

## **LBH PTA Meeting Minutes 12/14/16**

### **LBH Principal's Report**

#### **Important Dates**

- On December 22<sup>nd</sup> all students will perform in a holiday concert at 2 have classroom celebrations at 2:45. Parents may drop off classroom celebration snacks at the reception desk.
- On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, school will be dismissed at 12:30 and no aftercare will be provided
- Winter break ends and students will return to school on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Thank you**

- Thank you to everyone who participated in Elf Shelf

#### **Redistricting Committee**

- The Board of Education (BOE) has formed a Redistricting Committee to evaluate the redistricting of the three elementary schools
- Each of the three schools are represented on the committee by: 2 parents, 2 teachers, 2 paraprofessionals and the principal. Two BOE members also participate in the committee.
- A proposed redistricting map has been posted on the BOE website.
- Each committee member will work in a subgroup. The focus areas include: Communications, Finance, Redistricting Boundaries, Impact on families, and Impact on Teachers and Other School Staff. The goal for each group is to collect information for their area of focus and share data with larger committee.
- Next committee meetings are December 20<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Committee will develop a redistricting plan to share with BOE in February. Approximately two weeks after the plan is presented, the BOE will vote on whether to accept the plan. Once a decision is made, there will not be an opportunity for community input.
- Committee meetings are public and can be observed.
- The BOE would like to have schools redistricted by the 2017/2018 school year.
- The PTA will ensure that committee updates are included in the digital backpack.

#### **Communication with Parents**

- Based on PTA feedback, the school checked to ensure that all kindergartner parents are receiving the school emails. If parents still are not receiving school emails, please contact Principal Deloreto.

#### **Renovation of the Three Elementary Schools**

- The BOE has formed a Design Steering Committee.
- The Committee has identified a wish list of renovations that would benefit each elementary school. The list does not include an estimated budget.

- By the January PTA meeting, Principal Deloreto will have an estimate of the renovation costs and a report on whether any LBH renovation projects have been removed from the wish list.
- Renovation projects that have been prioritized at LBH include: updating the heating and cooling ventilation system, increasing safety and security at the front entrance and adding a parking lot.
- The BOE would like to bring the proposed renovation budget to referendum by late March & early April. Before the referendum public meetings will be held.

### **District Budget**

- Each year the BOE budget must be voted on during a referendum. This referendum will be in May
- The BOE has asked each school to submit a budget. Principal Deloreto is currently working on the LBH budget with teachers. Once all schools have submitted their budgets and they have been reviewed by the BOE, the town votes.
- Districtwide salaries and benefits are increasing by 3%. Remaining expenses will be kept lean.

### **Increasing Collaboration between the Three Elementary Schools**

- The three elementary principals are meeting with the Assistant Superintendent Amy Drowne twice per month. The group is working towards creating a more consistent curriculum approach at all three elementary schools. All elementary schools utilize the common core standards but there are subtle differences with implementation. Amy Drowne is charged with making the curriculum more consistent.
- PTA is interested in learning more about this process and decided to invite her to the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. If she is not available, she will be invited to attend the February meeting.
- A PTA member inquired whether LBH could participate in the Nature's Classroom program currently utilized by Flanders. Flanders School funds this activity through their PTA. We currently fund other enrichment programs and could explore this as an option in the future.

### **Challenges During Dismissal**

- End of school dismissal is becoming very challenging for LBH staff. It is very chaotic. Parents don't follow proper protocol when changing dismissal. At times, the school is notified minutes before dismissal if a child will be picked up by a parent, riding the bus or going to sunsetters instead of their normal routine. Parents are not always sending notes in to notify teachers of changes. Instead children are informing the teachers of changes. This pattern has created some safety concerns. The school would like feedback from the PTA on how to improve this process. It was noted that the school acknowledges that in the case of an emergency a child's dismissal plans may change with little notice. They are specifically interested in receiving feedback about how to communicate dismissal changes when it is not an emergency.

### **LBH Teachers Share**

- All classes/grades are doing well
- Children should not wear hats to class. Hats can obstruct the view of other students.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers would like to thank the PTA for supplying popcorn for the ongoing 4<sup>th</sup> grade popcorn fundraiser. Proceeds from the fundraiser support the Star Auction. The auction is part of the PBIS program which is used recognize exceptional behavior demonstrated by the children. During the auction, 4<sup>th</sup> graders have an opportunity to select prizes. Each auction costs approximately \$250.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Elf Shelf netted a \$400 profit. This event is not a fundraiser.
- Charleston Wrap raised \$2700.
- Teachers were reminded that they can request up to \$75 reimbursement for classroom supplies.
- The group voted unanimously to spend up to \$3000 to purchase a laminator for the school.
- The group decided to allocate \$150 to purchase Quickbooks to store accounting records for the PTA and \$180 annually, thereafter, to cover the annual fee to use the program.

### **Square One Art**

- Square One Art purchases will be available for pick up on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm. Rebecca Haynes needs volunteers to help distribute the art work.

### **Communications**

- The LBH website has been updated to include more current PTA information.
- Rebecca Stebbins requested photos for the website. We must make sure parents have signed consent to have their child's photo featured on the website.
- December PTA meeting reminders were sent home in Friday folders
- A couple of Charleston Wrap orders were not picked up. The parent's names will be forwarded to Principal DeLoreto and she will contact the parents.

### **Parent Directory**

- The process for developing the directory has been delayed due to some technical challenges. The PTA hopes to have the directory available next month.
- Contact information collected for the directory *cannot* be released until the directory is complete.
- After next year, the PTA can use Infinite Campus to create a directory and process will be much easier.

### **Sneed Collard**

- Sneed is a nonfiction author and will visit each of the three elementary schools in March. He will interact with each grade/classroom.

### **Science Spectacular**

- Mrs. Arnold will facilitate the event.
- The event will continue to be funded by the PTA

### **Spirit Week**

- The group discussed having a spring Spirit Week
- Principal Deloreto will ask teachers when would be the best time to have this event.
- Spirit Days that encourage hats and 'funny' hair can obstruct the view of other students in the classroom and should be avoided.

### **Ice Cream Social**

- The Ice Cream Social is planned for March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Traditionally a Magic Show occurs on the same night. The group will explore other entertainment ideas.

### **Yearbook**

- The PTA is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the yearbook. Please contact Liz Dumond if you are interested.

### **Collaboration between the Three Elementary School PTAs**

- Liz Dumond had an opportunity to meet with the NCS PTA president.
- Both schools will host an event that all elementary students can participate in.
- On January 27<sup>th</sup> LBH will host a movie night. We may also invite the three schools to the Ice Cream Social in March.
- On May 5<sup>th</sup> NCS will host a bonfire at McCooks

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017