

**LPA minutes
May 9, 2012**

An officer's meeting is held prior to official LPA meeting. Suzy Rea, Kerry Williams, Trista Jones, Kendice Rollison, Linda Moore, and Bill Stoddart were in attendance.

Officer's Meeting:

Recap of Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week and events: Monday is coffee/breakfast treats, Tuesday is massage day, and Wednesday is the luncheon.

Walk/Bike to school: Wednesday, May 16th is walk/bike to school day. Linda will pick up coffee to serve parents and Suzy will pick up apples. Kerry will put together a memo to parents about meeting spots.

Fundraising: Kristin Taylor is proposing a "shopping afternoon" with booths for holiday shopping with ½ proceeds going to Longfellow. This is in lieu of Montana Harvest. This is in addition to other fundraising events during the "fall fundraiser" event.

LPA Meeting:

In attendance:

Kerry Williams, Kendice Rollison, Trista Jones, Suzy Rea, Linda Moore, Brenda Sunderland, Randy Walthall, Andrea Evans, Gordon Grissom, Erin Goff, Jane Klassan, Kristin Taylor, Annie Sites, Steve Wellington.

Steve Wellington of Thrive: Update on the Love & Logic parent class which was 6 weeks . 17 parents attended and represented 23 Longfellow students. The class went well. Parents reported having more fun with their parenting. Parents enjoyed the discussions and camaraderie with the other parents. Thanks to LPA for helping out with childcare costs. Jim Thompson from the High School who runs the Leo Club had 2-3 students who volunteered to watch about 5-15 children while parents participated. Longfellow will host another one of these classes in January 2013.

Gordon Grissom, Principal from Sacajawea Middle School: his purpose here today is one more step for easing the transition from elementary to the middle school. Gordon thinks it's harder for the parents than it is for the kids. He recognizes that the transition to the school and out of the school is an important and an exciting time for the kids. Most of the kids are ready for the changes. Friday is a shadow day. Feeder schools will spend the morning or afternoon at the school. This will be the first chance for kids to spend a significant amount of time there. The 5th graders will learn about what life is like as a 6th grader and will see the lockers for the first time and will on their combination locks. This event will start to break down the "elementary" identity and help them to feel like Sacajawea community and dispel questions and fears the kids may have over summer. May 22nd is ice cream social from 3:30-5:00pm. Parents/families are invited and will allow the students time to mill around. Some teachers will be there.

"Schedule pick up day" – buy PE clothes, pick up agenda, pick up the schedule is scheduled for morning of August 23rd with the exact time to be determined. Newsletter will be sent out with those details to parents during the summer. Gordon encourages parents to get involved. Chaperoning field trips, assisting in library, host the snack bar are ways that parents become part of the community.

Brenda Sutherland: the scope of volunteering changes at the middle school. There aren't as many "in class" opportunities as there are in the elementary schools but there are ways to stay involved. Friday popcorn, snack bar, school supplies sales – fun opportunities to interact with the kids. Kids are contained by grade. A family feel is developed because kids get to know each other.

Gordon: answered the question about which elementary schools feed to Sacajawea... 90% of Longfellow students, 95% Morning Star, handful of Hawthorne students.

Kendice suggested voting in the student council in the fall as an opportunity for other schools to be represented. Morning Star dominated the student council because those kids already know each other. Kendice suggested that each school be represented in some way, even as an ambassador, even if the kids are not "elected".

Erin Goff – President of Sacajawea Pac: Want kids who will be new to Sacajawea to get familiar with the school. Opportunities are: shadow day, ice cream social. Orientation day in August which is a day-long event is an opportunity to get to see the kids from all the other elementary schools as well as kids from all the grade levels. Volunteer opportunities: parents run the snack bar which is designed to give kids real world opportunities. Parents get to provide their presence as opposed to "involvement". The more kids/people your kid knows is good support and the better off the kids are. The field trips are phenomenal – skiing and an overnight. Encourage parents to deal first and directly with the teachers immediately if there are any problems. Great opportunities at all levels for the kids, socially, emotionally & academically.

Suzy: update on upcoming events – walk/bike to school day is next Wednesday. It's a national event. Students are encouraged to bike or walk to school. Busses drop off at Bogert Park and parents will walk the kids to Longfellow. Teacher/Staff appreciation week: Monday is coffee cart with fruit and pastries, Tuesday is massage day, and Wednesday is a luncheon in the library.

Principal's Report: 4th grade farm fair trip out to Brainard Ranch and get to learn how food is produced and where it comes from. Friday is Artworks event. Randy will be in SFO at a convention for school and community partnerships. First choir concert was Monday night with the new sound system and it was spectacular. We could hear the kids well with the drop mikes. It is a fabulous sound system. Tuesday is the final fire/evacuation drill from 9-10. Any time

you're at the school during a drill, please participate. Ben Klein is coming to do a concert. He's an amazing flutist and will be doing a show on the 16th for 3rd-5th graders. 3rd graders to Lewis & Clark. 4th graders to Great Falls. 5th graders to Birch Creek. Then 25th at 9:30am is the Patriotic Assembly. This is an outreach to parts of our community. Invite veterans and the kids will sing for them. Placement meetings for staff to discuss class structures for kinders through 4th graders will start towards the end of this month. Flyer came home so parents could let the staff know if there is anything they need to consider for placement. Randy has final decision for placement. If any questions, please direct his way. Annual 3rd grade play day on 31st and 4th grade track & field day on June 1st. Volunteer appreciation day is on May 31st, hopefully outside on the picnic tables. Flyers will be going out. Suzy asked whether all the teachers are staying on for 2012-2013 school year? Randy said there will be 14 classrooms. Some shifts will need to be made to accommodate numbers. He'll talk to staff first then send out a note next week. 3rd-5th will have 2 sections and will not change. K-2 will have some shifts. As it looks now, will be fairly consistent with this year. Depends on what happens over the summer with enrollment. We're in the process for building the 2012/2013 school calendar. Randy asked for any dates to add. Augst 27th from 8-noon before school starts the teachers will start the OLWEUS training which is the district wide approach to bullying. Core team was trained with Laura St. John. Randy would love to have some Longfellow parents join the training. Longfellow and Irving staff will do the training together. Let Randy know if you're interested in participating. He's looking for 3-4 parents from our school to be a part of the training.

Foundation survey will be sent out on survey monkey. Morning Cares will be offered again next fall. We averaged 8 students even though we were hoping to have 15. Not trying to "steal time" from parents, it's a safe place for kids if parents need their kids to come to school early. Also, extra academic support for the kids.

Some parents asked about reducing sugar intake for kids. Do we want to reduce the access to chocolate milk at lunch? After doing research, the decision was made that we do not need to eliminate chocolate milk from the menu. Longfellow will continue with the "opt out" option. The opt-out option is the ability for parents to limit the access to the chocolate milk by letting the cashier know in the lunch room. 3 students have opted out of the chocolate milk.

Randy is asking whether Longfellow should do an ice cream social in the fall at Back to School Night. The concern raised was that back to school night is for parents only. One of the parents said that she has done this in the past at other schools. For approximately \$125 it's a cheap way to create a social event that the kids really enjoy. August 28th is the "orientation day" for the kids to meet their teachers, put their supplies in their desk. Social meet & greet could be done after that with ice cream.

68% of Bozeman voters approved bond for 8th elementary school and \$3m for Longfellow to get new windows and air system, and \$ for an elevator. Details still have to be worked out. Summer of 2013 is when work will get started. We'll have to look hard at that as to whether

this is best for us. Huge benefit, however, it would take out the girls bathroom and sink and art supply room. It would be a 4 stop elevator that would have to open both ways on each floor. It will be locked during the day and for staff use only. There will be a new room on top of what is currently Mary Cota's room for equipment. Same perimeter. Mechanical room will be shrunk to allow for more meeting space. Boys' bathroom will be out on the northwest corner. Architecture will be matched. The original look of the school will be brought back. Nice beautiful window and will add to the aesthetics and more even temperature controls, air exchange, more natural light into the building. Randy is very excited. The new space will not be a 15th classroom – cannot support this with our current lunch schedule. The space is more of a recovery space or “creative” space.

Andrea regarding teacher luncheon: she needs help with set up and clean up. We will wash the dishes and leave in the teacher lounge for people to pick up their stuff. Suzy will put the banner up tomorrow. Andrea will bring a box of sharpies so the kids can sign the banner during lunch. Randy said kids can sign on their way out. Andrea will be here during lunch on Thursday to monitor and assist with the banner signing. Randy will let Steve Wheeler & the aides know what will be happening with the banner signing.

Suzy regarding Montana Artists. This is a huge undertaking. Artists have contributed 50% of their sales to Longfellow. Suggestion to have a “live” sale in the fall. Kristin Taylor asked what the fundraiser will be. Suzy explained that we are doing Elliot's, Simple Gifts, Direct Donations as well as the Live Artist sale. The survey 2 falls ago was that parents liked Montana Artists. However, no one has stepped up to handle or chair the fundraiser. Parents still say they like the fundraiser so she is suggesting a one day event. Artists like the idea because they will not be limited based on catalog space so they can offer more items and would have 6 weeks to produce the items. Artists will bring their own order forms. Reduces work for us but the work involved will be contractor agreement, distribution, flyer for artists, copies of order forms so we know what we've earned. Suggestion was made by Kristin to only keep 40% vs. 50% since we will expect the artists to do more of the work. Fall festival where kids could be watching a movie and having popcorn and apple cider. Kristin is happy to look into it and work on it but wants to know whether she should pursue it. Board agreed that we should pursue this. She'd like for someone to take on the “community” portion of it to coordinate activities for kids etc. Suzy suggested that we handle the money like we did with Sally Foster where we pay for the items and give the artists their portion. There are several artists that want to participate. Some of the artists may need a volunteer to man their table and Kristin is willing to offer that to the artists who have worked with us and committed to us from the beginning. Rely Local could set up a booth at the festival. The gym will be used for the artists. September 27th is a tentative date for the fundraiser assembly with our fundraiser the first 2 weeks of October. October 4th or 11th for the festival. Decided that we will invite local food vendors including Elliots to represent their food there.

Meeting adjourned 1:10pm.