

March 16, 2010
Longfellow PTO Board Meeting Minutes

President: Amy Veytsman, Co-Vice Presidents: Eileen Openbrier (absent), Nicole Williams,
Treasurer: Sarah Foutch, Co-Secretaries: Lori Cichy, Linda Lindeman

Meeting called to order: 7:04pm

President's Report:

•Amy extended warm thanks to:

- The Bingo Night Committee
- The Movie Night Committee
- The Room Parents

Each committee had successful and well received events!

•The Executive Board Nominating Committee has put together a recommended slate for the 2010-2011 Longfellow PTO Executive Board. At the April 13th PTO meeting, the slate will be voted on.

Co-Presidents: Debbie Morris and Rebecca Wheeler

Co-Vice Presidents: Denise Swanson and one open position

Treasurer: Sarah Foutch

Co-Secretaries: Lori Cichy and Lauren Pond

Website and Technology: Shipra Verma

•Parenting Is Hard Work, a workshop presented by Bob Leece (Community Outreach Specialist for District 214) will be held on May 5th from 7-9pm.

•The PTO Newsletter will go out electronically with the Longfellow School newsletter.

•The Cooper PTO President, Dawn Richards attended the PTO meeting. They are always looking for volunteers. The PTO focus at Cooper is to work more closely with the teachers and student council. Their biggest fundraiser is the magazine drive. For all incoming Cooper parents, there are four committee chairs that need to be filled. Orientation night is April 6th. Contact Dawn with any questions.

Secretary Report:

•Linda Lindeman motioned to approve the minutes from the January PTO meeting. Marti Jarosz and Dawn Richards approved.

•Lori Cichy reported that no correspondence was received this month.

•Mrs. Serbin asked that we send a get well card to Tony Rivera, one of Longfellow's custodians.

Treasurer's Report:

•Sarah Foutch presented the income/expense report. She noted that we are still awaiting the deposit for gift cards. And that movie night deposits have not been reflected on this report. Sarah also pointed out that the parent/child event is showing a negative number, but this is currently because the event has not occurred yet.

•The 2nd/3rd grade music show raised \$425 to donate to Haiti relief.

Vice President's Report:

• Just a reminder that flyers need to be approved by both Mrs. Serbin and a PTO President or Vice President. Flyers must be emailed in a word attachment.

•255 emails were sent out as tonight's PTO meeting reminder. 47% of those emails were opened, which would estimate 119 people in attendance. ☺

•Please remember (committee heads) to fill out your event recap sheet. The form can be found on the PTO website.

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Principal's Report:

- Mrs. Serbin introduced Bill Harrison as a guest at our meeting. Bill reminded us that there is a district budget meeting coming up on Thursday, March 18th.
- The Lee family is presenting a half hour show on May 11th at 11am as part of the cultural arts programming for Longfellow.
- Alexis Novinski won rights to be "Principal for a Half Day" at Bingo Night. She will be acting as principal on Friday, March 19th.
- Dr. Kibbons, Cooper's Principal, will be attending our May 11th PTO Meeting.
- The next PAC meeting, "Looking Back, Looking Forward", is coming up. It will be a chance for parents to reflect on things we are doing great and need to improve on.

Teacher's Report: (Represented by the Fourth Grade Team)

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners continue to work on Book Three of their series and have two days of parent centers. They are working on math facts and graphing. In Science/Health, they are studying their senses. In the Spring, a field trip is planned to see the play, Sleeping Beauty.
First: First Graders are working on the Patriotic Unit and the Farm Unit. A field trip to the farm is scheduled for May 27th! In Math, the kids are working on geometry and attributes. In Reading and Language Arts, they are working on long vowel sounds, cause and effect, drawing conclusions and describing words.

Second: The Second Graders are working on Theme Five. They are looking at focus skills, plots and using graph aids and synonyms. The Math unit is on measurement (measuring with years and meters, long distances, perimeter and area and units of weight).

Third: The Third Graders celebrated "I'm Smart and Talented" with "Diffendoofer Day" by Dr. Seuss. Theme Five is "A Place for All", with focus skills on cause and effect grammar and verbs. In Math, they are working on multiplication – teaching many different strategies, lattice, partial products and tradition. Science and Health is focusing on the Human Body.

Fourth: The next theme for the reading series is "A New Home". The focus during this time will be on characters, setting and plot and sequence of events. Students will be writing different essays throughout the month. The emphasis will be on supporting ideas with examples and details. In Social Studies they are continuing to study the American Revolution. In Science, the students have been learning about ecology. In Math, they will be looking at fractions, chance and probability.

Fifth: In Reading/Language Arts the fifth graders are looking at author's purpose and perspective and imagery. The Math focus is on means, medians, modes and ranges of data. In Social Studies the students are looking at the Civil War. In Science/Health, they are finishing the Human Body studies.

Art: First graders: Painting = mixing colors and pinch pots
Second graders: Paintings (Nature); mixing primary and secondaries; tints and shades
Third graders: Architecture Design
Fourth graders: Coil Pots
Fifth graders: Clay Slap Work; Mirror Designs

Music: Please feel free to access Mrs. Guest's blog via:

<http://wiki.ccsd21.org/users/laurieguest/> She is updating it on a weekly basis.

<http://www.longfellowd21.k12.il.us/> The website explains to the parents what we did during music class, and it always incorporates a youtube clip that coincides with what we are learning.

LMC: Fifth grade is beginning their famous person research report. Fourth grade is studying the author/illustrator Steve Jenkins. Third graders are learning about Caldecott winners. Second grade is writing their own books following the Harold and the Purple Crayon books. First grade has studied the author/illustrator Leo Lionni. Kindergarten learned much about Eric Carle. Our K-3 classes all cast individual votes for their favorite Monarch Award books. Nineteen of the twenty titles received votes as favorites. Scaredy Squirrel received the most votes. Almost 200,000 kids across Illinois voted.

PE: Mr. Cook would like everyone to check out his blog. All current information will be posted there! <http://www.wiki.ccsd21.org/users/ralphcook/>

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Committee Reports

Membership Drive: N/A

Directory: N/A

Spirit Wear: Look for a special upcoming teacher and staff promotion!

Parent/Son Event: N/A

Parent/Daughter Event: Flyers went home announcing this upcoming event at Lifetime Fitness on Friday, April 9th.

Movie Night: Movie Night was a success – the fifth graders enjoyed their separate movie showing!

Educational Gifts: The committee will meet at the end of April or beginning of May to determine the remainder of monies left and how to best allocate the funds.

Barnes and Nobles:

Conference Dinner: For teacher appreciation week, on Monday bagels and juice will be available in the teacher lounge. On Thursday, lunch for the teachers will be provided. At the past teacher conference dinner, the committee received a lot of donations, so they have plenty of budget left.

5th Grade Luncheon: The theme is “top secret”! They have 23 volunteers for the event. The committee is on budget and will be a blast!

All School Lunch: Edie Kuegler presented the All School Lunch update. Cheese pizza, cookies and juice boxes will be served. The committee is using Pizza Hut gift cards purchased through our gift card program. The school receives 9% back of the total purchase. Flyers went home in the red folders and a posting regarding the luncheon was placed in the March newsletter. They possibly will do an email blast on Thursday. The kindergarteners will be getting cookies as a special treat. Nine volunteers are signed up to help with the food distribution. Volunteers should be there by 11:30am.

Market Day: The March market day is being cancelled because it falls over Longfellow’s spring break.

EScrip: Pretty consistent income, about \$250/month.

Gift Cards: There are two more opportunities left this year to purchase your gift cards!

Art Awareness: N/A

Bingo Night: Bingo Night brought in about \$6000! Mrs. Serbin won a FLIP video camera and donated it to the school.

Book Fair: Denise Swanson gave an update for the April 20-22nd book fair. The book fair will be open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, but will close after school on Wednesday. The theme is along the lines of “Read at the Diner”. The committee is considering making it a “gran” event... inviting grandparents of the children to attend. Volunteers are needed!

Assembly: “Writing Royally” will be presented this Friday for the 1st-5th graders.

Paper Candy: N/A

Entertainment Books: N/A

Newsletter: N/A

Yearbook: The yearbook is done and sent to the printer. The theme is “Where is Lucky the Longhorn?”, taking a Where is Waldo approach. There is a Lucky the Longhorn interview in the yearbook. And the yearbook price remains the same, \$15/book.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- An idea for a Chili’s fundraising event was brought forth. They could possibly give a 10% kickback to Longfellow for all Longfellow visits during a one month time frame.
- The plant sale was taken off the fundraising books for this year. The Morris’ would still like to pursue this event. Shady Lane Greenhouse is not raising prices this year. Only flats that sell the most, pots and hanging baskets will be sold. A move to vote this event back on to the slate was presented. There was no opposition.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.