

LPTO Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2011
5:30 p.m. Lafayette Regional School Library

Toni opened the meeting with a quote –

“If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job”. ~Donald D. Quinn

▪ Present: Gordie Johnk, Cindy Burnell, Toni Butterfield, Betty Egan, Erin Woo, Victoria Cole

▪ **Review & Approval of the October & November Meeting Minutes**

Tabled until next meeting.

▪ **Treasurer's Report & 2009-2010 Proposed Budget**

Our current balance is \$19,145.23. Activity for the past two months includes several items. The Fall Auction raised \$9,942, with expenses of \$1,077.40 (Chef Joe's, credit card fees, and a few miscellaneous supplies), for a net profit of \$8,864.60, a new best for the LPTO.

We collected \$475 in wreath sales and paid \$400 for the 40 wreaths we purchased, thereby earning \$75 on this year's wreath sale.

The Holiday cookie sale raised \$420. (Income shows as \$720, less the \$300 cash). Another record breaker for the LPTO.

The Recycle Sale raised \$187.75 (\$222.75 deposited less \$35 cash box).

Box Tops for Education raised \$687.50. Some of this represents box tops and some was earned from the Marketplace shopping. By making purchases by clicking through the Box Tops for Education site, we were able to earn additional funds.

We have expended \$675 for the Foreign Language Club's six-week trial period.

Cindy noted that we have approximately \$6,000 in expenses in our budget for the remainder of the school year. This is a conservative estimate and may be less. Using this estimate, the LPTO has \$13,145.17 for teacher requests and enrichment activities. If we stick to the formula, we discussed in prior years, we would hold back 25% for a starting balance for next year. This would leave us \$9,858.88 to allocate, before we consider any additional funds from the upcoming Spelling Bee.

- **Teacher Requests** – Last month, Mr. Woo and Mr. Ferguson made a request for a new computer for the lobby. The requested laptop will attach to the school network and permit all the teachers to present to the lobby screen from their classroom. The former laptop we were using was over eight years old and quite simply, ran out of juice. A quorum of the LPTO met and voted to approve this request for \$928.

Mrs. Whitney, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. Woo have submitted a request to bring a group called Street Beat to perform an assembly for the entire school. Street Beat is similar to the production of Stomp, using recycled materials and their body to make music. The Fourth Grade is studying

Stomp in their music class and was considering going to see Street Beat at the Catamount Theater, when we chose to see if Street Beat could perform for our whole school. The group is based in California and performs all over the world. We are lucky in that they will offer us their local Southern California pricing since they will already be here for the Catamount performance, thus no travel costs. The cost for our performance will be \$725. A classroom guide is also provided on the website. Street Beat will also be performing at the Lakeway School. The request was approved.

- **Foreign Language Club** – The LPTO would like to endorse and help coordinate the continuation of the Foreign Language Club. We are recommending a three-day program with classes separated into three groups by age. The LPTO agreed to provide financial aid for any child who wants to be part of the club but would not be able to for financial reasons. The group also would like Karen Marks as school liaison and Toni to speak with Alex about the class plans. Suggestions to add in information about the cultural context of the language, music, and food, as well as use of technology to bring the language alive.
- **Auction** – We plan to have a wrap up discussion about the auction at our February meeting when we hope more people will be in attendance for our Winter Social Meeting at Wendles.
- **Wreaths** – We only sold 24 of the 40 wreaths we bought. Because the wreaths were smaller than expected we only charged \$20 per wreath but some people chose to still pay the original \$25 per wreath. We need to secure a couple chair people for this fundraiser so the marketing effort can be better.
- **Recycle Sale** – We raised \$187.75 at this year's recycle sale. Gordie will work with the Student Council and the students to choose what organization will receive these funds this year. He will report back at the next meeting.

Set up was done on the Friday before the sale. We may want to consider doing this on Sunday next year so as not to interrupt the school's regular PE, Community Meeting, and lunch schedule. Kids were encouraged to shop only for their immediate family, but some exceptions were made if a child really wanted to shop for someone else. We discussed that maybe the kids could shop for their immediate family during their class time, and then come back at the end during lunch if there are additional family members for whom they would like to shop. We discussed the concern of "running out" of stuff by the time the last few grades came in to shop. One thought was to have the older classes in first as they seem to be the most "selective". Secondly, we might consider replenishing the tables halfway through so all the "good" stuff is not depleted by the first few grades.

- **Holiday Cookie Sale** – Kerri Williamson did a great job organizing the Cookie Sale this year. We had more cookies than ever. This fundraiser involves the largest number of volunteers, between bakers, wrappers, and sellers. Thanks to all!
- **Spelling Bee** – Toni distributed spelling bee team registration forms and information. The hope is to enlist up to 30 teams at \$75 per team for this event scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. We will get this information out to all students and parents with the hope that we can recruit teams as well as businesses or individuals who will sponsor teams of teachers, firefighters, librarians, or other volunteers in the community. We will host a Pizza Dinner before the competition again this year.

- **Staff Appreciation Week** – This will take place the week after the national Teacher Appreciation Week as we will be having testing that week. Our Staff Appreciation Week will take place May 9-13. Our chair of the event is Ajilla Pospesil. Parents who signed up to help on this committee are Rachel Meachen, Lucy Downey, Launa Glover, Chitra Umashankar, Sylvie Workman, Bill Oliver, Amy Baker, Kim Magness, Erin Woo, Evelyn Ford, Crystal Hodgdon, and Wendy Manning.
- **New business** – Toni asked the group to consider teacher stipends for the classroom, specials, and Special Ed teachers in recognition for all they do for the kids at Lafayette. Gordie mentioned that on average teachers spend approximately \$400 of their own money each year on their classrooms. This money is for extras, not covered by the budget, that the teachers use to enhance and enrich the education of the kids. The LPTO funds just this sort of purchases, thereby making a stipend from the LPTO being a gesture to recognize what these teachers do. The group agreed on a \$50 stipend to all classroom, specials, and Special Ed teachers.

Gordie asked that we put on the agenda for next month to have a discussion about “What is the spirit of what the LPTO does?” Come with your ideas next month!

- **Next Meeting** – LPTO Social - Monday, February 7, 2011 at 5:30 pm at Wendles.