

Longfellow Parent Association (LPA) Meeting

September 13, 2016 12noon – 1pm

Longfellow Library

Members Present: Michelle Risho (co-chair), Stephanie McDowell (secretary), Jenna Lenz (Volunteer Coordinator)

Staff Present: Principal McClellan

Guests: Tanya Smith, Monkia Johnson, Alyssa Smith, Amy Higman, Tanya Hauwiller. Kate Wright, Ephie Risho, Claire Eldridge, Becky Hodgson, Jen Murgatroy, Betsy Gurrigues, Sharon Glick, Amber Campbell, Christine Hodgeson, Marie McSpadden

- Michelle:
 - Updated those present that any parent or guardian of a Longfellow student is a LPA member and is welcome at the meetings and can vote on issues.
 - LPA helps coordinate:
 - Run for Longfellow
 - Winter Carnival
 - Yearbook
 - Bussing
 - Software and hardware
 - Vision, hearing and screening tests
 - Holiday event support

- Patrick McClellan:
 - Fort update – We are ordering signs since the fort is getting heavier use outside of school hours.
 - Drainage was finished this summer.
 - Budget updates will come at the next meeting for the fort cost and expenses.
 - This year we have 327 students. The school is full, but we don't have overflow.
 - 2 kindergartens, 3 first grades, 3 second grades, 2 third grades, 2 fourth grades, and 2 fifth grades.
 - Sections and combo classes are driven by numbers. We do not have a multi-grade class this year.
 - We have 2 new special ed teachers. Both have a lot of experience. That is 100% of our special ed staff and we had 100% turnover in that department.
 - Karen Hancock joined the front office.
 - We went from .4 FTE to 1.5 FTE for our school counselling staff and guidance counselling, behavior referrals, etc. The guidance counselor is in the office right at the front desk.
 - 50% of Longfellow staff are new to the school in the past 2 years.
 - Anyone can join students for lunch.

- Jen: Run for Longfellow (R4LF) – October 13
 - LPA does a fixed ask for each family. In the past it was \$75/family. The run is in Bogart Park. The teachers will let parents know what time their kids will run. R4LF covers LPA's operating budget of \$13,750. The budget info will be included on the R4LF ask letter that will go out on September 30th.
 - Jen works with gym teacher, Cory Carpenter, to coordinate the event. Reece Skyler and Naomi Moore will help. Each lap will be 1/8 of a mile. (The kids will know they ran a mile if they run 8 laps.)

- Jenna: Volunteering –
 - We are now doing a SignUpGenius site for signing up to volunteer. People can change what they signed up for and by signing up they aren't committing. They are just saying that they are interested in learning more about the volunteering opportunity.
 - Hard copies of the sign up forms will be at the front office for people who want to sign up that way.
 - Becky Hodgeson can also help families who do not have access to computers or internet. Volunteer info will go out in an email on September 14th.

- Michelle:
 - The newsletter will go our digitally this year in the schoolwide email.
 - LPA will work toward having a marquee to increase communication.
 - LPA will also work on a school logo. The logo should come from the kids' designs. We saw the kids take ownership with the fort design. We'd like to do that again. The goal would be to offer something for purchase with the logo on it around the holidays.
 - LPA will look at water fountain options.
 - Back to School Night is tonight.
 - Ideas for upcoming LPA meetings:
 - Child development milestones and how to spend time effectively with your child. Maybe a counselor.
 - Gym, music and computer teachers come and talk about their work with kids.
 - Next month the LPA meeting will have School Resource Officer, Eric Vandersloot.

- Minutes by Stephanie McDowell, LPA Secretary.