

Longfellow Parent Association (LPA) Advisory Council Meeting

December 13, 2016 11am-12noon

Longfellow Library

Members Present: Michelle Risho (co-chair), Marisa Bueno (co-chair), Stephanie McDowell (secretary)

Staff Present: none

- Budget:
 - We didn't raise our needed funds this year. We had surplus money from last year. We need to find out our current incoming funds and if we have made up for some of it. like to keep \$5000 in savings for next year. (Artworks does 1/3 of funds in a kitty for the next year.)
 - Marisa proposes that we use last year's funding to supplement our budget this year.
 - Marisa checked on money left over from the North Fort. There are still bills to be paid off. They will know if there is leftover money in the spring. Mr. McClellan said we could use that money for something structural. (entry plaza, marquee, etc.)
 - We won't move forward with the teacher proposal process until we know that we have the funds.

- Mascot:
 - The Lynx was chosen as the mascot. We will make sure that we appreciate the work that people contributed. (Other options were in the final running and the process may not have unfolded in everyone's favor.) We will thank people at the LPA meeting at noon and send an email to the group.
 - We will bring the students back into the process more for the logo piece.
 - There are a couple cartoonist parents interested in helping us develop the Lynx logo. Mr. McClellan wants to go through the committee first to make sure that we are doing what they were thinking. We'll plan the logo launch for late winter/early spring.

- STEM Fair:
 - Matt and Laurie are ready and have things planning. STEM reports are Feb 21-23. The Fair is Feb 23.
 - LPA helps with funneling money for the poster boards.

- Carnival:
 - Andrea Posen has agreed to organize. We need to set a date with her and we need to meet with her.
 - Preserve some of the best parts: cake walk, classroom activities. Then, use the cafeteria for family activities like bingo or family trivia. We could engage a different group from MSU to do more education.

- Dance:
 - Jenna wanted to do a dance for 4th and 5th graders.
 - The school district discourages dances and we'd have to get it approved by the district. He'd also prefer that it is all grades. They have to be attached to something with health enhancement.

- Morning coffee for parents and cocoa for kids:
 - Mr. McClellan liked the idea and he wants us to wait until after winter break. He said Friday mornings are the best day because the gym is open. We could do it once a month. It would be a good chance for the principal, parent liaison, Artworks, LPA and SRO to meet and make announcements.
 - Marisa and Michelle will spearhead it.

- Movie Night: Could be tied to logo launch. Charge small amount or have pizza and popcorn for purchase.

- 5th Grade Leadership Group: Mr. McClellan is working with 5th graders on a leadership group. They are forming their mission and talking about doing SOUP proposals. LPA would be asked to support this effort.

- Parent Survey: We'll do a question of the week that is related to our upcoming issues and address them at the upcoming parent meeting. We'll send it out in Karen's bi-monthly newsletter.

- Taxes: Marisa will ask Natalie Gilmore from The Children's Museum to help us determine what kind of taxes we file. Stephanie will forward the last 990 and budgets if she is willing to help.
- Annual Report: Stephanie will do the Annual Report with the state.

Longfellow Parent Association (LPA) Meeting

December 13, 2016 12noon – 1pm

Longfellow Library

Members Present: Michelle Risho (co-chair), Marisa Bueno (co-chair), Stephanie McDowell (secretary)

Staff Present: Principal McClellan

Speakers Present: Mary Ann Benz & Ann Malabre

Guests: Marie McSpadden, Tanya Smith, Paul Grigsby, Jenn Lammers, Alyssa Smith

- Mr. McClellan:
 - We have school until next Wednesday. Winter Break ends January 3rd.
 - Our Holiday program December 19th at 7am at the Willson School. The band will play in between groups again this year.
 - January and February have STEM and Carnival and a lot of other programs.
 - Mr. McClellan talked about the calendar. He has talked to the district about moving the dates around a bit to not impact the families so much in the fall.
- LPA Report:
 - Mascot update – the Lynx!
 - Next up will be logo development. We won't get items with logos for the holidays.
 - The kids were able to participate in the voting process and enjoyed the process.
 - The Committee will be meeting next week. LPA will send cartoonist ideas to the Committee for discussion. The Committee will decide how to put the callout to the community.
 - STEM Fair is lined out for February 20-23 with the Expo February 23. There will be a Parent Night too.
 - Carnival will happen again in February.
 - Ideas for changes: make 2 cake walks – one for different age groups or have a cookie walk and a cake walk.
 - Ask different groups from MSU to add cultural or educational opportunities to the games.
 - Have Bingo 5-6pm and Family Trivia 6-7pm in the gym.
 - We are looking at ways to engage the parents more.
 - Each month, we could have a regular Friday morning coffee in the gym each month to get different groups of people together. Tabling, updates, etc.
 - Find out what people are interested in. We have an idea to do a bi-monthly question in Karen's newsletter and ask 1 or 2 questions per newsletter. Give survey results from the previous round when we send out the next questions. Mr. McClellan said that soliciting comments can be tricky unless you respond to all of them. If you have ideas for questions, get them to Maurissa at _____ . They will start right after break.
- Artworks Update:
 - T-shirts are for sale in the office and they will meet next month.
- High School Campaign:

- Maurissa and Michelle asked Dr. Watson to talk about what the HS budget and plan looks like. We'd want to make sure that we understand what we might be endorsing. A presentation in the Longfellow gym would be better because we are in the same school and we have the same concerns.
- We will also provide the presentation dates that the school provides on the project.
- Mary Ann Benz: From school district programs Parent University and Signs of Suicide (SOS).
 - The school district shows 20 minute videos in 6th (depression) and 8th grade (suicide). Mary Ann can do a presentation for parents on SOS. We do training in the fall and then a refresher in March.
 - Parent University is on the school district website and they offer different trainings: Social media, Carl Rosten (state suicide prevention specialist), cooking for kids, sleeping, etc. You do not have to register, there is no cost, you can bring your lunch and it is at the Willson.
- Ann Malarbre: Nonviolent Communication works to differentiate between strategies and underlying needs.
 - Conflict arises from meeting the basic human need to connect or not. Conflict resolution comes about when we are able to identify that basic human need. She works to find the common ground beneath the conflict to resolve the conflict.
 - Our kids are experiencing the divide and pervasive fear in our country about the election and the unfolding divide. How do we connect to the other side so our solutions can be discovered. Ann works to bring voices that are in disagreement together and finding ground. She works to bring marginalized voices to the table to being heard. She could do a training to teach on listening – which also starts with identifying what it is that you want.
 - She helps to build skills so we can walk toward conflict.
- Jamie and Coffee Fundraising idea:
 - Her sister has a fundraising coffee program in Livingston. LPA sells the coffee for \$10 per bag and we sell them for \$15. The minimum order is 50 bags. They can put our logo on a stamp and have it put on the bag. We could make it a part of spirit week with the new logo swag. We will talk about it in January.
- December meeting isn't well attended. We may want to consider only having a coffee meeting next year.
- The next meeting is January 10th.
- Minutes by Stephanie McDowell, LPA Secretary.