

**District PTO Meeting  
September 18, 2019  
Minutes**

**9:00am – Leadership Meeting**

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Sophie

Food Service:

- Jay Kahn—The Quest program has gotten off to a pretty good start; have had a few issues with staffing, but they found people to fill in.
- General Feedback:
  - The fruit and vegetable bar will be included with all meals beginning in October and the bar has been very popular and successful.
  - Dr. Sophie took two sixth graders out to lunch and there was positive feedback for the Quest program.
  - There is differing opinions regarding if quantities are sufficient.
  - Other feedback is that the meals have been cool. This may just be an issue at the elementary school, as the lines were long. This seems to be a logistics/timing issue, as the lines were long, especially as the kids were getting used to the lunch process.
- To obtain lunches, at the middle school, a survey is filled out the week before to help forecast the food needs. In the elementary school, orders are still taken by the Wednesday prior for the next week. This is now done via My Meal Order.
  - It would be great to import the orders into personal calendars.
- Quest was implemented to be able to have known nutrition and content information for allergies. These standards will meet the needs for free and reduced state funding, should we need to seek state aide in the future.

Dr. Sophie Update:

- Weather:
  - A late start program will be sent out in October. The school will start 2 hours late and everything is shortened. However, if it happens on an early release day, the early release will likely need to be canceled.
  - We are looking for e-learning options that provide flexibility; there is a program that could provide a solution to eliminate extra days. The

weather keeps getting more extreme and there needs to be measures in place. This will require a board vote

- In regards to the Friday, Sept. 13 day off due to the flooding, there was mixed feedback as to whether we should have taken school off. Due to the flooding that occurred for both the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff viaducts, as well as Route 41 and downed power lines, it was an emergency situation, so Dr. Sophie made the decision given the risk factors for the children and the fact that there would have been over 100 children who would not been able to get to school.
- Administration:
  - Next year, out of the 7 administrators, 4 could be new. Dr. Sophie and the board decided to appoint within. They are going to move the naming of a new principal for the elementary school in early October. The timing of new principal is due to maintaining stability within the district
- Health Risks to Children:
  - There is a huge increase in this community and the country regarding vaping. There will be an in-service for the kids and then for adults to educate both parties about what it is and the risks of vaping. Be sure to Google what vaping devices look like. They look like flip drives. There are kids at the high school that has even vaped in classes.
  - The increase in anxiety is also a large issue. What kids face on social medial, on cell phones, and in school, put children in the face of constant pressure, many of which are negative influences. There are even children who are hesitant to go to school.

### **9:30am – District PTO Meeting**

President's Report: Carrie Steinbach

- APT joining us: The high school district PTO is APT (Association of Parent and Teachers). We will have an APT member at each meeting.
- Alliance joining us
- Overall Fundraising: Wrapping paper, Pumpkin Fest, spirit wear and Spring Scramble are this year's events.

- Spring Scramble: Will try to replicate the golf event of two years ago. More details to come at future meetings.
- Quasquicentennial (125) dogs (like cows of Chicago, LB will be doing dogs of LB next summer): 125 years of school in our community. It was suggested that the PTO buy a ceramic dog to paint. We will obtain more information and report back at the next meeting.
- Bluffer Nights: Krista Hugill:
  - Alliance will not do Bluffer nights so dates won't conflict.
- Coffee for Alice: The PTO will gift her a tree and we can figure out what type of the tree based on where the approved location. Something native and non-fruit bearing. A tree in the "island" of the elementary school. The tree will be presented at the Tuesday, Sept. 24 coffee. The tree was voted on and approved during the meeting. Approximate cost will be \$500 and it was budgeted last year.

Curricular Enhancement: Shawn Gore, Lauren Hirsh

- The goal was to get continuity of offerings by grade
- Middle school is taking a year off Wheel of Wisdom. There is a You Tuber called Mr. Nicky who puts modern music to curriculum such as the constitution to "Old Town Road.
- Also in talks to get Jesse Whineberg back to discuss internet safety. There was feedback in which she is quite crass with her language. It was intended to also scare people straight, but the tone/delivery may be a bit harsh for some.

Pumpkin Fest: Melissa Williams, Stacy Sanderson, Claire Abrahamson

- Pumpkin Fest is Oct. 18, Friday Night
  - Staff kick-ball game will start at 4pm.
  - Will be combined with the Park District's Trunk or Treat. Vendors could sponsor a trunk. If a Chase sponsor wants to do a trunk, we will discount their Sponsor to \$465 so they can pay the \$35 Trunk fee to the Park District. A thought is to have the costume contest in the gym so that gets people in the gym.
  - Then, the Pumpkin Fest activities, Carnival Games, face painting, etc, in the gym
  - The haunted forest will also occur, sponsored by Alliance, then there will be an outdoor movie sponsored by the Park District

- There is a need for a lot of volunteers; there will be sign up Genius that goes out soon
- Storefront signs should go out this year and yard signs will also be put out.
- Everything will be ticket based so that it makes it easier.
- The Pumpkin Chase is Oct. 26, and is a CARA race. Rich Martin is running the race and will offer a pizza party to the class that has the most participants. Many volunteers are still needed for this event.

#### Wrapping Paper Fundraiser: Krista Hugill and Cynthia McClamroch

- Orders are due 9/23
- It was noted that paper and web prices differed, with the web being more for many products. Also, the PTO gets more money for paper orders than web orders.

#### School Directory: Megan Helfrich

- Information will be due from Oct. 1 and then paper directories are available in mid-Oct.
- A-Z Directories has a lot more features than what we are using. There needs to be a better way to publicize the use of the App. We will have further discussions on how to better utilize the features.

#### LBES Update: Adrienne Murrill

- Room party request went out
- Bookfair is in progress and going well

#### LBMS Update: Cariann Rice

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ice Cream Social is 9/20
- Karina Huddleson will help set up a volunteer program in the middle school
  - One project will be a clothing drive for gently used clothing for middle school aged kids, as there is great need in Waukegan.
  - Cariann Rice is collecting for this currently

#### Treasurer Update: Sam Beckman

- Working to improve the transition process and set up Google Docs and linkage to the PTO website

- Sam and Carrie are working on getting approved email addresses so we can all get set up
- More information to come once everything is in place
- Square set up should be looked at to help categorize sales at events.

#### Communications: Caitlin Morse

- We have a website that is live
- Updates are needed and they are working with the developer to get them fixed

#### Spirit Wear: Amy Schmitt

- Gross sales of ~\$1000 in spirit wear from back to school nights and \$580 in cash
- Small sizes went very quickly
- This is the first time that we ordered in advance of the nights and this went very well
- Location of the sales could change
- Hats went very well at kindergarten ice cream social
- There are extra t-shirts that say Lake Bluff on the arm; need to determine a use for these.

#### Alliance Update: Ann Rieder

- Two grant cycles: one in the fall and one in the spring
- The Alliance is going to organize the Haunted Forest for Pumpkin Fest

#### APT Update: Anne Stewart

- The feedback regarding vaping is to be sure to have parents talk with their kids about the risks of vaping.
- Also, there must be caution as marijuana is becoming legal; however, marijuana can be laced and that also increases the risk.

#### Other Notes:

- School Board meetings are always open for all to attend
- We are running at about 20% free and reduced lunches; ESL is a large percentage of those
- Information from the board meetings are on the district website