

Laurel Park Elementary
General PTA Meeting – July 28, 2011
Meeting Minutes:

Kim Trezona, VP of Fundraising, opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and welcomed everyone for coming. She then introduced all of the board members and chairs that were present and each of us spoke briefly about our roles.

Leslie Schenkel, Secretary, read the minutes from the last general meeting in April and the minutes were approved by the floor at 6:50 pm.

Robin Sarine, Treasurer, discussed the SY 2011-12 budget put forth for approval. She specifically made mention of the \$26,000 left over from SY 2010-11 and the need to allocate \$10,000 for outdoor improvement, \$6,000 for a technology purchase of 8 laptops for the media center to create a second technology lab. Expenses were mentioned and descriptions of what we spend the money on, including a few traditions for LPES. Income lines were spoken of and how we raise money to fund programs for the school.

Kim opened the floor for questions about the budget. A few were:

Q: Could we have a bus driver appreciation line item?

A: This would fall under Hospitality and is already in place each year in December.

Q: Trunk or Treat – does this get its own line item?

A: Very little expenses are incurred for this event since parents bring the treats and the prizes were all donated. Flyers are an office expense. Additional ideas for improving the event would be welcome.

Q: Boosterthon – how did we do compared to the prior year when we ran it ourselves and what is the \$4000 expense for?

A: We profited \$20,000 compared to about \$3,000 the year we held the event without Boosterthon's help. The \$4,000 is to pay the deposit for this year and secure a spot for next year.

A call for a vote to approve the budget was made and unanimously passed at 7:00 pm.

Kim opened the floor for nominations for the PTA President position. Leslie Schenkel nominated Jessica Tickle, Leanne Coffin seconded the motion. No other nominations were announced.

Jessica introduced herself and a vote was taken by the membership. She was elected unanimously.

Principal Batten spoke about the successes of last year and briefly talked about this year's character program "It's Cool to be Kind". He spoke about the first pep rally and how excited the children were about this effort at school. He also asked all the parents to encourage their children at home to follow the same positive traits showing kindness and respect to each other. He also mentioned the upcoming partnership with the LORD Corporation in Cary who will be holding a STEM (Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math) day for LPES with hands on science activities. A great example of how local companies want to get involved with our great school.

The floor was then opened for New Business.

- Dayna Chiccotella spoke about the Heartwood Character Education program that she has chaired since the first year the school opened, encouraging parents to volunteer their time once a month to go into the classroom and read a book.
- Dayna also spoke about a workshop on Cyber Bullying that she had attended put on by Cell Media Corp – Dr. Ron Anderson. This is a workshop to educate parents and their children about the reality of cyber bullying and how it is starting earlier and earlier – there are cases as young as 4th grade. Dr. Anderson has offered to hold a program at our school free of charge. Fran Sapir, school’s counselor, also spoke of the value of this program and how students in the 4th and 5th grades at LPE are aware of this issue.
- Michele Hilmey spoke about wanting the PTA to provide more family activities like a Fall Carnival (she mentioned how Northwood Elementary holds one every year and was going to talk to them about how the run it, possible item for next school year) We then talked about adding to the Trunk-or-Treat having pumpkin carving or painting contests and a raffle to win a pumpkin. Additional discussion was had and we will try to incorporate these ideas into this October’s event.
- Jenny Ingraham opened the floor up for discussion about the idea of having a school store but to expand on it to offer fresh fruits and vegetables once per week during carpool. The logistics would need to be discussed with Mr. Batten.
- Kim mentioned to everyone to please get involved and reach out to anyone on the board for additional information. She also stated our plans to produce a monthly newsletter separate from the Penguin Press.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded at 7:28

Thank you