

Lafayette Regional School - LPTO Meeting

April 4, 2011, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room

Present: Gordie Johnk, Toni Butterfield, Teresa Gould, Cindy Burnell, Crystal Hodgdon, Christina Gargano, Kim Magness, Lynn Kenerson.

Approval of March 2011 minutes – The group approved the minutes without correction.

Treasurer's report – Cindy reported that we received an additional \$375 for the Spelling Bee, \$75 for the Singing Valentines, and \$80 for the Foreign Language Club. We paid Tinker \$264 for the pizza at the Spelling Bee. We paid out \$1,160 for the Foreign Language Program. We need to collect an addition \$120 from participants who have not yet paid. We distributed two allocations, one for \$100 to Mrs. Lanin for the iEarn pen pal program and \$325 for the clavinova dolly.

Teacher Request – Mr. Mellekas requested \$250 for the funding of a second grade program partnering with seniors from the Senior Center in Littleton. This is the third year Mr. Mellekas has done this program. Each year he finds an art project that can be done by the students with the seniors. The project lets everyone share past opportunities with future hopes. Artist Janet Morris will come to the class and show the group her style of work using small pieces of paper and other mediums to create a unified work of art. There will be four sessions and hopefully a final showing at WREN, as there has been in the past. The Board unanimously voted to grant \$250 for this request.

Clavinova Dolly - Mrs. Whitney stopped by our meeting and echoed words that Mr. Johnk also shared earlier in the meeting. The dolly is AWESOME. Mrs. Whitney was very appreciative of the funding for this dolly as it makes the movement of the clavinova so much easier as she changes its location two or three times a day. Mr. Johnk explained how this will protect the \$2600 investment we made in the clavinova a few years ago. Thank you LPTO.

Wunderle's Big Top Adventure – Mr. Johnk reported on the comments from the staff meeting last month regarding future visits from the circus. The group loved the residency but did not want to take advantage of the LPTO's generous funding. The staff could see the circus coming every year or every other year. Any time students spent with the circus would have a positive impact on the kids and does not detract from the day-to-day education, but does enhance it. Circus classes were held during PE and Health. Mr. Lyman was able to fit this in to his curriculum for those two classes at all grade levels. Some additional comments were that the circus helped the kids to be cooperative and collaborative. Every child could shine. Those kids that do not always find success other places could find success in the circus activities. We concluded that it would be great if we could have the circus come every other year. As we stand now, the circus would come in the same year as the Artist in Residence. With the Scientist is Residence coming in the alternate years. These seemed manageable from a financial point as well.

Recycle Sale – The Student Council is looking at the Animal Shelter and the American Red Cross to help the victims in Japan. A vote will be put to the whole student body before the final check is issued.

Sports Replay Sale/Bike Swap – Because of the unusually snowy weather, we have decided to postpone this event until after April vacation. The new date will be Saturday, April 30, 2011. We agreed to offer to have a family yard sale at the same time, similar to those that we have had in the past. Sporting equipment sales will be managed by the LPTO and the rest of families' household goods can be sold by them at a rented table. Crystal will follow up with Joyce regarding getting information in the newsletter.

Staff Appreciation Week – Great plans are moving along. Please contact Ajila Pospesil at apospesil@myfairpoint.net if you would like to help in any way. Too top secret to mention details in the minutes.

Parent Teacher Conferences Goodies – A very nice thank you note from the teachers was distributed at the meeting for everyone to read.

Possible Allocation Requests – As a follow-up to our discussion about purchasing a new rug for the lobby, Toni read from the LPTO By-Laws that one of the “Goals of the LPTO was to collaborate with the school to support improvements to the facility (i.e. Playground, grounds, ball field, etc...)” so we are right on track in funding the rug.

New Parent Orientation –Toni asked Kim and Christina, as new families to Lafayette, to look over the Parent Student Handbook and consider what information was in it, what was missing that was needed, and any other thoughts that they might have on it. It would be nice to have the Handbook on the website as a source of information for new and “old” parents. Cindy Burnell has some ideas for this as well. Our goal would be to put together resources and information that may be taken for granted for people who have been involved at the school for any length of time. Cindy, Toni, Kim and Christina will meet before our next meeting to put together some ideas for this and see where we might go. If you would like to be involved, contact Toni at tonibutterfield@me.com.

Other Business – Kim brought up a discussion about enrichment activities for the summer. We talked about the Rec Program, Copper Cannon day camp, Amy Kelley's Reading Club, the Quilt Camp at Sugar Hill Town Hall offered by Judy Weisenberger and the 4-H, and other options being offered. Kim told us about programs offered where she lived in Oklahoma and gave us some good food for thought.

Enrichment Programs for the Whole School - We talked about bringing in some sort of program – author, wildlife, Hampstead Players, in lieu of bussing the entire school to a performance outside of the school. Offerings at the Silver Center and Hopkinton Center have not seemed appropriate the last two years, as they had prior to that. The LPTO will work with Mr. Johnk as he speaks with the teachers about opportunities that they know of in the community.

Next meeting – Monday May 2, 2011 at 5:30 pm, either in the School Library or a place TBD.