

LPA Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2012

Officer's Meeting:

Suzy: no volunteers for yearbook yet. Suzy will reach out again to the parents who put their name on the volunteer sheet in the fall and Kerry will put something in the newsletter. For last 3 LPA meetings, need to decide who we will invite to present at our meetings. Discussion about board members for next year -- Trista and Kerry are the only board members continuing on. We need to reach out to parents that are interested in board positions for next year.

LPA Meeting:

In attendance: Linda Moore, Suzy Rea, Trista Jones, Kerry Williams, Kendice Rollison, Johnna Visser, Brigitte Vanderbrink, Randy Walthall, Wendy Tage.

Wendy Tage update on Lincolns for Levies: Ballot Initiative Group - Dr. Miller held a meeting and asked the members if they were interested in learning more about school funding and how it happens. 3 parents showed interest and formed a group called Lincolns for Levies to educate neighbors, parents, friends, and others in the school district who don't have kids about, why we raise money. The public has a right to say how the schools are run and the public has the right to say yes or no to budget requests. (see orange hand out from Wendy for clarification). 80% of school funds go to personnel who work with our children. Bozeman continues to grow. Good and bad because funding is always one year behind -- i.e. the district budgets for the amount of students we have this year so if student numbers go up next year, we may have a deficit in teachers to cover the greater student numbers.

- Levy – maintaining day to day programs
- Bonds – capital improvements i.e. New school, or major renovations.
- Website – we want a face to post on the website and posters and why the voting is important.

Next bond coming up will affect Longfellow directly: new energy efficient windows, HVAC system. Work scheduled for summer 2013, provided the bond passes. Mail ballots will go out in May. Wendy asked if LPA would be willing to donate money towards Lincoln for Levies. They pay for ads in paper, mailings, phone bank, and posters. Last year Lincoln for Levies spent \$7,500. Donations are not tax-deductible.

Randy:

He introduced Jill Kimble, our new speech therapist. Jill has been in private practice for a number of years. We have her ½ time then she's at the high school the other time. Jill works with kids on IDP and Response to Intervention program and works with about 30 kids. A Child's Vision – every student will have a piece of art at the public library on display through the end of February.

5th grade Newspaper Club: Amy Westphal, Kayla Welch, Kelsey, Nina Coppillilo, and Sophie May, present their new Longfellow School Newspaper called Longfellow Learners. This group is asking for financial help. Each student will write a column each week and they are hoping to put the paper out every other week. 8 issues will cost \$85. Their motivation was to get practice with creating a newspaper because they're looking to their next year at SMS and they want to work on the newspaper there. Also, they want to create a newsletter for the students versus parents. Suzy put out the vote to the group for agreement on financing the newspaper. All agreed.

Brigitte Vanderbrink: Farm to School – Suzy confirmed that Farm to School will have a healthy snack at the carnival. The parents in charge of Farm to School pay for the food themselves. No charge to the kids. Brigitte is asking if we could donate a Longfellow water bottle for their table. Suzy agreed. Farm to School received a grant from the Co-op: \$1,400, 3% from Friday sales from a month ago. Very pleased to get those funds this year. Money will go towards school gardens. There isn't available grass on the grounds for growing the gardens so locals will develop garden boxes for us. Brigitte passed around a picture of the prototype and hopes to get seeds planted this spring. They would like one garden box for every grade. Kids will have hands on experience for germinating seeds. Curriculum will be tied into the boxes. One of the school grandmothers will help the kids paint the boxes. In summertime, families of the committee will take care of the plants each week. In the fall, the kids will plant garlic & spinach and we'll have multiple productions. Kids can make a salad together for example. Soil and seeds will be donated and maybe seedlings. The community is helping out. Nancy will put a blurb in the newsletter to see if any other parents want to help with the project. Kendice suggested that parents could donate money to raffle off a garden box with the money going back to Farm to School. There was a suggestion to have a raffle in April. Brigitte also brought up that Farm to School is working to have chocolate milk sold at lunch only on Fridays due to the high sugar content. Most kids choose chocolate over white milk and Brigitte acknowledged that not all families would be happy with the change. Most attendees thought it would be easier to do if we started it next year in the fall, rather than changing what is offered this year.