

LYNDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PTO Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2015

SPEAKERS AT PTO MEETINGS

PTO President Bridget Gernander suggested that having professionals speak about topics relevant to Lyndale families might increase PTO participation. Last year, Eric Moore, the Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment (REA) at Minneapolis Public Schools, talked about what Lyndale's test scores really represented. This informative presentation provided community members with new information about our school's strengths and growth areas.

It was suggested that he be brought back for a PTO meeting in the spring. Other suggestions included having a teacher speak about student behavior or interpreting report cards; an overview of after-school activities, options and schedules; child/youth development; race and diversity; middle school preparation; or community education.

It was also suggested that presentations be linked to the school's monthly themes. If you have suggestions please send them to LyndalePTO@gmail.com

HOW WE COULD BE AS SUPPORTIVE AS POSSIBLE TO OUR SOMALI MUSLIM FAMILIES

In light of recent events the PTO discussed the importance that all people feel welcome and included at Lyndale. Deeqa Mohamed, Associate Educator, Bilingual – Somali, shared that based on his knowledge there has been no anti-Muslim sentiments or banter impacting our immediate community. As a body that encourages family participation and involvement, the PTO is dedicated to keeping Lyndale an inclusive environment.

PARKING SIGNS

A reoccurring discussion about cars at student pick-up and drop-off was brought up by a parent concerned that she had accidentally impeded a bus from getting to afternoon pick-up. While there are no parking signs on 34th street, they only restrict parking until 4:30, making it legal for cars to park there during the after-school pick-up time, 4:45. The buses picking kids up at that time also park on 34th street leading to deadlock and frustration.

A parent mentioned that at Burroughs there is a Kiss and Ride spot – where parents can say 'goodbye' as they drop the student off and then continue on their way. Principal James explained that numerous efforts have been made to better regulate drivers at pick-up and drop-off time, but drivers have repeatedly become confrontational causing Lyndale staff unnecessary stress on top of their already stressful jobs.

Everyone agreed that we would rather have staff energy saved for the classroom rather than spent on parking. It was suggested that perhaps a sandwich board could be put out that would request cars to stop only in certain spots. It was also requested that parking cones be placed in the crosswalk entrances at 34th and Pleasant to remind cars that they should never stop in the crosswalk. Mrs. James was going to look into that option.

BUDGET

The PTO has \$2,691 including \$387 made at Lowbrow. Two teachers have requested reimbursement for money they personally spent on school projects.

EVENT

The PTO is hoping that a Somali Tea will be held this spring. In addition to serving Samosas (yum!), this would offer an opportunity for non-Somali families to learn about Somali traditions and customs. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer, please email LyndalePTO@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 12. 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. All are welcome!

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