

Loomis Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm, May 9, 2018.

Minutes from the April 2018 meeting reviewed and approved.

Officers' Reports

President's Report:

Vicky thanked everyone for attending the meetings and being active, especially Melonie for seven years of Bingo. Wendy and Gina are also moving on.

Water stations have been purchased with free delivery, hopefully to be installed over the summer. There is a joint PTO fundraiser to support school spirit with lawn signs. Dr. Cary said it would be a great way to start the next year. We did get a number for the Giant A Plus Rewards. It is \$1,288.24. Vicky emailed committee heads. If you plan of staying with your committee, please let her know. Maria Mackey would like help for next year.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports:

- Mexican Themed Teacher Luncheon (May 9)
- Big Guy Breakfast (May 11)
- Field Day - Dana Chirico (May 18)
 - Inflatable Obstacle Course from Bette's \$100 approved by PTO
 - 46 T-shirts ordered. We collected \$322

Principal's Report - TJ Gretchen:

Thank you to everyone here tonight. It's been an incredible year. Great getting to know you, your kids and the community. I love the teachers and kids here. Thank you for lunch today. It was very popular with the Mexican theme. Teacher of excellence was announced, Kim Young.

At the last meeting ways to consider spending money in the school was discussed.

(At this time the meeting was moved to a classroom to view the whiteboard tables.)

Kids work in small groups, up to 3 kids at a time. A problem is put on the desk by Ms King.

Students collaborate with each other. This allows kids to capture their ideas without a piece of paper. Kids work together to come up with solutions instead of sitting at a desk alone. While this is going on, other kids work at their seat doing table work. There are 4 in Ms King's room.

We bought 8 sections. There are 4 in Ms. Lovitz' room. Teachers were poled. A large number of teachers would like these to replace their trapezoid tables. Dr. Gretchen would like a whole set

for the library. 15 tables would go in the library. The rest would go in classrooms to whoever requested them. The cost is \$236 for one table. The vendor is a district approved vendor. These would replace every table in the library. If other teachers want them in the future, the school would buy them, not the PTO.

Questions asked:

- 1) How would the tables be used in the library? Dr. Gretchen would like to see more STEM activities incorporated in the library. They could use tables to write equations. With Friday rotation every other week or once a month, there would be a STEM incorporated project with specials teachers tied to literacy to be held in the cafeteria.
- 2) Are they scratch resistant? We have had them for a month. They have held up pretty good.

Teacher's Report (Ms. DeLiberty):

Thank you for the lovely luncheon and the Elmo in my room. Thank you for everything you do throughout the year. Looking forward to Field Day and the talent show. There will be a different format this year. Tried to address concerns about crowdedness. Wanted Dr. Gretchen to experience it at Loomis, then decide if we'll change to a different venue. There will be 2 opening acts, 2 closing acts with a 45-minute intermission. Hopefully it's a success. If not, we'll go back to the drawing board.

Unfinished (old) Business

- Recycling Bin - We received a check in the amount of \$120
- Playground Safety Equipment - At the last meeting basketball pole padding was mentioned and injuries on swing chains. There are no covers that slip over chains. They are dipped chains. 11 swing chains would need to be replaced. 11 sets of chains would cost \$1,495.58. Four basketball pole covers would cost \$538.91 with freight charge. We won't hire them for installation because it is fairly simple. The total would be \$2,034.49.
- Wall Ball Anti-Bullying Project - Jen Travaglini has been to the last 2 school board meetings. They're on board with the project. It cannot be on a wall that's attached to the building. They will construct an 8 x 10 wall for us which could possibly hide the fence where the generator is, as Dr. Gretchen suggested. Student participated design suggestions are needed, then they will be presented to the board. The high school art club has volunteered to paint. It could be ready and done by summer.

Treasurer -- There is currently an available balance of \$39,000. PTO started the year with \$19,000, would like to have \$10,000 or \$15,000 carried over to the next year. \$8,000 is needed to finish out the 5th grade. 6 elmos have been requested in the amount of \$657 each including shipping, totaling \$4,000; 42 tables totalling \$11,000. Teachers wish list -- \$1,500 to \$2,000;

\$1,200 is the number without Elmos. The total is approximately \$16,000 plus \$12,000 in other expenses which is \$28,000, leaving about \$11,000 to take into next year, not including playground equipment.

- Swing set total for both swing chains and basketball poles is \$2,157.00. The breakdown is approximately \$2,000 for swing chains, \$600 pole padding.
- Teachers wish list -- Items range in price from \$19 to \$400, including elmos, tables. \$2,200 plus 2 elmo document readers, 3 teachers asked for gift cards with no specified amount.
- Whiteboard tables without shipping \$9,912 for 42 tables, including library. Deducting library would be minus 15 tables for \$6,372.

Questions asked:

- 1) Is there any potential to make money off of selling tables that are replaced with white tables? Mr. Gretchen would store them in the basement for future use.
- 2) How many STEM kits do we have already? Dr. Pittone purchased one kit per grade level.
- 3) Are Beckers notebooks still necessary and why is the PTO putting up the money for this? Mr. Gretchen needs to speak with staff to address this.
- 4) Field Trips. Can we think of trips for 1st and 3rd grade for next year? Dr. Gretchen says we can discuss it.

New Business

- Lobby Tree

Votes:

- There was a vote to Include the library in the final table request. Approved.
 - There was a vote to purchase 42 tables. Approved.
 - There was a vote giving the board \$500 leeway if the total for tables is more than \$11,000. Approved.
 - There was a vote to purchase 6 elmos for \$4,000. Approved.
 - 11 sets of swing chains for \$1,500 was voted on. Not approved.
 - Wraparound pole padding - \$600 for 4 poles to have padding. Approved.
 - \$1,600 for teachers wish list was voted on, not including gift card requests. Approved.
 - \$200 budget for beautification was voted on and approved.
 - \$100 talent show budget. Approved.
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- ❖ Making cards during a rainy day recess was suggested for a high school student recently diagnosed with lymphoma who is the cousin of a Loomis student.
 - ❖ Some parents in the district started a committee, a parent advisory group. It meets the first Monday of every month. Transparency in communication, accuracy of information

are being focused on. They are coming to all PTO meetings this month asking for support. They would like to let Dr. Cary know that parents support this. Some suggestions of the committee are meeting availability, public relations, stronger social media presence, board member bios posted online, meet and greet events.

Announcements:

Next PTO Meeting: See you in the fall!

Adjournment: 8:39 p.m.

Attendance: Vicky Adams, Kalli Badalotto, Rebecca Silver, Shameka Smith, TJ Gretchen, Stephanie DeLiberty, Jen Travaglini, Janine Faggiola, Martha Davis, Cathy Forlano, Kate Cancelliere, Michelle Patrick, Dana Chirico, Melonie Petersen, Beth Leach, Bevin Newlin, Vicky, Koulas.