

East Lyme Middle School PTA Meeting Agenda
October 18th, 2022 - 5:00 PM in the entrance lobby area of ELMS

- ❖ Welcome & Introductions (Kate Caristo-Scalora) in Attendance - Jason Bitgood, Kate Caristo Scalora, Lily Andra, Charity Kennedy, Marjorie Vargas, Hilary Sirois, Tina Conlin, Rita Quiles-Glover, Danielle Deeble, Maia Vargas, Amy Jacobitz, Libby Domijan
- ❖ Principal's Report (Jason Bitgood) -
 - ❖ Recap of Open House - showcased the open house video
 - ❖ Taste of Arts - Reminded us about the Taste of Arts event next Thursday, October 27th which will highlight the mural that had been completed. The evening will also provide parents an opportunity to come through the building and participate in areas such as the arts, music, physical activity.
 - ❖ Outside Presenters - There will be an outside presenter coming to to the middle school on suicide prevention as there was at the high school. He spoke with counselors at the high school on having John Halligan (Ryan's story) coming December 15th to discuss this topic with middle schoolers - informative and educational and appropriate for this age group. Shared some data behind mental health support in the students and its importance. Cost is \$2000 and there was a request to see if PTA would help to sponsor the costs of this, as well as the Dagle Foundation. We will cover a 1/3 of the cost - up to \$800 (motioned and approved by members at the meeting). Discussed the possibility of an internet speaker coming in the Spring. The PTA shared they would be willing to support the funding costs of this topic in the Spring.
 - ❖ Gaga Pit - Mr.Bitgood shared that he did a walkthrough with a facilities staff member on the safety, location, and cost of the gaga pit. He asked that we connect with the person who built Lillie B Haynes gaga pit as a reference to gathering more information. Cost could be roughly \$2400-3000 for a 20ft gaga kit. Flanders Elementary School also has one. He shared the location would be by the basketball hoops. He will go back to the PE department to share the update on this and we will be looking for volunteers to help to build it. The PTA will pay up to \$3,000 dollar costs (motioned and approved by members at the meeting).
 - ❖ Cross Country Invitational on October 25th (new coach - Brad Allen) - with over 45 participants
 - ❖ All staff have their computers back; Grade 8 students will be next in the cycle for computer reimaging and then 7th, 6th, 5th - hope to be completed in the next week or two

- ❖ Budget - teachers are beginning to work on this and it's due to administration by the end of the month; December 1 Mr.Bitgood will present to Central Office. There are budget meetings with the board of education since they have to approve the final budget proposal to support the mission/vision that aligns with the Strategic plans. Encourage to vote when the time comes!
- ❖ 8th Grade End of the Year Event - possibly at McCooks with pizza truck/ice cream truck/DJ and an adventure company who will have scheduled events
- ❖ Treasurer's report (Danielle Dubman-Deeble)
 - ❖ Balance in bank statement - \$13,439 - still needing to include Lyman Orchards fundraiser collection and the costs needing to pay Smith Acres
 - ❖ Discussion of keeping track of fundraising events/details and creating a projection document
- ❖ Review of Bylaws (Kate shared)
 - ❖ All membership must vote; any purchases over \$1000 must be signed by 2 executive members; any purchases over \$250 will need board member approval; minimum number of people in attendance to run a meeting; 1 year term limits for an executive board member; discussion of another board position; bylaw draft will be shared out to parents on infinite campus for any feedback/input
- ❖ Review of Recent Events/ Fundraisers
 - ❖ Lyman Orchards Pie Sale (Maia shared) - approximately \$2300 was collected; someone new will need to take on this fundraiser next year; Butter Braids will be in the Spring
- ❖ Upcoming Events/ Fundraisers
 - ❖ Spirit Wear Sale (Rita shared) - will start October 24th will run for 2 weeks - variety of items to purchase from with varied costs - discussion of future spirit days
 - ❖ Little Caesars Fundraiser (Danielle shared) - pizza kits before Super Bowl was requested by many families to bring forward as a fundraiser
 - ❖ Book Fair (Libby shared) - scheduled for March 20-24 (week of conferences); \$55 dollars that the library can spend - discussion was to save it until there is more money raised to donate it to the school
- ❖ Proposals
 - ❖ Purchase of PTA Tablecloth (Danielle shared) - Tablecloth will be purchased with PTA logo
 - ❖ Registry for Classroom Supplies (Kate shared) - discussion was to do it by teams (departments) and they would need to agree as a team on what they would spend in

advance; due dates would be required - more discussion in November meeting; KAte will post the Amazon Smile for the PTA to families

- ❖ Spirit Days/Dances/Theme days (Kate shared) - more discussion in November meeting to confirm dates
- ❖ Adjournment at 6:31PM

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15th at 5:00PM in lobby area