

**Lyndale Community School
PTO Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2014**

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PTO BI-LAWS

Seeking PTO President Co-Chair

The PTO Bi-Laws call for leadership to include co-chairs in the president position. Terms would be for two years with a new person coming in every year. The co-chair serving the second year of their term would be able to train the co-chair serving their first year. This should decrease the amount of time lost when new leadership needs to learn the ropes prior to being most effective.

Carrie Swanson is currently serving her second year as PTO president and does not have plans to continue after conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year. Thus, the PTO is seeking a co-chair to start immediately and serve a 1.5 year term through the 2015-2016 school year. At the beginning of 15/16 an additional co-chair would be brought in for 2 years and so on.

WE NEED YOU! Or another Lyndale parent. We are seeking volunteers interested in the co-chair position. **If you are interested please send an email to lyndalepto@gmail.com.** The PTO hopes to confirm a new co-chair at the January meeting.

It was suggested that we promote the opportunity at the upcoming Turkey Games. The PTO hopes to have Somali and Spanish speakers to let the widest audience know about the available position.

CARNIVAL REPORT

The carnival generated \$165 in revenue. While 2013 carnival raised \$520, the 2012 event lost money. Expenses were slightly higher this year due to renting the dunk-tank and providing nicer prizes. Everyone agreed that the carnival was a great success and the kids had a ton of fun which is the primary objective of the event.

FIFTH GRADE FIELD TRIP FUNDRAISING

The fifth graders did a great job raking leaves and raised close to \$900. The total cost of the trip is approximately \$12,000 so additional fundraising efforts are underway. A grant is being written to cover the

cost of the bus and candy bar sales are also raising funds.

Attendees asked why the 5th graders take a coach instead of a basic yellow bus. Ms. James explained that having bathrooms on the bus make it possible to make the 3-hour drive without stopping and offers a more special experience for the kids.

Selling wrapping paper was also mentioned as a way to raise money. People who had experience with that type of fundraising said that the profit margin was very slim. There were no plans to look into that option, but anyone is welcome to do so and let the PTO know!

BANNERS

Lyndale parent Sara Weingartner is designing banners to go above the double doorways throughout the school. David Weingartner talked about the project and asked attendees for feedback and suggestions about what will be on the banners.

- Ms. James had suggested that the banners highlight Lyndale's monthly themes: Good Manners, Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and Caring, etc.
- One attendee pointed out that she likes the Lyndale blue color and would like to see that continued. Mr. Weingartner pointed out that the school actually has 10 colors of tiles throughout the building and we need to be careful about over-doing color.
- One attendee said they would like to see photographs on the banners, however, Ms. James pointed out that photographs can make an item quickly dated.
- The artwork in the multi-purpose room was appreciated.
- Everyone agreed that the brown shade that is currently above many doors is not attractive.
- A world map was suggested, with the option of having something to identify where our students come from. There were some concerns with using anything that could pose a danger such as pins or tacks, or very small magnets. Velcro might work.
- Inspirational quotes might also be considered.

If you have suggestions please send them to lyndalepto@gmail.com as soon as possible.

This discussion prompted a walk around the school and a discussion

about having a cleaning day over the holiday break. Specific items include the walls at student hand level where it is noticeably darker. Any plans will be shared via the PTO Facebook page.

UPDATE FROM MS. JAMES

- The concrete slab for the new picnic tables has been poured. The tables will be attached in the spring.
- **Student Based Allocation (previously called Weighted Student Funding)**

The district is changing how funds are allocated to schools. Student Based Allocation would assign an amount of money to each student based on their specific needs. When a student transfers within the district the specific amount assigned to that student would be moved to the new school.

Student-based allocations are based on a per-pupil allocation where "the dollars follow the student." The per-pupil allocation differs based on student needs - that is, a student with special needs may be allocated a higher weight and dollar amount than a student in the general education setting. http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/fy15_introduction

Some schools will be piloting the program this year. While Lyndale is not, we will find out what our budget would look like if we were on the new program. For more information or to voice your thoughts or concerns about this program attend the Area C Parent Advisory Council Meeting at 6:00 PM on November 19 at Southwest High School. (Information: http://osfce.mpls.k12.mn.us/area_c_pac)

TOURS

Parent volunteers give prospective school parents and caregivers tours of Lyndale. One volunteer brought up the idea of having students give part of the tour. Discussion followed with the following thoughts:

- The tour could be separated into sections with the student and adult assigned to different parts
- Students could give just part of the presentation, or do a question and answer at the start or end of the tour (it was suggested that it be at the start because so parents that need to run off still hear that part)
- Adults would need to be prepared to let the kids lead, even if

- mistakes are made
- It would help market the school as well as give leadership and presentation skills to participating students
- Students could do just specialist areas
- The Communications Committee should be consulted

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Swanson, Ms. James, and other PTO participants will look into these options more closely.

GIVE TO THE MAX

November 13 was Give To The Max Day where anyone can select multiple organizations to donate money to. Lyndale participated in order to raise funds to have a professional artist work with students to design and create a large mural on an exterior wall of the school.

PTO FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/LyndaleCommunitySchool>

The PTO is thrilled to have a Facebook page! The page will post information about events, meetings, opportunities and other things going on at Lyndale. Please visit and like it!

DON'T FORGET:

Mark your calendar for Turkey Games on Thursday, November 20!

If you are available to volunteer please email lyndalepto@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 13, 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome! Free childcare provided.

Please note - there is no meeting in December.

Prepared by Christine Daves, PTO Secretary and mom to Elliot (3rd grade).