

**Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Minutes
 October 20, 2015
 General PTA Business Meeting
 9:15am – 11:15am Pleasant Ridge LRC**

Attendance: Brandy Isacc, Tracy Reeder, Maggie Rogula, Laura Floyd, Lauren Bauerschmidt, Tara Call, Paris Raghian, Gillian Murphy, Shannon Marval, Bobbie Rubin, Jennifer Preston, Amy Song, Natalie Sepahdari, Liz Kimball, Kim Prado, Rebecca Souiz, Karen Hitzeman, Ann Jankey, Jackie Elvekrog, Lisa Anderson, Julia Marquardt, Marina Goodman, Vicky Todorova, Andie Harrigan, Amy Laurencelle, Maryellen Cozad, Sharon Pratt, Marianne Albovias, Sally Claffey, Dana Palmer, Jamie Stevens, Gail Weiss, Halleh Akbarnia, Alex Lipscomb, Holly Higgins, Anne Burke, Maria Stephen

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
9:15am	Call Meeting to Order/Welcome	Brandy Isaac
9:20am	Officer's Reports President Thank You	Brandy Isaac

Thank you to Dena Chamberlain and Jamye Olthoff for a fantastic International Night; to Katie Hughes for doing the Directory; to Shannon Marval and Gillian Murphy for selling Spiritwear; to Marney Schager for leading the Art Enrichment program; to Gail Weiss and Jaime Stevens for organizing Walk/Bike to School; to Liz Kimball and Amy Song for the Fall Book Fair; to Liz DeMattia and Amy Eccelston for organizing Holiday Helper; to Karen Hitzeman, Ann Jankey and Carrie Marquardt for organizing redDay; and to Anne Binney for her work on the Annual Benefit.

PTA Council Report – the PTA President and VP of each district cluster meet once a month to discuss district and community-wide issues and events. Items discussed this month were:

Chase the Bear – thank you for promoting this event in the schools. Had the best turnout for the event, yet!

GEF: Phon-A-Thon will take place 11/4. Make a donation prior to 11/3 to avoid the call.

Character Counts Food Drive for Northfield Township Food Pantry is going on district and community-wide

PTA Council is looking for a VP and Secretary. Meetings are open for anyone to attend.

1st Vice President **Maria Stephan**
Board of Education Recap – September meeting

Transportation issues - seem to be improving. Alltown bus company has 2 or 3 years left in it's contract with the district.

Kindergarten Study – study is in process to determine educational need, socio-emotional need as well as feasibility in terms of staffing, space and financial constraints. Findings on the report will be shared at the November BOE meeting on 11/16.

Math Curriculum – addressed concerns about middle school placement. Middle school parents are receiving a form to appeal math placements. Eighty percent of children are placed in Common Core math. They will complete 80-90% of the Algebra 1 curriculum. Will be placed in Algebra 1 freshman year. District 34 is working with District 225 to address these issues.

Treasurer**Sharon Pratt**

Sharon provided a snapshot of our finances to date. We are just getting off the ground in terms of our income for the year. Income will mainly come from Spiritwear, PTA Membership dues, Book Fair and Benefit. Expenses have not really started, yet. So far, they include PTA grants, subscriptions and administrative fees.

9:30am

Committee Chair Reports**Spirit Wear****Shannon Marval, Gillian Murphy**

Fall order completed. Lyon had 159 orders. \$1070 profit. Will be in by the end of the month. PR had 118 orders. \$1326 profit.

Art Enrichment**Marney Schager****International Night****Dena Chamberlain, Jamye Olthoff**

International Night is this Friday from 6-8. Still looking for 2 volunteers. Will have 18 rooms and 11 performers.

Environmental Team**Jamie Stevens, Gail Weiss**

Bike/Walk to School – ok turnout. Weather wasn't great. Will be selling reusable produce bags - \$5 for 3 bags. Save old markers – will be collecting them in the spring.

Directory**Katie Hughes**

Directory is printed. Will be sorted and distributed this week. Thank you to the sponsors.

Fall Book Fair**Liz Kimball, Kim Prado**

Hosting a Scholastic Signature Book Fair on 11/11 and 11/12. Will have 2,000 books. Many complete series will be offered. Volunteer Sign-Up Genius is out. Pizza Night Wednesday night. Storytelling by Mr. Dorken Thursday night. Food trucks will be there. Flyer was distributed Electronically. Coloring contest – schools will draw their own mascot. On 11/5 and 11/6 there will be a contest at lunch to guess how many books are in the library. Voted on supplying teachers and scholarship students with \$10 gift cards. \$2,710 total. Motion to approve – Karen Hitzeman; seconded by Lauren Baureschmidt.

Holiday Helper**Liz DeMattia, Amy Eccleston**

Handout has gone out calling for sponsors. Over 50 families were sponsored last year. Outerwear is due the first week of November. All items (books, gifts, grocery gift cards) are due the first week of December. Especially need more sponsors for large families. If can't Sponsor a family, can donate gift cards. Many different ways to help.

Parent Education**Lauren Bauerschmidt**

Parents in Partnership is Saturday, November 7, 8:30-12:30 at Attea. Parenting Workshop – key note address: Are We Heading in the Right Direction?

FAN: Bringing in awesome speakers. Last presentation ("How to Raise an Adult") was recorded. Can access video at FAN website.

Student Needs Parent Liaison**Karen Hitzeman, Ann Jankey, Carrie Marquardt**

Presentation this Thursday, 6:30-8:30 at Attea – "Who's Who and What Do We Do?". Presentation will explain all student services available in the district.

redDAY – 11/19. Kick is 11/3. Will be done at all schools. Giving incentives to get middle school kids more involved.

Parent Coffee at PR – 11/12 at 9:30

Parent Support Group Meeting at Youth Services – 11/11

Character Counts**Tara Call**

Food Drive going on district-wide for Northfield Township Food Pantry. Students are doing counting and bagging.

Cultural Enrichment**Katie Chasen, Beth Hager**

Having initial discussions on how they will be working with the Fine Arts team for the year.

Benefit**Anne Binney**

Class baskets – still need volunteers for many classes to head up class baskets.

10:10am

“Understanding our New Math Curriculum” – Jenny Bergeron, District Math Coach

10:40am**New Extracurricular Proposal**

Brandy Isaac

Proposing a new extracurricular program at Lyon and Pleasant Ridge – The Laughing Academy. Linda Sawyer will be the PTA sponsor. Alex Lipscomb shared information about the program. Voted to approve the program – received 2/3 majority vote.

10:50am**Principals’ Report**

Frank Rottman, Kevin Dorken

Both principals stressed the importance of communication between home and school. Parents, teachers and staff must be advocates for the students.

11:15am**Meeting Adjourned**

Brandy Isaac

Calendar Overview

- * Oct 19-23 Character Counts Week & Food Drive
- * Oct 22 Student Services Event, Attea
- * Oct 23 International Night, PR
- * Nov 5 PTA Council, 9:15am, Admin Bldg
- * Nov 2-4 Holiday Helper Outerwear Dropoff
- * Nov 7 Parents in Partnership, Attea
- * Nov 9-Dec 4 Holiday Helper Food Drive
- * Nov 12-13 Fall Book Fair, Lyon
- * **Nov 17 PTA Meeting, LY, 9:15**
- * Nov 19 RED Day