

LPA minutes
April 11, 2012

An officer's meeting is held prior to official LPA meeting. Suzy Rea, Kerry Williams, and Trista Jones were in attendance.

Officer's Meeting:

Treasurers Report: We have a lot of money left over in the checking account. Most proposals have been funded, but there are a couple of checks left to cut. The sound system cost a lot less than anticipated, so the money that we did not rush to spend in the fall was not needed. Suzy and Kerry discussed their meeting with Randy, and the fact that the money he used from the school's budget could be re-allocated to other educational supports if it did not need to be used for the sound system. Given that we had \$5000 set aside for this project, the members present voted to cut a check back to Longfellow so that the sound system would be paid only through District and LPA funds. Randy mentioned that they would like to test the sound system before all of the concerts and shows at the end of the school year and asked whether we could pull off a family movie night again. We decided on April 27 to not interfere with Artworks. Kerry will get in touch with Linda to see if she wants to coordinate again, and will deal with publicity. Suzy will handle the movie license. Kendice will contact volunteers who signed up for "community events."

Co-Chair Report: Kerry passed around the Memo to Teachers she drafted concerning the timeline for submitting proposals, the LPA and Artworks Board member vacancies, and the request for feedback on the Carnival. She said that she and Suzy had asked the other PACs about their experience with Room Parents and heard a lot of positive comments. If we are interested in doing that, she could add it to the Memo. Randy said that there's a paragraph in the Longfellow Handbook which talks about Room Parents. The Board members present voted to give it a shot for the upcoming year. Kerry will re-draft the memo and get it out.

LPA Meeting:

In attendance:

Kerry Williams, Kendice Rollison, Trista Jones, Suzy Rea, Linda Moore, Sonja Chandler, Randy Walthall, Andrea Evans, Annie Sites, Cliff Chisholm, Sue MacGrath, Johnna Visser, Steve Johnson, Betsy Garrigues.

Steve Johnson, Assistant Superintendent: presentation on Bond Election. Visit our website for more detailed information: www.bsd7.org/2012election

- 3 parts to the election: School Board of Trustees election, Bond, and Levy
- Trustees are all incumbents with no one opposing
- Bond would pay for the following three projects:
- Addition of an 8th elementary school and the land needed to build on – student created video to share with community about the need for the elementary school for the

upcoming bond election. Land is on the corner of Durston and Cottonwood, large enough to hold an eventual third middle school.

- Support Services Building – plan for the building to meet the needs of the district over the next 20 years.
- Longfellow School Renovation – this is the only remaining school needing mechanical ventilation/heating system upgrade. Small addition on the north side to accommodate a mechanical room and a room the size of the classroom. Plan on the majority of this project starting the summer of 2013.
- Levy is a yearly request required by the Montana Constitution to ensure the community has a say. Elementary District General Fund Operating Levy – maximizing the funds allowed by law to meet needs of the district, but still does not cover all costs, as budget numbers are determined by last year’s enrollment and we consistently have 100 or more additional students per year due to growth.
- Ballots will be mailed by April 23 and need to be returned by May 8.

Questions:

Is the extra space at Longfellow going to be used as a classroom? No. We will not be increasing our student numbers. The space could be used in any number of ways.

What is plan for second high school? When student number reaches 2,400 and right now we’re at 1,800.

Will we grow into the elementary school or are there enough students to fill it now? Plan is to grow into it but should happen quickly.

What has past success been with the bonds? Do they normally pass? We have had a pretty good success rate. The General Fund Levy has been passed since 1985. If we can communicate to the community that we’re doing the right thing, the bonds should pass. We have a very educated community.

Do we need a certain percentage for the mail in ballot? No. That’s why we do a mail in ballot for bond elections. If you have walk in vote, you have to have a 30% participation rate.

Go to Lincolns for Levies, www.bsd7.org, get informed and spread the word to anyone you know about the bond election and tell them to get out and vote.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Andrea Evans reported that everything is coming together for teacher/staff appreciation. The tentative schedule of events is as follows: On May 15, there will be chair massages. On May 16, a mobile coffee van will come and parents will make breakfast. On May 17, there will be a luncheon. Food and playground coverage from 11:30-1:00 still need to be arranged. Suzy will create a Google Doc for that. There will be a banner for kids to sign, and a sheet to fill in “I love

my teacher because..." will be sent home with students in one of the next Friday folders in order to create a bound book for each teacher. If you have any questions or want to get involved, email Andrea at andreaevans2@gmail.com.

Principal's Report

Randy updated us on OLWEUS, the District's new bullying prevention program, which deals with student to student interactions and involves community-wide training. The Longfellow Foundations Group will be trained this spring, with full staff and parent training occurring in the fall. More information will be available at the start of the 2012-13 school year. OLWEUS sets a community standard for addressing bullying behavior to change the creation of a hostile environment.

The Airplane Toss contest is next week. There will be practice sessions with Randy during lunch times and we'll hope for good weather! The Second Grade Bike Rodeo is being planned. Longfellow used most of its Safe Routes to School money to purchase equipment for that, which can be used in years to come. The rest of the money went to snacks for Walk/Bike to School Day.

Teachers are excited about iPads to use for their instruction. There are 4 in the building right now. If we could get an additional 10 there would be one in each classroom. Purchasing software for all 14 would turn each of them into a smartboard that could be projected. We discussed whether to use some of the extra money we have in the budget to make this happen. It was decided to request that, if the teachers are still excited about this idea in the fall, someone be sure to turn in a proposal. The idea can then be judged among others and we can see if it's still a priority. The good news is that the cushion of money we're carrying over could come in handy for expensive proposals such as this one.

Steve Wheeler joined us and updated us on his funded proposal from this past fall. He had an expert look at the cross-country ski equipment and thinks he can get some of the skis fixed to work well enough to last one more year. He will therefore need only a small part of the money allocated to his original proposal. He will then look at the set of equipment we have and try to sell it all at the Ski Swap the year after, in order to make some money from it and order a new set of equipment before winter. We will keep this in mind when funding proposals in 2013.

Meeting adjourned 1:10pm.