

**Lyndale Community School
PTO Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2015**

WELCOME

Happy 2015!

UPDATE/CO-CHAIR VOTE

The PTO would like to appoint a Co-President who can be trained during the rest of this year and then take over the president position for the 2015/2016 school year. Current President, Carrie Swanson, is completing her second year and looks forward to the opportunity to pass the honor to another Lyndale parent or guardian.

Bridget Gernander has been promoting the opportunity to Lyndale community members and commented that some assume the position has a lot of day-time requirements making it difficult for to accommodate a traditional work day. Ms. Swanson explained that while she might come in to make copies, there is rarely any reason that must come to Lyndale during the day. It was also commented that some prospective candidates may not understand what the position entails. Ms. Swanson has a bullet-point list of the presidential responsibilities and will make that available.

The PTO had an in-depth discussion about how it serves the Lyndale community. In addition to the PTO, there is a Somali parent/guardian group and a Hispanic parent/guardian group. Those groups tend to focus on student achievement while the PTO focuses on benefiting the school as a whole (such as purchasing band instruments or picnic tables).

The group discussed using robo-calls to inform families about upcoming PTO meetings. Principal James supported that provided that the PTO provides the content in written form for every language that would be used. Those documents must be sent to the district for approval. The PTO would also be responsible for supplying the written and verbal translation. Essa Hassan volunteered to translate text and be recorded for calls going to Somali families. Essa also generously volunteered to translate a condensed version of the PTO minutes to be printed in the Lyndale newsletter.

PTO FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of January 13, the PTO had \$6,209.85. On January 12 \$619.98 was deposited from Box Tops fundraising (Thanks Adrienne!) The Chinook Book also brought in \$146.00, down from previous years.

Give To the Max day generated \$2600 for the Lyndale Foundation. This money is earmarked for production of an exterior mural. The foundation will also receive donations given at Muffins for Moms. The total amount of money generated at Muffins for Moms was not available. The foundation is a non-profit entity that allows the school to raise money that can be used at the schools' discretion. It does not need to go through district approval.

Prior to the holiday break the PTO was asked to fund a field trip. The PTO does not have guidelines dictating if it does or does not fund school field trips. A discussion ensued in which most people felt that funding field trips was not the best way to meet the PTO's mission.

EVENTS

Lyndale is seeking parent/guardian volunteers to talk with prospective families at the [Minneapolis School Fair](#)

Showcase on Saturday, January 31, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Contact the school if you are interested in volunteering.

A Prospective Parent Coffee will be held at Jon and Margo Geffen's home on **Saturday, February 7th**, at 9:30 a.m. The address is 3625 Pillsbury Avenue South. Prospective families can also arrange a school tour by calling [612-668-4000](tel:612-668-4000).

Math and Science Night will be held on **Thursday, February 12** at 5:30 PM. The PTO needs to provide food for the event and is looking for anyone with a connection to food suppliers. If that is you, please email lyndalepto@gmail.com

Mark your calendars! Lyndale Community School is going to see the Twins play the Chicago White Sox at 7:10 pm on **Friday, May 1**. Details on tickets will be shared as it is available.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND

Adrienne Bisping mentioned that "Labels for Education", found on Campbell soup cans and other items, can now be turned into gift cards that Lyndale could use on any supplies. Please save them and turn them in with box tops.

Ms. Bisping also mentioned that Staples and Office Max/Office Depot frequently have specials offering a ream of paper for 1 cent or free. She encourages families to take advantage of these specials and donate them to Lyndale to avoid any end-of-year paper shortfalls. Items can be dropped off in the office.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 10, 6:00 p.m. Ms. James will discuss the state of school and share progress data. The PTO will also

discuss the new report card layout. If you have a topic that you would like to be discussed please email lyndalepto@gmail.com

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