

# General Meeting of Luther Conant Parent Teacher Organization

Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

## Notes



### November 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, 7 pm -PTO General Body Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:05 pm

**Board Members Present for General Body Meeting;** Vicki Tardif, President, Erik Larson, VP, Jaime Roberts, Secretary, Andrew Jones, Treasurer

**Teachers, Parents, Guests Present for General Body Meeting;** Abigail Dressler, Jenna Zamary, 6 parents , total.. Heather Tortola, Jimmy Reichert to name a few

**Welcome,** Vicki Tardif welcomed the group

**Recent Events:** Pumpkin Fest, great success maybe do again next year, birthday book started but we need more \$ for it. Kids are loving it.

**Principal Update:** Sharon Ryan is the literacy specialist and she keeps track, trains teachers and brings in speakers .There has been concerns due to the I ready reading assessments that kids need to increase their academic vocabulary. Sharon Ryan would like to come to a PTO meeting to talk about how parents can support their kids and any suggestions she has. Would PTO like her to come to December meeting? PTO said yes, but Vicki wasn't sure about the timing of the December meeting, maybe another date? Vicki should give Abigail a heads up on dates so she can invite Sharon Ryan.

-Abigail also wanted to see if PTO would approve more funding for the birthday books. They cost 3 to 6 \$ per book and she had some funding from last year but needs more. Vicki commented that if we spend under 1000 then we don't need school committee approval so there was a motion to approve from Vicki and 2<sup>nd</sup> from Erik

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Larson to do \$950 for the birthday books approved. It all needs to be equitable across district schools per Superintendent Light.

### **New Business:**

-Budget approval and fundraising plan for this year:

-no formal fundraising plan for this year but it was brought up to do the Appeal to all families and that was approved by the PTO.

-Abigail said that the teachers all want to do the Ice Cream Social in the spring (May) from 4 to 5:30 or so after school, outside one day and have games and ice cream and charge an entrance(cover charge) fee per family so we can make some money from this.

-Vicki said that in the next December School Committee meeting she can get the budget approved since it was approved by the PTO tonight and add in that we are doing an Appeal this year.

The 3 things we decided on tonight to do for fundraising are:

- 1) Annual Appeal (need to figure out communication to families around this)
- 2) Ice Cream Social
- 3) Conant Spirit Wear Gear Sale

-Plan for Craft Fair in 2022 as that is the major fundraiser that we have done in the past but had to cancel in 2020 and 2021.

-Jimmy Reichert discussed the need to figure out what are spending needs are compared to the fundraising needs.

-Andrew Jones shared the spending plan \$18, 368 spending need approx and he broke it down on costs of things, current need is the \$800 for tax prep

-Vicki will need to submit final plan to Abigail to go to school committee?

-It was suggested by Catherine Reichert that we do an Annual appeal each year to be consistent even if people can only give \$2 or something if they can't volunteer it seems as though people can match with employee or budget it each year

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- in the past we gave a free Polar pass to events if they donated a certain amt which we can think about in future years. Try to get 100% participation per family.
- Abigail said other school's budgets were more general that were submitted and good to do it all at once rather than piece by piece
- some budget items we can reduce are the snacks to go seasonal (fall, winter, spring, not monthly)
- other was that in 2020 the PTO covered the Yearbooks for all but in 2021(last year) the 6<sup>th</sup> graders paid for their own yearbook but ordered for every student. IF the student couldn't pay the PTO covered the cost and paid the difference. Abigail said she has a principal's discretionary fund that she can cover the cost instead, not the PTO for 2022.
- We can change the line item for Yearbook costs to the Birthday Book costs that we just added \$950
- Polar Pride Gear: Vicki talked to Mas Rodriguez and Debby Lee about ordering sweatshirts, PJ pants, sweatpants, duffle bags for this year. We approved as a PTO to add money to the cost so we can use it is as a fundraiser. Abigail noted that for all the years she has been at Conant they always charged a little extra to make money. The spending was approx. 4200 to upfront the money but we would get that back or more.
- Duffle bags they would add \$1.00approx, Sweatshirts, \$3 to \$5 etc.
- Should we take out the line item for teacher reimbursement (\$150) not all schools do that and Vicki felt it could raise eyebrows if other schools don't do it.
- Jenna is going to ask teachers if they want to have back to school in January breakfast like they have had in the past or do to Holiday in December lunch (Bueno/etc)
- Communication is hard**, we don't know how /why families aren't getting the Polar Press emails/website(can someone volunteer to update this) is outdated, Facebook is getting updated very regularly but are people seeing it? How best can we communicate with parents?
- room parents-make sure all classes have one and go through them to email families and send out directory ASAP
- through teacher emails directing the parents to the Facebook page

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-Flyers in backpacks- Andrew Jones said he will create a flyer with ways to get involved as well as Annual Appeal and Abigail said the main office can make copies and distribute

-Spending Plan was approved by the people at the meeting

#### **-Other Fundraising or Social Event Ideas:**

-Movie night in spring outside? Abigail would need to ask Tech if that would work?

-Can't do it inside to do contact tracing nightmare.

-Polar Pride Picnic/Field Day is most likely a go this year!

**Open Discussion:** Vicki asked when we (parents) be back in the building? Abigail said that 50% of Conant students have one shot so far as of today and if we get to 70% or greater, it may stop pool testing as you can't test vaccinated through pool testing. Maybe allow parents in the building after the winter.

-vaccination clinic through district ran well

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:43 pm

**Minutes Typed by:** Jaime Roberts