

PTO Meeting 3.7.25 – Minutes

A few notes:

GALA - March 21st

- Brightside Tavern providing food
- Have our sponsors lined up
- Great auction items
- Help get the word out!

PTO

- We may do a Spring dance - check your Whatsapp for more info soon!

Ask Mr. Hogan

Q - Will there be a Prek & Kindergarten open house?

A—Orientation sessions in June. In the meantime, they can view virtual tours online on the LCCS YouTube channel.

Q - Update on Air conditioning?

A—This is a phased electrical project. The next phase will be over spring break. The final stage will be right after school ends, so we should have AC for September. Our summer program reflects having AC, so we expect this to be the case. We will also have AC at graduation. Before spring break, more communications will go out.

Q - Bc of talk of dismantling the Department of Education - how does this impact the school?

A - LCCS gets 3 major grants from the Federal Govt. If goes away, money doesn't go away, will become state grants that will go out to us. Might be slightly less money than what we would receive from Fed Govt - but this is unknown. Most of our money does NOT come from this - most of it is statewide and local. Governorship in NJ is where to keep an eye on. Don't see any challenges to academic/social-emotional, or in general how we do things.

Q - NJSLA results - Math Numbers - the percentile for median and exceeding was about 50 or so - wondering if we see a breakdown for why this is? What is reason? Specific to Grade 3 results.

A - Math for this past year - we were at the top 44th % (top 44% of kids in the state), but their first time taking the test. We see constant growth in terms of this. Increases increase each grade. The 3rd grade score and 8th grade algebra scores we are most interested in. Segment

excited about - 5th grade being at top 35%. We see steady growth, concentrating effort to provide more small group support in 3rd grade. Big push with algebra.

Q - More details re: the Reveal program for math?

A - we formed a team to adopt universal math program from grades K-8. Wanted program that provided lots of options for teachers for materials, both project based and had more traditional direct instruction models, provide enrichment opps, and additional support for students, and also provide families to understand work when it came home with re-teaching videos, something culturally responsive, and engaging. We looked at 4 programs, and that is how we set on Reveal. This is year 2 with Reveal. We are seeing high results with math.

Q - Any 3rd grade tutoring options?

A - last year we had final piece of NJ covid funding went through, we did a 4th grade tutoring program with those funds. Some additional funds for kids as they went on to 5th grade. Next year, probably redesigning our after school HW support, so we have some intensive tutoring for elementary school. Will probably be 2 days a week.

Q - What sports offered in Spring? When does enrollment start?

A - Flag football grades 3-5, volleyball and soccer for middle school students. Meetings will happen very soon, because try outs will be late this month. Info will be in Friday flyer and socials.

Q - Is there a spring theatre performance?

A - Yes and no. Now that we have a theatre program, it was brought to our attention about the idea of doing a play in the spring. Cannot make happen this year, but do want to try for this for next year. Some things we need to figure out. At middle school, kids are involved with other activities so tricky logistically. Need to allocate a budget for this, hire people to do it, but looking at idea of this for next year. There will be normal plays you see at PAW showcase, there will be an arts evening in early June, and our student rock band will be performing, and sound production students will showcase their pieces. We have a stage combat course happening right now and they might be able to show their work.

Q - Is LCCS affiliated with any boy scout troop?

A - No.

Q - Heard there is a kitchen at LCCS but fire dept wont let us use it?

A - We only have a cafeteria kitchen, and we cant use because of health codes. There is a Latin American cooking class and they work around this. Cosmetology club has 57 members!

Q - Retention rate from 5th to 6th, has this improved?

A - it varies from year to year. A few years ago a large group went to different schools. It's around 7-8 students that leave. But now, seeing students go out to these programs, like the academic magnet ones, and then return to LCCS. This year, about same number of applicants, about 14 applicants to selective enrollment middle school programs. Around 5th grade is also another moving point for families, so take this into account as well. On average about 7-8 kids move on. Academically, we are performing same as selective enrollment schools.

Q - Has LCCS ever been involved with first lego league/robotics league?

A - not yet, we need to find faculty advisors to lead it. Could also be a parent if no faculty. Perhaps put this out on the Friday Flyer for the future.

Q - Do any parents serve as advisors?

A - in the past we have done this - have to offer to faculty first

Q - Can there be more STEM classes to make more well-rounded?

A - right now moving in direction of an art focus. We do have science classes and they are very STEM-driven, and have science club after school. We feel that who we are as a school, really does align with helping students creatively express and understand ideas, so more of an arts emphasis. One of the goals of the theatre program is to increase students presentation and public speaking skills.

Q - Sub teaching: teacher has been out a lot this year (a specific class), no consistent teacher there. Lots of subs there, concern from parents on how subs are sources and consistent routines, etc.

A - For Sub teachers we do use a service. Current org we work with is much stronger than a lot of other ones. We do have long term subs (2) floating in the building, but most of the time if people are coming in for a day or two and we don't think they are a fit, we don't ask them back. In this particular situation (this specific classroom), looking at ways to support that class.

Q - Curious about 8th grade civil rights trip - is it the same every year?

A - Going back on 8th grade civil rights trip - went to visit the Ebenezer Baptist church in Atlanta, museum of civil rights, Montgomery Al, Rosa Parks Museum, Selma, AL, met people involved with March on Selma. Trip concluded in Birmingham meeting civil rights leader. Very powerful and meaningful experience. Going back again this year. This year similar itinerary. Parent meetings coming really soon. Trip April 5th-7th. Similar experience done for kids who don't go

on this trip. Around 55 kids going. Highly subsidized, support for families who face economic challenges.

Q - Social media, AI, is this being addressed with kids in general?

A - In school code of conduct, language added around manipulation of someone's image through AI. This year, crafting an AI policy and plan, and work on that almost done. It might be going up on website next week. Training with faculty needed.