

**Lafayette Regional School - LPTO Meeting**  
**March 14, 2011, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room**

**Present:** Gordie Johnk, Toni Butterfield, Teresa Gould, Cindy Burnell, Mary Jo Greene, Rose Ellms, Crystal Hodgdon, Christina Gargano, Kim Magness, Amy Venezia.

**Approval of February 2011 minutes.**

**Treasurer's report** – Cindy reported that the Spelling Bee had raised approximately \$1,900 to date with a few more checks expected for team sponsorships. Expenses were approximately \$294, netting just over \$1,600. There was a Foreign Language Club deposit of \$960 that will be equally expensed when we pay the foreign language club teachers. Expenses for this month included \$2,609 for Wunderle's Big Top Adventure (\$2,500 to Troy and \$109 to the Gale Rive Motel for five nights lodging). \$362.50 was paid as the balance due for the Street Beat performance in February. Finally we disbursed \$207 for the Math & Science Newsletter from Resources for Educators for K-3.

**Teacher Request** – Mrs. Whitney requested \$325 for a dolly for the clavino in the music room. The clavino is moved daily and the dolly would better preserve the instrument as well as the floor. The group was all in favor of granting this request.

**Wunderle's Big Top Adventure** – Everyone loved the circus, including student, staff, parents, and the community. We discussed how often we would like the "Circus" to come to school. There were positive remarks about having the circus here every year, every other year, and every third year – rotating with the artist and scientist residencies. Mr. Johnk will take these thoughts to the staff and see how they felt about the circus residency. We will discuss their comments at our next meeting.

**Recycle Sale** – The Student Council will be working on choosing the possible recipients for this year's Recycle Sale earnings. Their choices will be presented to all the students to vote on. We should be able to disburse the check next month.

**Singing Valentines** – A good start for this first time event. Next year we would like to get more kids involved. Perhaps the Student Council and the chorus could take a more active role. We discussed the possibility of singing during the school day. Mr. Johnk reminded us that we would need to have permission slips signed if students leave the school during school hours.

**Sports Replay Sale/Bike Swap** – Crystal Hodgdon agreed to chair this event. We picked a date of Saturday April 9, 2011, before April vacation. Crystal will follow up with Joyce regarding getting information in the newsletter and will touch base with Kim Cowles to see if the Rec Department would like to partner with the LPTO again this year.

**Spelling Bee 2010 & 2011** – All positive comments about this year’s Bee. Lighting was good; Mr. Mellekas was fun and appropriate; event moved at a good pace; and participants had fun as well. Pizza was great, and even the delay on that was okay. We discussed next year’s date and decided the week AFTER we come back from vacation, and the week AFTER Town and School Meetings would be better. Next year’s Bee will be on Friday, March 16, 2012.

**Spring Technology Events** – Toni mentioned that the staff at Lafayette was forming ideas about a Technology Evening this spring. The intent is to show the parents and the community how technology is being used to enhance the education of the children at Lafayette. Mr. Johnk explained that the teachers are able to enhance their classroom work with technology in many new and interesting ways. A Technology Evening could inform the community of this exciting time in education. The parents and others in the community could see how the kids’ studies are being enhanced by resources and tools available through technology. The LPTO could help with this event by encouraging participation and attendance.

**Staff Appreciation Week** – Crystal updated us on what this committee has been planning. Ajilla Pospesil has done a great job organizing this group and coming up with some special ideas for this year’s celebration. As these activities are “top secret” for the staff, details will not be revealed in these minutes.

**Parent Teacher Conferences** – Parents are providing goodies to keep our staff fed during conferences on Thursday, March 17. The staff is here all afternoon and into the evening, so it’s a nice treat for them to have some goodies available for them.

**Foreign Language Club Update** – There are 17 kids taking Spanish and 13 kids participating in the French Club. Senora Chandler and Mme. Tasey from Profile have been very enthusiastic about our Language Clubs. We’re lucky they have joined in this new project.

**Possible Allocation Requests** – We talked about the possibility of out of the ordinary type request that has historically come to the LPTO. We are in much tighter budget times. Health insurance and staff benefits alone have gone up 40% in the last two years. Cut backs are being made in all areas of the budget to stay within an acceptable range for the taxpayers. We had a great discussion about the LPTO replacing the rug in the front entryway. It is 16 years old, very worn, and missing letters. There is not room for replacing this item in the regular school budget. While a new rug may not directly enhance the education of the kids at Lafayette, it would welcome them and the community to school each morning and whenever they pass through the lobby. The existing rug could be moved outside the MPR. The cost would be approximately \$600-\$800. We talked about possibilities for the design and decided we did not need a logo or a motto for the rug, but to keep it simple. We are not trying to replicate the middle and high school at Lafayette with school colors, logos, and the like. Our goal is to keep

the kids kids while they are here. The group voted for the LPTO to fund the purchase of a new rug.

**New Parent Orientation** –We discussed the importance of new families to the school having some sort of handbook, or way of learning all the ins and outs of Lafayette. From to whom to make lunch checks payable and what kids wear to the Winter Concert to how the snow tree works and routines most families take for granted. There were some great ideas including more information on the website, babysitter lists, mentor families, programs during school breaks & teacher in service days, and more. This will be further discussed at our next meeting.

**Next meeting** – Monday April 4, 2011 at 8:00 am in the Conference Room.