

LAKEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

In attendance were: Kara Gaskamp, Melissa Greenwell, Vicki Price, Heather Frye-Ginsberg, Cassi Sweeney, Tracy Good, Danielle Swanson, Lori Griggs, Lori Riley, Tracy Moulkers, Gigi Capello, Tracie Hall, Emilie Christy, Michelle Star, Christy Orr, Karen Ikonomopoulos, Christy Larrea, Debbie Blankenship, Nicole Hundley, Sam Hicks, Katherine Ehresman, Virginia DeNisio, and Clare Sayce

President Kara Gaskamp called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

The minutes were approved as written for the May 15, 2007 general meeting.

Kara Gaskamp explained the purpose of the PTO, as written in the PTO bylaws and also thanked Newcomers for attending.

Principal's Report: Sam Hicks

LWE has exceeded enrollment expectations of 670 children. We are currently at 671-680 students. This warranted the last minute addition of one K teacher, Michelle Whites.

Traffic and dismissal has been running smoothly, which is greatly appreciated by all of the staff. The kids are dismissed at 2:45 and the campus cleared by 2:55 to 3:00 daily.

Mr. Hicks encourages Fathers to consider volunteering for "Real Men," a new program LWE is trying to get off the ground, which is similar to the 5th grade girls "Kardiva" program. The program would teach 5th Grade boy's moral leadership and that all are to be accepted. Two Dads are needed to work with Adam Benthall. Adam is the son of Mrs. Bethall, our librarian and Mr. Benthall a Fifth Grade Teacher and will be at LWE student teaching for semesters 1 & 2. Dad duties would include regularly attending meetings, organizing snacks for the boys and helping run 3-4 evening events, such as watching a football game, going swimming, etc.

Mr. Hicks thanked Cafeteria Staff Director, Mike Villegas. Mike has been with LWE for three years and is joined this year by Toyna ?, whom Mike is currently training to be the director next year at Serene Hills Elementary. Other staff members to join the LWE team this year are: Music Teacher, Janet Prochnik (due to the retirement of Mrs. Avacadotangerine - help me out here) 5th grade Teacher, Amy Wilkinson has replaced Laura Richardson (who has since relocated to Houston) Kate Starks, (a K teacher moved prior to late enrollment of new Kinder students) has moved to the 4th Grade.

Serene Hills Elementary (SHE) will be open next year. Allison Cobb is the full-time principle for SHE and is available to answer any questions parents may have relating the school. Allison will move to SHE as soon as construction is completed, which is expected late October-November. Beginning in March, there will be a call for volunteers at SHE.

No Hassle Fundraiser is working very well and although the progress toward our financial goal has slowed, we are not far from reaching it.

Questions were raised concerning the over-all success of the recess before lunch program. Program took 3 years of consideration before introducing to the students. 5 Parents were actively involved in getting the program started, 4 of who are Nutritionists. Barbara Galloway Patrick (District Food Coordinator) endorses program. Eventually, LTISD will require all schools to implement the same program. Nurse Haskins has seen a reduction in (all students) before lunch visits and the children over all seem to be calmer when returning from lunch. Mr. Hick's encouraged all parents with questions about the lunch program to email or call him.

On rainy or icy days children will not be counted tardy before 8:15. They will be issued a pass into class at the front office.

Teachers and their students will be leading Friday Assemblies this year. Kids will be in charge of the Pledge, songs, announcements and character building activities. Kids will also get their picture taken and receive an award. Notes will be sent home from teachers to remind parents of class assembly dates but can also be located on the school website under the tab For Parents and Students/Morning Assemblies. Assemblies begin at 7:45 -8:00, K-2 in the Café and 3-5 in the Gym. Mr. Hicks encouraged parents to attend.

Questions have been raised regarding doors being locked/security after recess during re-entry into school for lunch. Assistant Music teacher, Jaime Muez will be and has been monitoring the door during these times. Eventually there will be a buzzer outside the school doors and inside the cafe allowing monitors/teachers to grant entry to students. Mr. Hicks encouraged parents to volunteer as POP (Parents on Patrol) to provide additional help to monitors during this time.

Mr. Hicks explained the program, A+ Cards. Parents, Teachers and Faculty Members may nominate and drop names into a box from which a drawing will be held to award prizes. Prizes are donated by parents for each of the 3 faculty meetings per year. There are approximately 3 prizes at each meeting (50 total.) Please contact Mr. Hicks, if you are willing to donate items to this program or have any questions. Past prizes include: Gas Cards, Michael's Gift Cards, etc.

Faculty Representative Update: Nicole Hundley

The Kinder team expresses their thanks to the PTO.

Carnival Update: Melissa Greenwell & Debbie Blankenship

Carnival will be Saturday, October 20 from 2-6 with inflatables until 5pm. There is no UT home game but a television will be available to watch the game. Parents interested in volunteering should contact Melissa or Debbie. No-Hassle final numbers will be determined by September 21st and a flyer will be sent home in Tuesday folders with a carnival pre-order ticket price on the 25th. Debbie has saved \$1000. on inflatables pricing. Volunteer Dad's will be grilling burgers and dogs for concessions. Additional volunteers are needed. More info will be discussed at the carnival meeting September 13th at 1:45 in the café.

Treasurer's Report: Danielle Swanson

1st grade requests \$473.61 for Scholastic News Magazines for all grade level classrooms. Danielle Swanson moved to approve the \$473.61. Tracy Good 2nd. All were in favor. The motion passed.

3rd grade requests \$1357.30 for Scholastic News Magazines for all grade level classrooms (\$473.60), Language Arts Booklets (\$74.70); Marcy Cook Math Workshop (\$134.00) Danielle Swanson moved to approve the \$1357.30. Tracy Good 2nd. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4th grade requests \$670.00 for Scholastic News Magazines for Kids for all grade level classrooms. Danielle Swanson moved to approve the \$670.00. Lori Griggs 2nd. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5th grade requests \$430.00 for Time Magazines for Kids for all grade level classrooms. Danielle Swanson moved to approve the \$430.00. Lori Griggs 2nd. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Art requests \$400.00 for strong metal shelves to hold clay work, to be used by all grade levels. Virginia DeNisio moved to increase the Art budget by \$400.00. Lori Griggs 2nd. Danielle Swanson moved to approve the \$400.00. Tracy Good 2nd. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Music requests \$935.62 for 5 new CD players, percussion instruments and materials. Danielle Swanson moved to approve the \$935.62. Virginia DeNisio 2nd. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Profit & Loss Update: \$14,000 No Hassle Fundraiser money to date. Received \$1700 dollars from Randall's Remarkable Card Saving program. PTO will utilize our 2 tax-free days 1. School Supply order on August 1, 2007 2. Fall Spirit Wear Sale Day (date to be determined by Chairperson.)

Music teacher, Janet Prochnik demonstrated the music department's new instruments that all grade levels are using.

Concerns were raised regarding the need to clarify (to parents) that the carnival remains a large revenue producer for LWE, despite the No Hassle Fundraiser. If No Hassle goal is exceeded by dollar amount to be determined by PTO Board, then price of Carnival wristbands will be lowered. There will be no requests for items (from parents) for grade level silent auction baskets this year, (i.e. Lego, Barbie, and chocolate baskets.) Only business-donated items will be auctioned off. Parents are encouraged to solicit local businesses for donated items.

No Hassle Fundraiser Update: Gigi Capello

No Hassle Goal anticipated budget \$18,750.00. PTO Member dues anticipated budget \$2500.00 totaling \$21,250. Current numbers are \$18,865 combined NH and PTO member dues. LWE has 420 families. To date, 221 families have participated in the No Hassle Fundraiser. 198 donations No Hassle, 23 to PTO member dues only. Of the PTO memberships, 13 were families and 10 teachers. 37 families were not clear regarding a desire to be PTO members on form. Thoughts were to call those families to clarify. In 2006-2007 LWE had 225 PTO members. Suggestions were made regarding the best way to clarify PTO Memberships on the NH form for 2008-2009. As of today, we have not met the NH goal in order to lower carnival bracelet costs.

Important dates- September 17 Parent Leadership Meeting 9:15-10:30, September 26 Lakeway Elementary Chick Fil A Spirit Night, September 27 Early Release, October 3 Early Release, October 8 Teacher Inservice, October 9 PTO Meeting Café, October 20 Fall Carnival

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Frye-Ginsberg—Secretary