

5/15/2025 PIE Meeting

LPS Attendees: Kurt, Cate, Amy D, Marianne, Vanessa

Family Attendees: Jonathan Phillips, Meredith Lopez, Melissa Isabelle, Lindsay Canty Weiner

PIE Executive Committee Members

Family Executive Committee	LPS Admin Executive Committee
Meredith Lopez Melissa Isabelle Ginger McGill Jonathan Phillips Lindsay Weiner	Kurt Moellering-Executive Director Vanessa Mendes-CFO Cate Wilson-COO Amy Davis-Principal Amy Plante-Assistant Principal

Recent Events

PIE in the Face

Family BBQ

Staff Appreciation

Upcoming Events

Middle School

- 5/16 Dinner Dance 2:45-5:30 pm
- 5/22 Field Trip to the Museum of Science
- 5/28 8th Grade Step-Up Day
- 6/6 Field Day
- 6/10 8th grade Moving Up Ceremony

High School

- 5/22 Senior Parent/Guardian Night 6-7:30 pm
- 5/23 Senior Awards & Senior Clap Out
- 5/27-5/29 Senior Week
- 5/30 Commencement 6:30-8:00pm
- 6/10 Field trip to the Museum of Natural History (9th grade)
- 6/17 Beach Day

Future Opportunities

- We have the opportunity to clarify family/school partnership opportunities.
 - Why now?
 - Feedback from families and school administrators have expressed confusion about family engagement and fundraising. PIE has not had a robust family participation.
 - With Marianne in the Development role, a new opportunity for family engagement and participation has grown organically, in a way that PIE was never able to.

○ **What opportunities?**

- **Parent Advisory Group (PAG) has a DESE regulation for existing**
 - 603 CMR 28.07(4) is not specific on the minimum number of meetings and interpretation is left up to districts but at least one annual meeting is advised according to DESE.
 - DESE: “Each school district shall create a districtwide parent advisory council offering membership to all parents of eligible students and other interested parties.”
 - LPS: “The Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meetings focus on the state of the school and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the salient and timely focus points of the school, including the health, education, and safety of our students.”
- **Partners in Education (PIE)**
 - The organization shall cultivate and nurture a strong sense of community, to advance goodwill, to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between the school and parents, to promote and enhance the character, culture, and values of the educational program, and to support LPS in its mission to foster an understanding of language-based learning disabilities.
- **Family engagement**

Our Goal: Increase family involvement by offering opportunities at a variety of commitment levels. This will allow opportunities for families to be involved in a way that works for them.

Parent Ownership: Families can take leadership roles in planning fun, community-building activities.

Flexible Opportunities:

- **Chair Positions** – Lead planning for specific events or initiatives
- **Volunteer Spots** – One-time or short-term support roles
- **Open Roles for New Families** – Easy ways to get involved and feel connected

At the beginning of the year, families would receive a list of the Parent Volunteers Opportunities and an Annual Calendar for families to see what the layout of the year looks like.

Parent-Driven Ideas: Built-in space for families to propose and run their own events each year.

Annual Calendar: A clear, year-long event calendar to guide planning and participation. This year’s calendar is being built over the summer; moving forward, roles will be filled before summer break to keep momentum going.

Clear Role Descriptions: One-sheets outlining responsibilities and expectations for each position. Families will have a clear understanding of what the role entails and the time commitment.

Bi-Monthly Planning Meetings:

- Keep energy and communication strong
- Plan upcoming events
- Assign action items to keep everything moving forward
- Will allow for families to meet and form subcommittees and meet at different times that work for them.

Family Feedback Loop: Built-in check-ins to gather feedback and make improvements each year.

Current PIE Account Balance: \$7,368.31

Vote 1

Allocate \$500 dollars for the pizza and sodas for Pizza and Pickleball event on 5/17.

Unanimous approval for Pizza and Pickleball Funding \$500

Vote 2

Transfer the remaining PIE Funds to the Learning Prep School Angel Fund. These funds will continue to enable student to participate in school related activities such as the Afterschool Program. Vote yes to approve the transfer.

Angel Fund: "this fund is intended for students in need of assistance to enable their participation in school related activities and events."

Current AF balance \$2,936.

Discussion

- Question: What is the PIE Account Balance?
 - Answer: \$7,368.31?
- Question: If we disband PIE and dissolve funds, could the funds be used to fund some of the end-of-the-year activities that would be charged to parents?
 - These events come out of the LPS annual supply \budget and some field trips have minimal costs associated.
 - Should LPS charge for field day? Other schools do not.
 - Need more discussion re: finances for next year and how PIE events would be funded.
 - Suggestion: Use some PIE funds to fund Field Day and Beach Day
- Question: Going forward all funds raised would go to the Operating Budget?
 - Answer: Fundraising would go to the Family and Friends Fund, which helps offset the operating budget.
 - Concern: If everything is in one pot, how would Angel Fundraising work for next year?
 - We cannot use LPS operating funds for AfterSchool Program Scholarships. LPS can

- fund the activities we do during the
- There would not be a separate and competing PIE and LPS fundraising
- The money will still be fundraised through the year, it just will be coming out of the annual fund
- Family events can be used as fundraising for the year
- Concern: Families do not want every event to feel like a fundraiser. With the recent fundraiser, prom, and end-of-year events, expenses add up.
 - We are not making everything about fundraising, but slowly the events can grow to incorporate elements of fundraising.
 - LPS will factor these concerns into budgeting for future years
- Families want specific things to fundraise for that benefit the broader community of the school.
- Can we expand the fundraising future for an LPS to make activities more robust and accessible and create a future where LPS has an endowment?
 - Public Schools tend to charge a flat rate Student activity
- We can reconvene to vote, discuss more at PAG or Parent Breakfast
- Suggestion: Meet again before the start of the year to come up with a plan for next year. Easy to vote on Pizza and Pickleball
- How much are the buses costing? Could PIE cover that expense?
 - Changing funding events from year to year, can be confusing
- Challenge becomes when we fund things that are included in the budget ends with us having to pay money back to the state
- Can PIE give fund to cover the parent portion of the
- Angel fund- language shows it can be used to make all events accessible to families, not just the afterschool scholarships. Could update this to include funding for field trip expense, buses etc.
- Restricted gifts donations are
- Suggestion: Are there detailed explanations/illustrations of the funding categories/buckets

We will get something on the calendar to clarify fundraising/budgets and Vote on Questions 2 and 3 from this meeting.

Vote 3

Dissolve the Partners in Education Committee.