

Loomis Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm, March 14, 2018.

Minutes from the February 2018 meeting reviewed and approved.

Officers' Reports

President's Report:

Congratulations to Dr. Gretchen on receiving his Doctor of Education degree. The PTO presented a poster signed by every student in the school to Dr. Gretchen. Mrs. O'Donnell had every child sign the poster. Thank you to Ms. DeLiberty for organizing. Thank you to the Philadelphia Soul for donating the poster. Thank you to Frames and Company in Newtown Square for helping out with the framing.

Fun Fair thank-yous. Thank you to the volunteers, especially to those doing double shifts. Philly Pretzel Factory gave us more free pretzel coupons. Vicky Koulas will give cards to the businesses that donated to the Fun Fair.

A heads of committees survey will be going out. If there are any questions you would like feedback on, please send them to Vicky and they will be included in the survey.

For all of those in the running for attending 50% of the PTO meetings, there are two open positions of secretary and vice president which need to be filled. Please contact Vicky.

Votes requested to take place. One of the votes is to have the PTO donate the big ticket item to the Fun Fair. This year was the laptop. Since the PTO has been doing it, we will vote to make it a line item. There will also be a vote to have a magician as part of 5th grade graduation every year.

Treasurer's Report:

Fun Fair made about \$6,000 plus or minus.

Treasurer's budget reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports:

- Fun Fair -- Dana Chirico thanked everyone for coming out and also thanked the volunteers and Tyler family for the water ice donation. Numbers are down as anticipated. We took a chance bringing in cheese steaks for the Philly theme. Walking through the halls, it wasn't as busy as previous years. \$6,500 was the final number after expenses. The committee is thinking about pushing the date back later in March.

- HEADStrong -- Dana Chirico - It was canceled due to weather. It has been moved to Friday, April 6. If money was sent in and you can't make the new date, a refund will be given.
- Spring '18 Book Fair -- Looks busy. It is today and tomorrow.

Principal's Report - TJ Gretchen:

Thanked the PTO for Parent Night organization. We had a nice turnout. There was positive feedback. Dr. Gretchen is considering doing another night with a speaker from Delco Intermediate Unit to speak about internet safety and would also like to bring more parents in so they can be a part of what's happening, seeing the ins and outs of what happens at Loomis on a daily basis.

The Fun Fair was very well organized. There's a sense of community during this event. This past Monday night kindergarten registration was held. 30 kindergarteners signed up for next year.

School security update. John Calamia walked through our school with Dr. Gretchen to look at the current evacuation plan. As a result of the meeting, changes need to be made to the current plan by April. A lot has to do with how classes are currently exiting the building. The district contracted with Seraph, an outside security team that came to our school, did a walk-through, making sure doors were locked. Currently there is no way to lock the cafeteria doors. A punch list was made which will go to the superintendent's office to address the concerns.

Family STEM Challenge Night. Parents would come in with kids by grade level and come up with solutions that revolve around science, technology, engineering and math. Next year Dr. Gretchen would like to have a STEM day with different stations where kids would learn real-world applications about things they are learning. We will need help reaching out to people in our community and would like to have a committee of parents write letters in Broomall and Newtown Square area. The tentative date is early December.

Teacher's Report (Ms. DeLiberty):

Thank you for Fun Fair. Watching everyone at the end is a lot of fun. So excited for the winners. Thank you to the parents that came to Parent Night. Impressed with the turnout and participation.

Unfinished (old) Business

Sarah Colucci discussed the paper recycling dumpster removal. Someone requested the bill be removed. Do we still want to do it now under new ownership? \$5 is given for every ton.

Is there a reason why it was removed on the district's end? Dr. Gretchen will look into this.

New Business

- After the 5th grade graduation ceremony, there will be an outdoor reception with families. Leading up to the party, we will have a magician come in and do a show instead of students hanging out in a room, watching a movie in the afternoon. Mrs. Colucci was able to find a magician for the afternoon for \$500. There was a vote which was approved with no opposition.
- The question was asked: Why is there PSSA homework for 4th grade? PSSA coach book has come home for homework.

Dr. Gretchen responded that the coaching book is similar to anthology books. It's another resource teachers are given. 3rd grade uses it in ELA.

- Moving the talent show out of Loomis was discussed. Culbertson will be using the HS auditorium at no cost. Dr. Gretchen says it is fine by him. He will talk with the coordinator. What is the benefit of having it at Loomis? Ms. DeLiberty says because all practices are at Loomis. What does it entail as far as using their microphones and sound system?
- Kids wrote thank-you letters to businesses that donated to Fun Fair. If anyone would like to hand deliver the notes with the children to the businesses, please let Vicky Koulas know.
- 3rd grade does an animal extravaganza diorama with the animals. Nicholas Smith Trains donates every year. It was suggested to mention them in a letter that goes home to show support to people that support us. Maybe print a paper letting families know who donated and thank these businesses when you are in their business.
- Since there is a lot of money leftover with the PTO, bringing in water bottle filling stations was discussed. New mats in the gym to make the school more tiger like instead of leopard are being looked at for the funds. Updating the cafeteria first instead was brought up. Dr. Gretchen also suggested tables that are being used in a Downingtown school which were shown to him by a consultant.
- Questions were asked -- Is the district providing any funds for schools to be tigerized instead of PTO? Was any money budgeted for individual schools as part of their marketing budget?
- Field Day t-shirts. \$2,100 was spent on t-shirts last year. Vote is needed to do this again. Questions were asked: Will this be ongoing or done year by year? Could this be sponsored? Would B&E be willing to give a discount? There was a vote on PTO supplying kids and faculty with Field Day t-shirts for this year only. Majority voted on PTO paying. Keeping the logo more general as opposed to it saying Field Day was suggested.

Announcements:

Next PTO Meeting: Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 7pm in the Loomis cafeteria.

Adjournment: 8:02 p.m.

Attendance: Vicky Adams, Kalli Badalotto, Rebecca Silver, Shameka Smith, TJ Gretchen, Nicole Calamia, Michele Rogers, Sarah Colucci, Beth Leach, Wendy Fasbinder. Melonie Petersen, Martha Davis, Kate Cancelliere, April Tyler, Stephanie DeLiberty, Christy O'Neill, Karen Dina, Helene Duffy, Melissa Jackson, Vicky, Koulas, Dana Chirico.