

LEADERSHIP & DISTRICT PTO MEETING
January 22, 2019
MINUTES

1. Superintendent Update – Dr. Jean Sophie/Jay Kahn

Lunch Programs/Transportation

Jay: Transportation and preschool fees are the same; Registration fees increasing \$205 to \$210 due to inflation. They are considering a lock fee for LBMS lockers. There are only four combinations per locker that need to be reset each summer and inevitably records are not correct and there are always problems. The locks would be \$6 at cost and can be passed down in the family.

Jay, Rebecca, and Adrianna—Quest

Rebecca is the District Manager of Quest; Adrianna is the General Manager of LB, LF 67 and LFHS. Shared Quest Food Philosophy—food that is whole, USDA certified, organic, when possible, never MSG, etc.

LBES: The menu for February is set, but changes in response to the parent survey will be made for March. Food quality is a top priority. Line speed is an issue at LBES. Did some rework to the line process to improve line speed and also keep the food warm. They will provide extra lunches and will put the last lunch food aside so there is enough for 5th grade, as they have run out of food before.

LBMS: Merchandising at LBMS is a bit better; more variety with grab and go. There will also be options for bread without gluten. There was an issue brought up that there is double charging with some transactions for LBMS. This may have been due to pictures not being on the IDs. They are working on processes with the IDs to improve the checkout process.

There are also focus groups/committees at both LBES and LBMS to provide feedback from the students and ideas for improvement. There was a question re: what is done with Quest's extra food. They said extra food is minimal and donation programs would need to be run by the school or volunteers. There was a question about what is the national lunch program. It is a program that would allow the district to be reimbursed for free and reduced kids. There are very restrictive criteria to meet the requirements of the national program. The food quality would go down if we switched to this program, but Quest can meet the criteria should we need to in the future.

There is an increase in per capita use with Quest. (\$.10 per student). Quest uses survey and ordering data to determine the items to bring into the menu. They try to provide items that kids can relate to and are familiar with.

Fdmealplanner.com is a new tool, but it only provides nutritional value. Feedback provided is that it would be extremely helpful to be able to export the orders for all child directly for each child via either the website or an app. Less lead time at the elementary school would also be helpful. Another suggestion would also be able to vote on the meal by students, as it is observed a lot of food is thrown away. Instant feedback for the meals would be very helpful as well.

Feel to reach out if there is more feedback:

Rebecca Cohen, District Manager

773-320-1818

Rebecca.cohen@questfms.com

Dr. Sophie: Bond Refinancing

The bonds that are being refinanced to provide savings due to lower interest rates.

\$280,000 in savings due to refinancing. Equates to \$50 in tax savings / \$500,000 in tax bills.

Every little bit helps!

Transition: Dr. Sophie met with the new Superintendent last week. She will be at some of the upcoming concerts for meet and greet. They will need the PTO dates for next year.

LB67 Calendar: They work with LF for the calendar. They met Th. of last week and LB is relatively the same as LF. It will be approved by the end of Feb.

Feedback is that the conferences are too early this year. They will move to February of next year. There will be additional evening hours next year as well. Feedback was provided that the in-service day right after break was a bit difficult for working parents. There is not a need to make up for the LBMS day. There is the need to make up the flooding day, but it will be determined when this is done based on the total hours the school is in session.

The feedback on internet safety was very positive. Led to the discussion regarding phone usage. It is not a good thing for educators, but the parents seem to want it to be in contact with the children.

2. PTO President Update – Carrie Steinbach

Spring Fundraiser – Desired to raise funds for scoreboard in the middle school. Will be doing a Cornhole tournament and/or outdoor social party. Still working on dates, locations, etc. We need more committee members.

Slate Openings—There will be openings due to people moving, so if anyone wants to join PTO, refer the person to Carrie.

Motion to approve minutes. Lauren Hirsh and Shawn Gore approved.

Mrs. EJ will have an art show on May 14. PTO will provide refreshments. It is Th. night from 6-8 (or 7-9?).

3. LBES Update – Adrienne Murrill

1st Grade had a traditions fair. The first graders had a passport and the fair exceeded expectations. It promoted what people did as families and cultures. Great job by Lauren Hirsh and Jane Duncan.

Christmas cards were made for a variety of charitable organizations for the Christmas party. Will be making valentines for the children of the Boys and Girls club of Lake County on Feb. 13 during parties. It was suggested to give the teachers an overview of the Boys and Girls club so that the children know who they are writing valentines for.

Tacos El Norte will be provided for Teacher Appreciation for both LBES and LBMS.

The PTO purchased two sitting dogs—To decorate at LBES—Every grade does a thumbprint of the dog. Still determining what to do with the dogs at LBMS, but will delegate to the art teacher.

4. LBMS Update – Cariann Rice

Annie Pezza no longer doing Recycle and Compost.

8th Grade graduation planning is starting tonight. Need sub-committee members.

5. Alliance Report – Ann Rieder

Our winter warm up is on Friday night. Trivia night at Deerpath Inn. 90 people are attending. It is fundraiser. \$75 per person. Fall grant requests were submitted. \$6,500 in requests for 6 grants. Mind Yeti, Kid-to-kid—Older child teaching the younger ones, High-interest non-fiction, Microphone Toobaloo for verbally practicing Spanish.

5. Curricular Enhancement Update – Shawn Gore, Lauren Hirsh

75 people came for the internet safety speaker which was a good response; this was similar to Jesse Weinberger attendance. This speaker was much more economical. There is an option to get curriculum imbedded in health/wellness class. The speaker did three student presentations during the day and then adult one in evening. Sexting was a good topic for the middle schoolers. This presenter could have presented more statistical information. Weinberger also provided instructions for how what apps to look for and what to do for controls; current speaker did not and the feeling was that this is a gap.

Upcoming programs:

- 5th Grade cartoonist—Feb. 27
- Wheel of Wisdom—March 19th, All LBES
- Mr. Nicky for Middle School—May 18th, 6th Grade
- The great mouse trap machine for 3rd Grade; Feb. 27.
- The Great American Challenge—4th Grade; April 20.

6. Treasurer Update – Sam Beckman

We are above budget. There was feedback that we lost revenue due to having the Pumpkin Fest and Pumpkin Chase separate. There are needs for CARA regulations and calendaring needs for the conference schedule. It needs to be a certain amount of time after the Chicago Marathon. Need to be creative on how to make up the deficit. The Chase is supposed to be Oct. 24th. Wrapping paper brought in \$1500 for online sales. Amazon smiles brought in \$300. There is a button that can be on the website. Target circle and Heinen's can also be promoted.

7. Communications –Caitlin Morse

PTO In the Know, Website

End of week distribution will go by Jan. 24; we need people to sign up for R&C. Need middle school and district notes for the update. Working to have the website builder provide an online tutorial.

8. Spirit Wear – Amy Schmitt

Spring Sale

There will be sweatshirts, tank tops, shorts, etc. for sale in the spring. Orders will come in before spring break. \$101 was earned from merchandise sales in the fall.

Spirit Wear—need to determine other options so it is more self-sufficient and the vendor allows for delivery.

ED Clark is the photographer until 2022. 20% goes back to the PTO for packages sold in the fall. The vendor is not something we can change since things done with IDs, safety elements, etc. We need to be sure the photography checks are correct.

9. New Student Update – Amy Donohue (Not present; no report)

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

Minutes recorded by: Nicole Elliott, District PTO Secretary