

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY, OCT 11 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Co-President Rebecca Wheeler wanted to “Thank” the following committees: Nicole Williams for Art Awareness, Birthday Book Club for getting started and to Debbie Marchok and Lisa Bleichman for stepping up to co-chair movie night.

Secretary’s Report:

All correspondence is up to date.

Presented the minutes from the Sept. General Board meeting. A motion made to approve the minutes. Motion was approved and all were in favor.

Treasurer’s Report:

Reviewed the current income/expense report.

Exceeded the membership goal.

Motion was made to approve the budget. Motion approved and all were in favor.

Ed. Gift Committee met. Discussed the various items that the teachers wanted for their classrooms. The teachers are asked what will help to enhance the learning of their students.

The dollar amount for the items approved was \$2,709.37

Motion was made to approve the Ed. Gifts for the teachers. Motion was approved and all were in favor.

One of the concerns of the Ed. Gift Committee was that this is not a line item on the budget. They would like to see it added as a safety net for the teachers.

Explained briefly the role of the Budget/Audit meeting that takes place in July and how this determines the budget for that upcoming school year.

Was further explained that the teachers do feel that they can approach the PTO with items that they need that will help enhance learning and help make their job easier.

The Executive Board needs to look at this issue and discuss further.

Currently trying 4-5 new things in order to generate more dollars.

Teachers Report:

Kindergarten – The Kindergarten Longhorns have adjusted so well to life at Longfellow. They are in full swing. They have just finished up their “All About Me” unit and have begun their “family” unit. Families are working hard at home on Family Tree Projects.

First Grade – The students are learning handwriting with integrity. October is book report month and they will be painting/decorating pumpkins to look like a character from their book.

Second Grade – Each classroom will take time during the month of October to read and complete activities for the story Bump In The Night. The teachers would like to thank the PTO for the purchase of their new fans, their \$100 for classroom supplies and for collecting a wish list. “We couldn’t do it without you.”

Third Grade – Friday, Oct 21st is their field trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo. The students are making team visors decorated with animals. Each class is almost at 500 laps in order to raise money.

Fourth Grade – In social studies the students are having fun with their study of IL. The students are rotating among the 3rd and 4th grade teachers learning about specific Illinois topics. They had a special guest speaker for the IL Farm Bureau, who came to each class to teaching about the wonderful

agriculture in our state. Next up: Colonial America...a favorite! The teachers would like to thank the PTO for the speakers and wireless "mice." They use their projectors/laptops so often that this will be a great asset to their teaching and learning.

Fifth Grade – The students are using focus skills in Reading Block in order to identify themes of stories and using graphic organizers. Team building activities have been taking place once a week since their field trip back in September. The students started their country research project with the LMC team. Something going on all year is writing across the curriculum, explaining their thinking and 21st century skills.

P.E. – For the cross country club there are over 70 4th and 5th grade students participating. The 5th grade Cobra Challenge was last week and Longfellow did great. 4th and 5th grade students will get a chance to participate in a fall Turkey Trot again this year.

LMC – The Bluestem Reading program is in full swing for the 3rd-5th grades. K-2 are finishing their author studies of Lois Ehlert, David McPhail and Mark Teague.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Herrejon said that he is very excited that he has connected with many families.

Committee Reports:

Art Awareness – Had a kick-off meeting and it is going to be a great year. Want to start looking early for someone who is passionate to keep this program going and can take over chairing it for next year.

Barnes & Noble – Scheduled for Dec 9 and Poe is co-sponsoring it with Longfellow. The Panera aspect will be a part of this as well.

Bingo Night – Still open for chairpeople. This fundraiser can be very rewarding.

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Book Fair – The theme is Out Of This World and is scheduled for Nov 1-3. Mary Strege will be notifying volunteers once they get the teacher's schedule for the book fair. Flyers will go out the week of 10/24. The book fair will take place in the Art Room. Concerns were brought up about the amount of space they will have in the Art Room. Will consider talking to Mr. Herrejon about speaking with Mr. Cook about using half the gym.

Box Tops – As of Sept 20 they have collected 3200. The first send in is by Oct 31.

Directory - All the data has been entered. We have 314 families, 433 students, 203 Family PTO memberships and 23 teacher PTO memberships. Will be sending out a sheet to those who have memberships asking if they want to purchase additional directories for \$3. The directory will hopefully be passed out by Halloween.

Entertainment Books – The sale is complete. Sales were down this year and could be due to a couple of reasons; (1) the price of the book (2) other offers such as Groupons and (3) the coupons that are in the book itself.

Family Night – Still open.

Gift Cards – The forms went out.

Holiday Shoppe/Holiday Bazaar – The theme is Winter Wonderland and will be on Dec 2 and 3rd. Looking to have the fifth graders be helpers to the littler kids when it comes time for them to shop. Also looking into the idea of having people with home-based businesses or craft business have a table to sell their product. Will open this opportunity to Longfellow parents first then the public. Looking to have 15-20 tables. A percentage will go to the PTO.

Label Daddy – Will make a big push for the labels.

Market Day – The flyer went out 10/12.

Movie Night – The movie is Hoodwinked 2 on Oct 28. The food will be supplied by Culver's.

Parent/Daughter Night – Chrissy Lutzow and Vicky Jacobs are going to chair this event. Thinking of having it at the Libertyville Sports Complex.

Parent/Son Night – Was a great event.

Restaurant Fundraiser – Raised \$123.52 from the California Pizza Kitchen night. The next one is Friday, Nov 4 at Dengeos. Longfellow will get 20% of the whole day's sales.

Room Parent – The assignments are made and they are working on finalizing everything for the Halloween parties.

Spirit Wear – Made \$352. Will have another sale in the spring. Will send out another flyer regarding the car magnets that are for sale for \$10. Can also sell the magnets at movie night.

Teacher Appreciation/Conference Dinners – The theme for Nov. is comfort foods. The one in the spring will be finger foods. The theme for Teacher Appreciation Week with is Rainbow of Colors.

New Business:

A fundraising idea: Having a family movie night with a raffle.

Old Business:

None

NEXT GENERAL PTO MEETING IS MONDAY, NOV 14 at 7 pm.