

**LPA minutes
March 7, 2012**

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

Officer's Meeting:

Suzy:

Yearbook – 2 people have volunteered to work on the yearbook. Interstate Studios gave us a quote of about \$980 for 260 color books. Suzy will confirm with those volunteers about their participation and Kerry will add a blurb in the newsletter that we need photos and provide information on where people can send their photos.

Board Members for next year – Suzy asked if we had any suggestions for parents who might be good candidates for board positions for next year and she will ask Nancy if she has any suggestions.

Treasurers Report:

Carnival – We earned \$2,498.77. Carnival was successful and there was a slight increase of income from last year. The Artworks raffle earned about \$4,000.

Kerry will create a memo for the teachers to inform them of what we earned from carnival and ask for feedback on how to make the carnival run even more smoothly for the teachers next year.

LPA Meeting:

In attendance:

Kerry Williams, Kendice Rollison, Suzy Rea, Linda Moore, Mary Jo O'Donnell, Chris Coppolillo, Randy Walthall.

Mary Jo O'Donnell: Bozeman Schools Foundation – 501c3 set up to fundraise and support the Bozeman public schools K-12. This type of organization is a growing trend because as the budgets change, parents are aware that they need to get involved. Originally, the Bozeman Schools Foundation provided just supplemental "fun" stuff, funding field trips etc. but now doing more everyday support and filling gaps. Mary Jo started in the position 5 years ago but the Foundation has been around for 7 years. She enjoys getting to know the teachers and schools. Bozeman Schools Foundation administers Spark Grants for the schools online and they administered 15 last fall. They also do Matching Grants and Seed Money. In the fall, encourage reading for 1st graders and each student gets a book with a follow-up activity at the library – this allows the Foundation to introduce themselves to the parents who are just starting out in the school system. Also in the fall, there is an Honored Alum and this keeps the Alumni engaged in the schools. Spelling Bee is the big fundraiser out of the year. Fundraising is done in the fall through mailers and developing relationships with donors. In the spring, there is a "Worthy Student Scholarship Program" and they took this over and inherited a \$500,000 endowment. A banquet is held and scholarship students are invited as well as the teachers that

they nominate. Their office is in the Willson. There are different groups within the Foundation – Spelling Bee, Scholarship Program and the Spark Grant have their own committee. Good way for people in the community to help out even though they don't have kids in the school system. Some examples of what they have funded are technology in the schools, a science element at SMS where MSU students go to the school. The Foundation is growing. Collaborate with MOSS, Artsplot, and other non-profits. Also, collaborating with the school PACS has been beneficial.

Longfellow Fundraising: Proposing that we ask teachers in the spring what kinds of things they might need in their classroom so that we have proposals before the fundraising so that LPA can fill out the Spark Grants in the fall as opposed to missing out on those. Also, we'd be able to tie the fundraising efforts to whatever items we're looking to purchase as a school. Randy will discuss this with teachers in one of the remaining staff meetings. We discussed other ways of fundraising instead of Montana Harvest because we have received feedback that we need something new and their products did not sell as well in the fall as in the past years. We sold about \$2,500 less of Montana Harvest from 2010. Some of the other ideas are Elliots which sells cookie dough, chocolates and other food items as well as Simple Gifts. Randy asked to see some information on those. Another option is Rely Local which is a "coupon card".