation of the grant for Disney tickets. Our volunteering event was CDN, writeup done today, need to send photos. After 30-60 days we will get tickets, then will disclose how they will be awarded. We will receive 20 tickets for our 85 volunteers. Hopes to do this every year now that we’re approved. Thanks to all who made it possible.
     o Nov 19 is spirit night at McDonalds. Stickers will go out.

VI. Reports of Committees
   • Membership - Anaheeta Minwalla
     o Ahead of last year. Recognized by VA PTA for all core teachers being members.
   • MSAAC – Natalia Beardslee
     o Attached
   • Children’s Diversity Night
     o Chairs recap the event, all went according to plan. Succeeded in getting diverse performers and keeping it organized. Budget was $100 below $1,000 allotment. Kids enjoyed crafts and got to take them home. Thanks from all! A photo of our people cutout banners was reshared by VA PTA. Jill’s video was great!
   • Reflections
     o Due this week. Box in office for collection, must have entry form attached. Judges are lined up. First place goes to districts.
VII. New Business

- Budget Increase for School Requests
  - Covered during Treasurer’s Report
- PTA Programs
  - Citizenship Essay – Jan 15
    - “What Does it Mean to You to be a Citizen?” QR codes are out there with more info.
  - Power Plates – Feb 13
    - Recipe contest, take photos. Entered directly to VA PTA or Hunt. QR codes are out there with more info.

VIII. Announcements

- Nov. 11-15 – American Education Week
  - Going on this week. Thanks to Alisha, the lounge is warm and inviting. Golly Waffles went well Monday morning. Friday’s lunch from Famous Toastery, looking forward to that.
- Nov. 15 – School Dance
  - William reviews FAQ. $5 per student online, closes Thursday midnight then $10 at the door. At least one parent or guardian required and are free. Light refreshments are free. Attire is country or pop themed. Photobooth will be there. Volunteers’ children get in free. Flyer going out this week. MoShow announcing all week.
- Nov. 19 – Spirit Night: McDonald’s
- Dec. 3 – PTA General Meeting
- Dec. 3 – Family Literacy Night
- Dec. 6 – Parent Night Out: TFE
  - Jill says info going out next week. Good for date night, holiday shopping. Age range is potty trained to age 14. Access to ninja course, b-ball, Chick Fil-A dinner. Attended Buffalo Trail’s and they did a nice job. $5 back to Liberty per child.
- Eagle Eye Dad – Will says we’re on autopilot, 36 of 50 filled. Paul says Dads have been great, Alex working on grade level meaningful activities with teachers.

Adjourned 3:39pm
MSAAC Notes by Natalia Beardslee

The second MSAAC meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was attended by nearly 200 students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders. The turnout affirms the commitment of our community to ensuring that there are equitable opportunities available for every student in Loudoun County Public Schools. The MSAAC meeting was recorded on video and the link will be shared on the MSAAC website upon release.

LCPS Director of Equity, Ms. Lottie Spurlock, provided an LCPS Equity update on professional learning, student support, social-emotional learning, and engagement opportunities extended by LCPS to MSAAC. The LCPS Equity Webpage has been launched and can be found at the Superintendent’s webpage.

LCPS leaders for social-emotional learning were also introduced, including Dr. Tracy Jackson, School Counseling Supervisor; Dr. John Lody, Director of Diagnostic and Prevention Services; Mrs. Stefanie LaPolla, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Supervisor, and Guest Psychologist: Justin S. Hopkins, Psy.D.

The featured speaker for the October MSAAC meeting was Dr. Valerie Adams-Bass, of the University of Virginia Curry School of Education and Human Development, Youth-Nex | The UVA Center to Promote Effective Youth Development and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Racial Empowerment Collaborative. The presentation was titled, “Racial Encounters of the Personal Kind What Now? What’s Next?”.

There are several upcoming opportunities to engage in equity work both internal and external to LCPS, including Revolutionary Educator’s Book Club, LCPS School Naming Committee, Academies of Loudoun, Loudoun County Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) - Leesburg Halloween Parade, Reviewing Equity Policy, and MSAAC Student Representatives.

MSAAC requests your help in the review of policies to help develop solutions for its focus areas. There are several topics that are of interest to the MSAAC Community, including the Ad Hoc Committee on Equity Recommendation to Continue Ad Hoc Committee on Equity Meetings; Policy 8250, Bullying Prevention and Education and the deletion of Policy 8-41; the timeline for English and Language Arts textbook/resource adoption; and the process for book selection and approval for classroom libraries and school libraries, presented by the Department of Instruction. There has been a debate concerning the Diverse Classroom Libraries initiative by LCPS.

The next monthly MSAAC General Membership meeting is Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00pm at the LCPS Administration building. The November topic will focus on partnering with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for a discussion on Discipline Disparities.

The Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) is dedicated to partnering with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), parents, and the community to acknowledge and promote the needs of minority students. MSAAC is also dedicated to building a school system that is culturally and socially competent and positioned to provide fair and equitable learning experiences for all students. General Membership Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the LCPS Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA. For more information, please visit the MSAAC home page at https://www.lcps.org/domain/102.