

**Ledyard Center School
Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2011**

Meeting was called to Order at 7PM

Attendance

Jami Allyn, Laurie Marcotte, Julia Cronin, Priscilla Bauman, Melody Farris, Vince Whittle, Naomi Rodriguez, Michael Washington, Cecilia Trujillo, Andrea Goodrich, Tracy Lee, Stephanie Kamperschroer, Jennifer Wessell, Karen Zinno, Christine Krupansky, Sharon Hightower, Edward Monahan, John Marshall, Mike France, Kevin Keven Dumbrowski, Steve Eichelberg, Allyson Butler, Cari Barnes, Jen Boudah, Karen Brown, Aracely Graul, Marie Johnson, Lorraine Healy

Candidates (Julia Cronin, Vice President) - Thanks to all candidates for coming in today

- Democratic Party
 - Sharon Hightower – Board of Education (Current Board Chair)
 - Stephanie Calhoun – Board of Education
 - Tony Saccone - Mayor
 - Michelle Hinton – Board of Education
 - Naomi Rodriguez -Town council
 - Ed Monahan - Town Council
 - Bill Saums - Town Council
 - Mary McGrattan – Town Council
- Republican Party
 - Fred Allyn – Mayor (Current)
 - John Rodolico – Mayor
 - Steve Eichelberg – Town Council
 - Keven Dumbrowski – Town Council
 - Sean Sullivan – Town Council
 - John Marshall – Town Council
 - Mike France – Town Council
 - Bob Beaver – Board of Education
 - Julia Cronin – Board of Education

Approval of Minutes:

- ***Motion to Approve Minutes. All in Favor. 0 not approved. 0 abstained from voting.***

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Keith was unable to be present at the meeting due to illness – Laurie Marcotte, Co President presented the President's Report for Mr. Keith.

- Building improvement goal this year is to Focus on Tier 1 Instruction. Tier 1 Instruction is classroom instruction for all students. Grade level teams have developed professional growth goals such as writing – as the CMT scores showed the least amount of growth over time.
- CMT scores were reviewed at the Board of Education meeting – LCS had positive results.
- The School theme that was chosen by Students / Teachers and Parents was RACE to 110% - Respect - Acceptance - Cooperation – Effort. The upcoming plan/calendar will be developed by the new CAB 110 Committee (Climate Anti-Bullying). Any suggestions for how to incorporate our new theme into the plans, please contact Mr. Keith.
- To Date – the website (lcswall.net) has received over 1100 views to date.
- On October 22nd from 9:00AM to 1:00PM- the Preston Corn Maze will be donating one dollar of the regular cost of admission to the PTO. Just mention that you are there with LCS in order to

have the donation applied. We will be allowed to have a table to sell snacks during this time period – Request of volunteers to help man the table. Suggestion of only volunteering for one hour and then switching volunteers so families can enjoy the maze without having to stay at the table the entire afternoon.

- Suggested by Julia Cronin, Vice President – Buy Scrips for S&S and use these funds for buying non-perishable items to sell at the corn maze. **Motion Made. Motion Second. All in Favor. 0 not approved. 0 abstained from voting**
- First newsletter was sent out and posted on *lcswall.net* – if there are any suggestions for improvement or for the next newsletter, please contact Mr. Keith.
- The Faculty Council Committee met and requested that there be more opportunities to work and grow together professionally. They will be starting up the book club again, Mr. Keith will be purchasing books that will allow this growth - the first book will be *The Writers Toolbox* by Georgia Heard.

Treasurer's Report:

- 18,072.68 – Checking Account
- Last year there was 1750.00 allotted for the Author visit, which was not to used and we will carry forward for next year's 4-day Author Visit.
- Promethean Board budget total raised last year - \$15,539.35 paid out 10,864.00. Balance remaining - \$4,675.35. All Promethean boards we have currently are paid in full.
- Ice cream fund has collected \$262.00 so far this year.
- Mums Sales made \$430.00.

ANNUAL COMMITMENT

- **Author Visit Budget - \$1750.00.** This will be earmarked until next year when we have the Author come for the 4-day Workshop.
 - Stephanie Kamperscherer – Author Visit / Workshop in the fall of 2012 **David Biedrzycki** (We haven't done this since 2007) – Should cost between 5-6K.
 - Stephanie's son was involved in the 2007 Workshop and was affected positively by the visit. Last year he was in 4th Grade and entered a writing competition at UCONN and was chosen for publication. Great opportunity to show kids the excitement in writing and illustration.
 - Possibly do a small workshop for something in the spring this year so the 6th Graders do not miss out on this great program.
 - Suggestion was made to try to work with other schools in the area to have this program more often than every 3 years. Gales Ferry PTO President, Stephanie Calhoun who was in attendance said they would be very interested in combining the visits with Ledyard Center.
- **Clay Budget - \$500.00.** Art Teacher has asked for full amount.
- **Cultural Arts Budget - \$2,500.00.** Request \$705.00 for Wingmasters
- **Field Trip Support Budget - \$5,300.** Field Trips usually cost more than the budget so we will give the full amount of the budget at the end of the year.
- **Grounds Maintenance Budget - \$300.00.** Usually donated not used by funds. We will need to mulch in front of the new stone wall / Prune in front of the school sign.
 - Have Mr. Keith find out about what the status is for the Mulch in the playground.
- **Nurse Budget - \$100.** Used for clothing for the children – she gets snacks elsewhere.
- **Playground Equipment Budget - \$500.00** – Requested \$515.00 this year.
- **Teacher Requests Budget \$2,000.00** – ie - Cardmaking for the troops / Book clubs / Activities before the CMTS / Rugs / DVD for Kindergarten Last Year.
- **One Room Schoolhouse Budget - \$100.00.** 1st -4th Grade Curriculum – replacement items to learn about in the one room schoolhouse (was a big project in previous year).

- Last year, Mrs. Ambrose did not use the funds – spent her own money to re-purchase misplaced boards. Inform Mrs. Ambrose that the funds are available for her use.
- **Good Neighbor Fund Budget - \$200.00.** Hardships within families – send check to let them know we are thinking of them. Confidential – handled by Principal.
- **Dare Budget** – Not used last year. Eliminate budget this year – Can use funds possibly from the Pizza Fund since is considered Health and Wellness.
- **Misc. Postage Budget - \$300.00.** Used \$65.00 last year - For Misc. postage, Babysitting, thank-you notes sent out.
- **Aerospace Budget - \$500.00**

GOAL PROJECT

- Promethean Boards
 - Per Mr. Rode – they would like to buy 2 more boards right away to fill the 5th grade as a short term goal within the next 2 months. In the long term they would be looking to buy 3 more boards by the end of the year.
 - Back to School sale at Promethean – if you buy 2 sets of voters (32) each for a total of \$4398.00, you will receive a \$599 credit which will allow for the purchase the white boards.
 - Salesperson who we worked with last year is no longer there, so we are still waiting on a quote for this year's request. Mr Rode expects the price to be close to what the cost was last year - 2k each.
 - Mr. Keith is willing to use his funds to split the budget in half with the PTO to buy the first (2) Boards. Worst case scenario they would be a total of 8K / PTO would put forward 4K.
 - Mr. Rode will have all amounts ready by next month. – ***Motion Made to put forth the funding for the Boards for this year's Goal Project. Motion Second. All in Favor. 0 not approved. 0 abstained from voting***
 - Long Term goal of 3 Additional Boards – Promethean has a promotion going - if the PTO raises \$3800 through a fund raiser, Promethean will match it towards the purchase of the boards. This is required to be completed by end of June. The Principal has to validate the fund raiser and Promethean will give you a 50% off coupon – must be spent by September 2011. We would like to buy 3 More Promethean Boards - 1 for 3rd Grade, 1 for 2nd Grade and 1 for the 1st Grade. – Possibly get an adjustable mount for the younger grades.
 - The 500 Series Boards have new technology that have smart technology combined with the promethean technology – might be something the 1st graders would like to have.
 - Motion was made to assign one fund raiser to the Promethean Boards. The motion was amended to have a larger event be put towards the Promethean Boards. 12k total would be needed to finish the lower grades minus the 3800 credit from Promethean.
 - Pennies for Promethean – Suggestion from Karen Brown – Karen will take care of it, and Naomi will donate the plastic jugs to put the pennies in.

FUNDRAISER REVIEW

- Chair for the Ledyard Gear still needed – Aracely Graul volunteered to be the Chair.
- Art to Remember (Andrea Goodrich) Due by October 25th – delivers by December 9th.
- Yearbook – Sales Andrea Goodrich – Last year Stephanie went around and took pictures of the children – Andrea will meet with her to discuss some ideas for this year. Last year we lost money on the fund raiser – maybe buy less this year (bought 205 last year) cost \$17.55 sold \$18.00/ each. They don't come in until June 15th – maybe get them a little earlier to try and do last chance sales.
- Tupperware – Chris Kupanski Chaired this last year – raised 40% of 1600.00. Looking to do it this year in February.
- Book Collection - already been emptied two times at a profit of \$.03 / lb

- Box Tops – Jami made poster sized thermometer ready to posted. – 6th Grade will help cut the box tops out if needed.
- Scrips – First order raised \$100 last year and only \$35.00 this year. Need to get the word out to get more sold. Email all ideas to Karen.
- Stop & Shop – 36 participants – send out a letter to remind everyone. Possibly send to Ledyard Patch to post.
- Jeannine Gift Wrap – October 21st Deadline.
- Capri Sun - \$.03 / empty packet – bring in to the school – Naomi uses for the Green Team. Naomi will add a note about it to the next newsletter.

EVENTS

- There seems to be an issue with Flyers going out at different times depending on the teacher and the classrooms. We will have to make sure that all flyers go out to the parents on the same day.
- Trick-or-Treat Night
 - Issue brought up regarding the date of the Halloween night. Usually held ON Halloween night, but this year is scheduled for the 28th. Concern was raised and was requested to move the date back to Halloween Night. All members in attendance voted – majority ruled on keeping the date as the 28th.
 - Melody Farris requested to add Halloween Games in the gym to the trick-or-treat night. Games would be for \$.50/each. Requested \$200 to buy supplies for the games and prizes for the night. **Motion Made to fund the \$200 for the supplies. Motion Second. All in Favor. 0 not approved. 0 abstained from voting**
- Bingo Night – Naomi suggested having a joint school Bingo Night with Gallup Hill School. Stephanie Calhoun, President of Gallup Hill PTO whom attended our meeting agreed – Suggestion was met with approval – will continue to discuss before the event takes place.
- Talent Show – Stephanie Kamperschroer, Chairperson requested the following changes be made to the event:
 - 1st 20 performers only / one performance only per person / Dress rehearsals mandatory / Meet with the performers before rehearsal night and request that all performers practice before that night.
 - Needs a co-chair, and needs a tech person that can work with the sound system.
 - Suggestion was made that the High School Drama students can assist with the Tech part also suggested that she contact Mr. Green at the high school. Vince Whittle also volunteered his assistance with the audio with Mr. Mark. Get someone to setup and video (would have to get a release from all children’s parents to be put on video).
 - The discussion was tabled for additional discussion at the next meeting.
- Naomi Rodriguez informed members that on November 5th, Dow will be accepting Non-hazardous waste removal, ie: batteries / energy efficient light bulbs / paint etc.
- Naomi Rodriguez also reminded everyone that we Recycle ink cartridges / cell phones.

TEACHER REQUESTS

- The Kindergarten Classes were given the funds to purchase new rugs, they are currently on order and we will take pictures and post on lcswall.net once they have been received.
- Mr. Rode requested for Ms. Pollin – 32” TV in music room. She currently lets the children watch videos on her iPad, but it would be beneficial to have a TV. Cost would be around- \$500.00
- Julia Cronin, Vice President –Note from the Board of Ed regarding the Cleanliness in Classroom – The reason behind not allowing certain donations / cleaning supplies is due to the State Law. Board of Ed is working on getting the issue resolved now – MSDS is required for all items that come into the building.

- Julia Cronin, Vice President also reminded everyone to please VOTE in the upcoming November Elections.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:15PM