



MEETING MINUTES—JANUARY 14, 2019

1.0 PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

1.1 Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approx. 6:38pm. The secretary stated that the meeting is being 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 (Dec. 10th) were approved.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Guest - Bob McDowell from the District –

- Bob asked for input – good and bad.

- There was some discussion about the Green Room... There was a comment that it is looked on as a “negative” thing by the students, “so and so had to go to the Green Room”...

- There was some discussion about the Literacy Program – There was a comment that it seemed that it was going well and another comment that the parent wasn’t clear on what the parent is supposed to do to support the child.

- There was a comment about the teacher seems to be gone a lot.

- There was a comment about the communication from Middle School vs. lack of communication from A-L.

- There was some discussion about what kind of communication method works best for parents. There was some discussion about the planners.

- There was a comment about how projects are handled. Plan, outline, execution. Parents want to know what the students are supposed to be doing at home for the project.

- There was some discussion about handling students with different learning styles/methods.

- There was discussion about being kept informed about child’s progress and wanting resources if their child is not quite keeping up.

- There was discussion about hopes and dreams for your child when they walk across the stage to receive their diplomas.

- There was some discussion about certain classes: personal finances, home economics, etc.

Bob offered to have us let Malinda know if we have other concerns.

2.2 Principal’s report (Malinda Lansfeldt) –

- The Oak-Land Middle school had a concert at our school last week.

- The Skate Night was a success. Amazed at how many children know how to skate.

- Teachers have been having ½ day training on micro movement (Yoga Calm). This to give students more physical breaks.

- DaVinci Fest was held at the high school.

- Reading and math “temperature check” testing has been conducted. This winter testing is optional and scores are not necessarily automatically sent home, but results are available from teachers. You may ask your teacher to print results for conferences.

- Report cards will be sent out soon. Conferences are coming up in February – 18th and 26th.

- There will be a two days coming up Monday and Tuesday for professional development, grading, and training.

- School board meeting on Thursday. Cristy Wallace and Michael Deruyck will give presentations on their Partnership Plan grants.

- John Perry will come to our next PTA meeting (Feb. 11) to discuss technology

- The lost and found is piling up. We have been doing a lot of tours for prospective students. Preschool is being included in assemblies and other events.

2.3 Teacher’s report

- There was some discussion about the literacy program. There was some discussion about what parents are supposed to be doing at home with their children.

2.4 Art Adventure (Karrie Smith)

- There was some discussion about how the Art Adventure program works. She stressed that they need parent volunteers to help with this. The parent would take a short training session. Then you help the students by asking open questions about the art pieces. Training dates are Jan. 22nd and Jan. 24th. It is fun and rewarding. It was suggested to have the teachers send a note.

3.0 ITEMS/EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS

3.1 Let’s Eat Out (AB) – Subhouse is coming up on Wednesday. There was some discussion about the percentage payout. Noodles and Company is February 21st. March and May are left to fill. There was some discussion about the Chipotle event.

3.2 Glo-Dash (MK) – It is up and running with Earthquake Jake and Skip to my Lou. They come in the classrooms and rev up the students. Our theme this year is *Mind Spark Mystery Lab*. It is STEM-based. The character traits are citizenship, zest, integrity, teamwork, and growth. The mid-way assessment shows that we are at about \$10k. The students earn incentives. There was some discussion about what the main incentive reward would be. There were some ideas: duct-taping the principal or a teacher to the wall, kissing a goat, teacher lip-sync battle, dunk tank, hair dying, head shave, silly string, etc. There was some discussion about the

sliming last year. The students voted for duct-taping. It was decided to go with duct-taping. There will be a mini-run for the preschoolers on Thursday so they can be involved. All students got a t-shirt with class colors sponsored by Steve Smillie.

3.3 Playground project - fundraising (Kari Kull-Heng) – We approved using SCVF as our money manager. Since we are a non-profit, we only pay a 1.5% management fee as opposed to the 7% fee we thought we would have to pay. We need to raise \$135k to \$142k. Our goal is \$45k this year. We can take donations now. We have a “Donate Now” button on the web site. Donations go directly to our account. We have a four pronged approach: reach out to local communities; write grants and receive grant money; reach out to parents – plan a gala by May, incorporating a silent auction; reach out to local businesses (with Erin Smillie). There was some discussion about upgrading the Kindergarten playground before the big playground and the 5th graders use of the playground.

3.4 Silent Auction (KB) – Katie reported on a phone call with Bidding for Good. The package we had last year, which was \$295, was discontinued. The cheapest package we can get this year, Panorama Pro, is \$600 annual, 5% on all sales, and a “3.4% plus 35 cents fee” per credit card transaction. There was some discussion about using a different auction company. There was some discussion about where we are at. Are we going to do it? If we do it, do we eliminate the community certificates and focus on experiences and teacher features? There was discussion about the need to get someone to spearhead the event. There was some discussion about doing a live auction at the gala with a paddleboards and a live auctioneer. Jessie offered to send out community letters. Mary offered to do the teacher features/parent experiences for the carnival. There was some discussion about who would come to the gala compared to the carnival. We will have some breathing room to plan the gala. There was a little discussion about not calling it a *gala*, but for now, call it an *event*. There was some discussion about what it will be and when to have it. There was some discussion about putting together a flyer to solicit a chair for the silent auction.

3.5 Carnival (JJ) – Jessie will have a planning meeting next Monday at 5pm. Theme will be Renaissance theme carried over from the Family Dance. We got a call from Touch of Magic—face painting and balloon artist. She already has great ideas for raffle prizes. We also have some prizes from Scholastic. We can go over food and games at the next meeting—One food vendor. No food trucks.

3.6 Skate Night (DS) – There was some discussion about the success of the last skate night. Need another garbage can outside next time. Attendees loved the cookies, outdoor seating, outdoor skating, etc.

3.7 A-L Theater (MK) – There was some discussion and disappointment about the lack of communication about this event. It was noted that the community education theatre event is going on now—many people missed out on it and it is pricey at \$110. The event we have on our PTA calendar (Feb. 4 to 15) is not going to happen. Maybe we should get Prairie Fire back. The funds we would have spent will go back to the general funds.

3.8 Book Bash (MK) – There was some discussion about this. No plans have been made.

3.9 Chess Club (MK) – Some students have asked if we could start a chess club. Steven Reid says he might have some parents who would want to volunteer. There was also some discussion about cribbage.

3.10 Teacher appreciation (conference) dinner (KB) – February 26th – It was decided to go with Acapulco. 40 to 45 servings.

4.0 FINAL ITEMS

4.1 Open positions - Co-chair, secretary, and treasurer slots are open for next year—broken record, still looking for volunteers. Mary offered to stay on until the slot is filled. There was some discussion about changing the day and/or time of the meetings to see if other people can attend. There was some talk of sending out a survey. There was more discussion about meeting time and length of the meetings. There was discussion about the PTA community. There was discussion about getting teachers to advocate for the PTA and whether we should experiment with “virtual meetings”. There was discussion about why we don’t get many attendees. It was suggested that it is a “networking” issue.

4.2 Next meeting – It was suggested that we try an afternoon meeting next month. We decided to hold it at 4pm. “What do we have to lose?” “We might get more teachers.” It was suggested to do a survey. Matt volunteered to set up a draft.

4.3 email from concerned parent – There was discussion about some of the points in the email.

4.4 Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Attendees (14 – more or less – plus some children!): Bob McDowell, Tami Lower, Ashley Bradbury, Katie Brisson, Tim Hackbartt, Mary Kristensen, Dean Stynsberg, Jessie Johnson, Melissa Wilmes, Beth Ann Sobiech, Karrie Smith, Kari Kull-Heng, Matt Schewe, Malinda Landsfeldt

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 – February 11, 2019 at 4pm

Respectfully submitted by Dean Stynsberg, Afton-Lakeland PTA Secretary