



MEETING MINUTES—DECEMBER 10, 2018

1.0 PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

1.1 Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approx. 6:38pm. The secretary informed everyone that the meeting would be recorded.

1.2 Welcome & Introductions: We went around the room and everyone introduced themselves.

1.3 Accept Minutes and Agenda: The minutes from the last meeting (Nov. 12th) were approved.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Principal's report (Malinda Lansfeldt) –

- We have been doing tours for new Kindergarten families a couple times a week. We are rotating through fourth and fifth grade students to share thoughts about the school with our guests.
- There has been some talk among the fourth-grade students/teachers about forming a student union.
- There was some discussion about starting a chess club. Some 4th-graders are very interested. We would need parent volunteers to help organize it. We will put a notice in the next PTA newsletter. Lily Lake has done something like this. We can reach out... Maybe add cribbage to it.
- The district is still reviewing emergency/security protocols. There has been some training.
- Some families have asked about Spanish Immersion. Lake Elmo has something, but the students would have to find their own transportation. Parents would have to complete an application by January 15th.
- Skate Night – there was some discussion about the cold weather and great turn-out last year.
- Trying to get more equipment on the playground as an alternative to snowballs.
- Lost and Found – please label your children's clothing. There are a lot of items that look alike with no name.
- There will be some music groups coming to perform...
- The fifth grade band, orchestra, and choir will be performing on Friday. The Kindergarteners will be doing gingerbread houses.
- Jill Reedy will be doing Art Adventure. Parent volunteers help out. MIA is involved.

2.2 Teacher's report (MK)

- Art to Remember has been delivered. We don't have total dollar amounts to share tonight. There was some discussion about getting the word out about how to notify the Art to Remember people when one wants to prevent items intended as gifts from coming home in clear plastic.

2.3 Guest speaker (Meara White of Dyslexia Advocates)

- Meara handed out some materials to provide get the word out on what Dyslexia Advocates does. They are a non-profit in the east metro. They recently had a non-profit launch party at Lift Bridge. The events help parents get a sense of what children go through. There are several attributes of Dyslexia. She passed out another handout with an overview of what Dyslexia is.

3.0 ITEMS/EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS

3.1 Let's Eat Out (MK) – The next eat out event will be at the Woodbury Chipotle on Monday, December 17th, from 5 to 9pm. We need to bring in at least \$300 before we get 1/3 of the proceeds.

3.2 Tree Farm (MK) – This would not be a case where a portion of the cost would go to Afton-Lakeland. Instead, it would be a case where we could buy and cut x number of trees and sell them for a profit.

3.3 Glo-Dash (MK) – Our theme this year is *Mind Spark Mystery Lab*. It will be STEM-based. The character traits will be citizenship, zest, integrity, teamwork, and growth. The character traits will be built up over a two week period. The kick-off will be January 8th. The run event will be January 18th. No sponsors have come through. Without a sponsor, we would have to come up with \$2k for T-shirts and other costs. We are running out of time to order the shirts—they need the order by January 7th. There was some discussion about the T-shirts and sponsors. There was some discussion about how much profit we get and how much profit Boosterthon gets from this event and about what all they do for the event.

3.4 Silent Auction (MK) – We haven't had anyone step up to chair this event. There was some discussion about how much revenue this event brought in last year. Melissa reported that we took in approx. \$12k. Our expenses were approx. \$2k. There was some discussion about what happens if we don't have a silent auction. There was some discussion about what tasks need to be done and when. There was some discussion about restructuring the event – more experience-based, less product-based. There was some discussion about a new event – kind of like a "gala" event—kind of like the Partnership Plan, but more casual—with the intent of driving donations for the playground project. There was some discussion about the benefits of using the Bidding for Good software. Katie offered to take on the experiences and teacher features and look up the BFG pricing. Kari offered to help out too. There was some discussion about marketing parent provided experiences—listing examples.

3.5 Carnival (MK) – Jessie offered to head up this event this year. She was unable to attend the meeting tonight, so she was unable to speak on this. It was suggested to split the tasks into small committees so every has small assignments. We will probably have a meeting on January 14th or so.

3.6 Skate Night (DS) – We will try to do another skate night on Friday. The ice doesn't look too good—hoping it will be good by Friday. Need volunteers to help hand out skates and help keep order in the warming house.

3.7 A-L Theater (MK) – There was some discussion about this event. It sounds like it is a “go” again this year—Grif Sadow will be doing it again. Melissa will confirm with KW.

3.8 Playground project - design (MK) – We have a design for the big playground upgrades. The “bones” will stay the same. Some of the steps will be replaced. The big playground cost is about \$90k. Total costs will be about \$130k or \$140k. The “fall surface” will be funded by the district. The K playground will have some sun sails. They need a 5-inch post. We currently have 4-inch posts. The sails need to be taken down in the winter. The covers we have now can be replaced. It is a big deal to replace posts—it requires footings and new connections to the existing equipment. There was some discussion about the sun-screen grant—this amounts to \$8k. There was some discussion about shading on the side by the benches. Maybe we could build something as a school parent project apart from the rec company involvement. There was some discussion about a pavilion of sorts. The project across the street may include a pavilion. Both the contractor and the facilities coordinator, Tony, understand what we are trying to do.

3.9 Playground project - fundraising (Kari Kull-Heng) – Kari proposed that we engage the St. Croix Valley Foundation as our funding manager. She passed around a flyer. She highlighted all the pros and cons of using them and all the services they provide. They charge a 7% fee for the services they provide. There was some discussion about using them vs. doing this on our own. A large part of this will be corporate donations and it will be more comfortable for the corporations to donate to a foundation compared to donating to the school. There is value for the “passive investor” to donate on-line. If we don't meet our goal, they will refund all the collected donations. A resolution was passed to use SCVF for our funding manager. Kari proposed that surplus PTA funds be earmarked for the playground project. We have allocated \$12k for the playground project in the budget. It was suggested that we market our events to say something like, “a portion of the proceeds from this event will go towards the playground project”. There was some discussion about taking cash from the book fair instead of Scholastic dollars to generate some additional dollars for the playground. A resolution was passed to allocate excess revenue from fundraising events toward the playground project and use the phrase, “a portion of the proceeds from this event will go toward the playground project” when we publicize our fundraising events.

3.10 Jeff Dayton (MK) – Jeff will be coming again this year to work with 5th-graders. We have already allocated funds in the budget.

3.11 Art Workshop (MK) – Mike Deruyck asked if we would be interested in funding an art workshop with a local artist, Dirk Hanson. Every student would come away with an original art project. We don't have a cost yet, so this needs to be added to the next meeting agenda.

3.12 Flatbed (MK) – Custodian Jerry suggested we get a second flatbed. He found one for \$250. Can the PTA split the cost with the school (Malinda's budget)? A resolution was passed to approve the split.

3.13 Teacher/staff appreciation (KB) – Katie asked if someone would be willing to help out. We have a budget of \$1500 to \$2000. We can add this to the next month meeting agenda.

4.0 FINAL ITEMS

4.1 Open positions - Co-chair and secretary slots are open for next year—looking for volunteers.

4.2 Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Attendees (11 – more or less – plus some children!): Matt Schewe, Katie Brisson, Shannon Von Wald-Ramirez, Meaghan Paczosa, Kari Kull-Heng, Mary Kristensen, Dean Stynsberg, Melissa Wilmes, Malinda Landsfeldt, Heidi Adam, Meara White

General PTA email: afton-lakeland@hotmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AftonLakeland>

Legacy Website: <http://aftonlakeland.my-pta.org>

New Website: <https://aftonlakelandpta.wordpress.com/afton-lakeland-elementary/>

Text alerts: Text “@alhawks” to 81010. You will be notified ahead of time about PTA events!

Next meeting – January 14, 2019 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Dean Stynsberg, Afton-Lakeland PTA Secretary