

Meriwether Lewis Elementary School
PTO Meeting Agenda
March 28, 2016 6:30pm

Board Members Present: Peggy Williams, Brandy Robertson, Mindy Goodall, Helen Boyd, Mike Irani, Richard Monroe, Carleen Kupcis, Cheryl Wetmore-Simpson, Holly Stancil and Sarah Kelsey

Parents Attending: Nicole Group

A. Welcome and Public Comments

- Nicole Group - March 30, 2016 will be a county meeting discussing budget shortfalls in education. Board of supervisors public hearing on advertised tax rate will be Wednesday March 30.

B. Co-Presidents' Report: Peggy Williams and Mindy Goodall

- Auction - The auction was a huge success and special thanks to the volunteers. Initial results - close to \$28,000 revenue and roughly \$6,000 expenses. Budget expectations were for profit of \$22,000 and looks to meet expectations. Leftover student portraits will be sent home to parents with a request for donations.
- Bluebird cares - There will be a television segment on CBS 19 on the rock project for Martha Jefferson Hospital.
- EZone - Potentially change or highlight Ezone policy to discuss with parents that if the class is cancelled (teacher is sick) to have a back up plan as we may not be able to put the entire Ezone class into a different class.

C. Principal's Report: Mike Irani

- Thank you for the auction and recognition for the effort of the entire MLS community.
- There will be an official policy released to parents in regards to homework for K - 12. Will be more relevant to parents of middle and high school children. Initial reports are positive and attempt to rein in the amount of hours spent on homework in high school.
- Board of supervisors public hearing on advertised tax rate will be Wednesday March 30 at 6 p.m at the county building. Mr. Foley put in a 2.5 cents increase proposal and delineated specifically to different programs. Roughly \$600,000 is allocated for schools, if the proposal is not passed, there will be a \$600,000 shortfall for county schools.

D. Faculty Representative's Report: Cheryl Wetmore-Simpson

- The faculty is overwhelmingly aware of the support of the PTO and volunteer efforts at this time of year.

E. Co-VPs' Report: Carleen Kupcis and Sarah Kelsey

- Parent council meeting - Dr. Moran discussed revenue sharing and robust land use taxes. The impression was this tax increase was the most that could be proposed without visceral public reaction.
- Another person at the meeting discussed projected expenditures versus projected revenues and the growing gap in the next decade or two.
- Internet security was another issue discussed at the parent council meeting.
- Minutes from the meetings are available on the county website.
- Book fair - potentially adding a line item in future budgets for decorations for the book

fair. This year's book fair committee paid roughly \$65 in out-of-pocket expense.

- Motion made, seconded and approved to repay expenses for the book fair.

F. Secretary's Report: Richard Monroe

- Thank you for everyone that helped with the auction.
- Thank you for the 5th grade trip to DC.
- Motion was made, seconded and approved for February meeting minutes.

G. Treasurer's Report: Helen Boyd

- Annual fund nears completion and is approaching \$33,000.
- Ezone will be roughly \$5000 more than expected. Are teachers not being paid enough? Or is it more demand for the classes? Do we want this to be a money making venture for the PTO?
- KNO is not making as much money as the last two years. Is there a reason that we've seen a drop in income? It appears to be a drop in enrollment combined with adding an additional teacher.
- Silent auction - still waiting to hear about credit card fees. This years profit was less than the previous two to three years, but still greater than \$20,000. Not as many mixers and some of the travel options were not offered this year. Discussion as to have more items or less items. Higher priced items or still keep lower priced items.
- Still close to only 50% of classroom funds have been spent by teachers.
- Cultural assembly expense was for Virginia Festival of Books.
- Change in outreach number due to outreach children given certificates to buy books at the book fair (close to \$200).

Attached:

*Please review written reports prior to the meeting. Copies of the agenda will be provided but please bring a laptop or copies of additional materials for your reference.

Important Dates:

Monday, April 25, 2016 PTO Board Meeting 6:30pm