

LBH PTA Meeting Minutes 1/25/17

Principal DeLoreto's Report

- * Grade 2 students are working with Carol Glynn on literacy plays. 2nd grade teachers will notify parents when the date of the plays has been determined.
- * On Tuesday Feb 7th, there will be a 100th day of school celebration. Classrooms will have fun activities on this day.
- * Lillie B. Haynes partners with Rotary to give each child a dictionary. Children will have a scavenger hunt and search for their dictionary
- * On 2/03/17, report cards will be distributed. Report cards were created through Infinite Campus. The format is challenging to read. The format will be reworked before the June report card is issued.
- * Parents will be receiving an email with Infinite Campus log in information. Access to the portal will provide information about absences, dismissals, and report cards. Eventually the school will post announcements on the portal. Question: Will parents be able to access RazKids and XtraMath through Infinite Campus? Principal DeLoreto to determine. Question: Will IEPs be on infinite campus? Response: Unfortunately they are not.
- * Effective 1/30/17, every parent will have to show the greeter their Identification before picking up their child. Each parent will be asked regardless of how frequently they pick up their child. Identification is required regardless of when a child is picked up (i.e. at dismissal, middle of the day, etc.) This procedure is being implemented at every elementary school. Whenever someone other than a parent or other primary caregiver, picks up a child they must have a note for pick up and they must be on the child's authorized pick up list.
- * There will be a public Hearing on 1/30/17 at 7pm at the High School auditorium. The regular Board of Education (BOE) budget will be discussed. Budget is very lean. The modest 2% increase is due to cost of living increases for salaries and increased cost of benefits. Nothing is being cut from the school budget.
- * It is estimated that it will cost \$35,802,500 to renovate the three elementary schools. Some of this expense will be reimbursed. A PowerPoint providing an overview of the renovation project is available on the BOE website. The renovation project has been approved by the BOE. Now it must go before the First Selectman and the Board of Finance (BOF). If the project is approved, there will be a referendum around March 14th. This is an estimated date. It is important that parents vote in this referendum. If this referendum does not pass, there is not an alternative plan. After the end of the fiscal year (6/30/17) it is not clear how much reimbursement the town will receive from the state. If approved, the construction plan would be developed during 2017/2018 school year. Construction would begin in June 2018 and be complete in August 2019.

* If renovation project passes, redistricting would be delayed. Even if the redistricting does not pass, there is not enough time to implement a redistricting plan during the 2017/2018 school year. Redistricting is likely to occur within the next few years. The redistricting map has changed only slightly. The emphasis will be on keeping students in the same neighborhood at the same school. Given that the plan is put on hold, the map could change as new housing developments emerge, such as, The Orchards developments

* Kindergarten Registration will be on March 7th from 4-6.

Community Comments

* School photos. A concern was expressed that school photos are expensive and the background selection is limited. Parents with children at multiple schools can't take advantage of the sibling discount because different vendors are used. A suggestion was made that we consider other vendors. A PTA member, went to a PTA conference. She saw other vendors with a wider selection and lower prices. Principal DeLoreto will explore whether other vendors could be explored.

* Care & Share Community Outreach Program. Charity Kennedy would like to organize a donation collection each month. Monthly collections would have a theme (i.e. books, food, etc.). The collection will be advertised in the Digital Backpack, Lillie B Parent Page, & Friday folder. One of the collection will occur during the book fair. Children will be encouraged to bring gently used books to the Book Fair. Children who donate books, will be entered in a contest. Kate Caristo-Scalora will attempt to get a prize donated.

* Yearbook. Danielle will be working on the yearbook this year. She needs photos for her events. Please send Danielle photos. Suggestion: Room parents could be send reminder before special events requesting that parents send her photos. The cost of the yearbook will be increased by \$2.00

Treasurer's Update

* Next schoolwide fundraiser is Mixed Bag. Catalogs go home on February 28th.

* The laminator has been purchased.

* A update on recent fundraising events will be provided at the next PTA meeting.

Communications

* PTA website looks great.

* Emails sent by the school have been very informative.

Inter-PTA Committee

* Often East Lyme teachers have less funding for resources and lower pay as compared to teachers in neighboring towns. Concern was raised that teachers may leave our town to work in towns with better resources/pay.

* Andy Jolly-Ballantine would like to organize a Political Action Committee (PAC) to evaluate this issue and present information to BOE. The group would engage in advocacy for better funding.

* Our PTA cannot in partisan advocacy. A PAC is a separate group that can engage in advocacy for specific issues.

* We could not advertise the PAC through digital backpack or other school resources.

* Andy will explore whether there is interest at other schools.

* Andy anticipates that the PAC would be a once a month commitment.

Movie Night

* A movie night is scheduled on February 10th. Event would be in the cafeteria. Event coordinators will need to arrange for the school to set up the projector, make popcorn and create a flyer. A building use form will also need to be completed. Our PTA owns a movie license. Gemma Moore & Charity Kennedy will coordinate movie night. Kate Caristo-Scalora will organize a craft activity table for younger siblings who may not want to watch the entire movie.

* Ice Cream Social & Magic Show will be on March 24th. Kate Caristo-Scalora will purchase discounted ice cream from Ben & Jerry's and solicit donations for Ice Cream toppings. Liz Dumond will organize

the Magic Show. Guests will be charged \$5 per person for entrance to magic show, 4 years and under are free and \$2.50 for sundaes.

Spirit Day

* LBH teachers have agreed to organize a Spirit Day on one Friday per month.

Upcoming Meetings

* February 15th, 2017

* March 8th, 2017

* April 5th, 2017

* May 10th, 2017

* June 7th, 2017

Submitted by Kate Caristo-Scalora