

LYNDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PTO Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016

RECESS AND LUNCH TIME

Principal James responded to a parent inquiry regarding the length of recess and lunch at Lyndale. Students have 45 minutes that start with 20 minutes of recess prior to lunch. Teachers may elect to take students out at other times as well.

The only school that allocates more time than Lyndale is Barton, which gives 60 minutes. Hale and Armatage have 40 minutes; Burroughs has 35 for K-1 and 30 for 2 – 5; and Kenny and Lake Harriet have 30 minutes.

Years ago Lyndale only had 30 minutes scheduled and it started with lunch followed by recess. This resulted in kids rushing through lunch to get to recess and many trips to the health office. The longer time, and having recess before lunch, has resulted in a more relaxed break from classwork, fewer trips to the health office, and an increase in food and milk consumption!

Parents commented that this is an important selling point for Lyndale and that the school should be sure to tell prospective families this during school tours.

SOMALI TEA

This event was discussed at the recent Somali Parent Meeting. Ms. James shared information passed on by Ms. Farhiya. It will be held in the afternoon on a Saturday in April. Money raised will benefit the Lyndale Foundation. Light snacks will be served including samosas, crepes and bur. It has not been decided if there will be activities during the event. The PTO suggested that a \$10 suggested donation per person would be a reasonable. PTO President Bridget Gernander will work with Ms. Farhiya to coordinate this event.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTION

The district allocates funding based on the number of students enrolled in February. Unfortunately, Lyndale was at its lowest enrollment of the year when the district reviewed numbers. The district is predicting that next year Lyndale's enrollment will need .9 less classrooms.

District Enrollment Projection 2016/2017

2.7 5 th grade classrooms	3.6 2 nd grade classrooms
3 4 th grade classrooms	4 1 st grade classrooms
4 3 rd grade classrooms	4 kindergartens classrooms

2016/2017 FUNDING

The district has not released the budget for the 2016/2017 school year, but Lyndale knows there will be a 10% deduction in Title 1 funding. There has been a shift in where low-income students live. Instead of being confined to the city, more people are living in the suburbs and greater Minnesota. This is pulling Title 1 funds out of the city for more statewide distribution. The budget is also responding to teacher salary increases.

While the district will fund a teacher for every classroom, there may be less funding for the specialist positions. While Lyndale has slightly larger classes than other schools, we're fortunate to have a close to 1:10 ratio of teaching staff to students, due to specialists.

There may be an additional PTO meeting prior to the next scheduled meeting in order to discuss the budget and how it might impact Lyndale. Since the district has not released the numbers yet and we don't know when they will, nothing has been scheduled.

PTO BUDGET UPDATE

Recent expenses include reimbursing Ms. Becker for t-shirts that students wore to the Lego Robotics Competition. (This was Lyndale's first year participating. The students took 1st and 2nd place out of 100 teams. Way to go!!!!)

The PTO has \$2,529. President Bridget Gernander explained that the PTO's largest expense is the school carnival that happens early in the fall. Ending this school year with a higher balance will better position the PTO for supporting the fall carnival. Because of this we hope to host a few more fundraisers before the end of the year. These might include another event at Lowbrow and/or gatherings in people's homes.

A discussion ensued regarding the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the American Heart Association and the School Mall campaign that students recently brought home. While parents felt that contributing to community efforts (such as Jump Rope for Heart) is valuable, there is concern that lure of the prizes overshadows the idea of doing good.

One parent said that instead of participating in the School Mall program, she would rather just make a donation to the school. School Mall asks to send postcards to students' relatives encouraging them to purchase magazines and other goods through their program. As purchases are made the school receives credits towards classroom supplies. Last year Lyndale's participation resulted in a number of teachers being able to choose a decent amount of product for their classroom at no cost to Lyndale.

Some parents suggested that a giving activity be incorporated into the carnival. Kids might be asked to bring their change to fund a specific community need. That said, the 5th graders usually manage a giving component in connection with spirit week.

Adrienne Bisping has managed the Box Tops for Education program for years, but will not have a child at Lyndale next year. If you would be interested in taking over the administration of this program please contact LyndalePTO@gmail.com

OTHER EVENTS

Arabic Family Event

Saturday, March 12, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

A Lyndale family asked to host this cultural event at Lyndale. All are invited to attend. More information to follow.

International Night

Thursday, March 24, 5:30 PM

Volunteers needed! If available please contact LyndalePTO@gmail.com

Minnesota Twins vrs Detroit Tigers

Friday, April 29, 7:10 PM

Lyndale, Ramsey and Washburn families are invited to a Twins game! A flyer will be sent home in late March with more information.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. All are welcome!

Minutes prepared by Christine Daves, PTO Secretary and mom to Elliot (4th grade).