

9/11/26 LCCS PTO Meeting Notes

Board members in attendance:

Komal Kapoor (chairperson)

Maria Bernardo (treasurer)

Melissa Diller (class parent representative)

Alisha Cipollone (secretary)

Administration in Attendance:

Dr. Hogan

Ms. Antczak

Ms. Wright

Mr. Pierce

Call to order: 8:36 am

Welcome and Introduction of PTO and all attendees

- Komal (chairperson, third and final year) opened the meeting; has two kids at LCCS (Samuel, 8th grade; Kai, 5th grade), nine years at the school
- Melissa Diller (class parent rep, ninth year) Other PTO officers introduced: Alisha Cipollone (secretary), Maria Bernardo (treasurer)
- Large group of new families in attendance, many in their first or second week

Melissa Diller, Class Parent Representative

- Melissa manages class parents and all WhatsApp groups
 - Each class has class parent representatives (the number varies) who communicate information between the classroom teacher and the other parents in the class
 - Pre-K through 3rd grade: 2 class parent reps per classroom
 - 4th grade and up: a team of 3-4 class parents per grade (departmentalized classes, all students have every teacher)
 - Still recruiting class reps across grades, please fill out the Google form if you wish to volunteer as Class Parent (found in the Friday flyer)

PTO - What we do

- Host events for students and staff
 - Holiday Shop Halloween Dance, Spring Dance, Ice Cream Social, Give-back events (in which PTO covers all costs, such as last year's Ice Skating event for the whole school)
 - Hoping to add another Give-back event for this fall, planning is underway

- Help fund items the school needs.
 - Money goes to various places for the school - aim to do fundraising throughout the year
- On the school website, there is a PTO page with all of the info about what we do and how to get more involved (<https://www.lccsnj.org/families/pto>)
- Open to suggestions and ideas for other events that the PTO can hold, contact Komal Kapoor
- Consider being a class parent!

Mr Mulholland, Director of Development and Communications

- Volunteerism and fundraising is extremely important for LCCS
- Fundraiser/volunteer opportunities to be aware of:
 - Fall-a-palooza - October 17th - games/food/raffles/music, takes place at the gazebo
 - Sending out a an email sign up form soon, please sign up for a 2 hour shift
 - Square One art sale - student art
 - Double Good popcorn sale
 - Gala (30th anniversary) - March 2027
- Reach out via email if any questions/concerns arise (mmuholland@lccsnj.org)

Dr. Hogan, School Updates and 30th Anniversary

- Dr. Hogan introduced the assistant heads of school for the 2026-2027 school year
 - Ms Antczak (PreK - 4th)
 - Ms. Wright (5th - 8th, new to the role this year, previously a counselor)
 - Mr. Pierce (Curriculum & Instruction)
- Dr. Hogan led a school wide moment of silence for September 11th (25 years)
- LCCS celebrating its 30th anniversary this year with several planned milestones:
 - Special activities will be held at school every month on the 30th of the month
 - September 30th: whole-school photo and special gift for students
 - October 30th: Grandparents and Special Friends Day (guests must be 18+)
 - Gala in March: “extra special” 30th anniversary edition
 - Students creating a history of LCCS to be unveiled at the gala and posted on the website
 - Alumni association launching this year
- “Strategic plan” launching this year, to be presented at the first board meeting (Thursday, September 17th) and at curriculum nights
 - This Strategic plan was created to fully realize our collective dreams for LCCS, creating an amazing community so that each child can find their

passion and build strong relationships, achieving academically at the highest level, getting an outstanding education, and building structures in the school so that LCCS can take on exciting new projects

- For example, a new aeroponic garden has been installed in the cafeteria: 8 trays, growing bok choy and arugula; all students will interact with it.
- “Blue Vest Crew” - a new Community Task Force at LCCS
 - There has been increased concern over high police presence in the community. In order to make sure that our students are coming to school and feeling safe doing so, the Blue Vest Crew was created.
 - The idea was born after researching other communities’ actions to address this issue.
 - Having clearly marked community members outside helps to make students feel safe, gives a sense of organization.
 - More volunteers are needed for the task force - mornings/afternoons

Upcoming Events and Calendar

- Fall-A-Palooza (October 17th): fall festival at Lincoln Park (volunteers needed; 2-hour shifts, sign-up form coming via email from Mark Mulholland)
- Halloween Dance (elementary): October 23rd, run by Tashana Bender; crafts, balloon animals, face painting, concessions (sign-up via Halloween dance WhatsApp chat)
- Middle School Dance: October 30th, student council event (not PTO-run; middle school parent volunteers welcome)
- Curriculum Nights: all in-person
 - September 22nd, 6:30-8:00 pm: middle school (5th - 8th)
 - September 24th, 6:30-8:00 pm: lower school (Kindergarten - 4th)
- September 16th: half day (professional development)
- September 25th: free flu shot clinic, open to parents too; register in advance; signups were sent in email by Nurse Juan Carillo
- Career Fair (8th grade only): first or second week of October, led by Ms. Grant; parent volunteers needed
- Club dismissal time changed from 4:15 to 4:30 across the board (athletics and the play end at 5:00)

Getting Involved

- “Blue Vest” volunteer program: parents wear designated blue vests outside school to signal safety and community organization
 - One morning or afternoon of volunteering a week makes a meaningful difference
 - Survey coming out soon; new volunteers encouraged
- PTO events rely heavily on parent volunteers: flu shot clinic, Fall-A-Palooza, Halloween Dance, Spring Dance

- Friday Flyer (weekly email) and the school website calendar are the primary info sources; check these before posting in WhatsApp chats
- QR codes for all class WhatsApp groups available at the meeting (front table)
- Suggestions for new events welcome: contact Komal Kapoor directly

Questions/Answers

- Is there a Curriculum night for Kindergarten? Yes, September 24th.
- Please mention/explain the Career Fair: Ms. Wright answered: This fair helps students to get ready for HS applications, just for 8th graders. So that the students can see diverse careers and be aware when applying to HS - first or second week of October.
- Ms. Wright mentioned that ALL clubs will be ending at 4:30, except for 5:00 for 2 different clubs
- When is the club schedule coming out? Today, September 11th, in the Friday Flyer.