

Laurel Ridge Elementary PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Via Google Meets due to COVID-19 pandemic, Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 6:30 pm

Corny Delasalas called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

A quorum was established.

Lauren Haws moved to approve the minutes. Whitney McGinness seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report (Katie Miller)

At the end of last year, we had \$64,708 in combined accounts.

We brought in \$37,321 last year through Boosterthon, Book Fair, other fundraisers.

We spent about \$17,000 on building and grounds, around \$4,000 on operations, and around \$6,000 on teacher grants, among other expenses. This totaled about \$46,501 in expenditures.

We will be voting on budget in the next meeting, and you will get more specific details about what the committees plan to spend money on. Katie acknowledged that because of the pandemic and virtual school, it is a strange year that might not involve as many activities or fundraisers.

Election of New Board Members

The nominating committee has come up with a slate of candidates for PTA board positions for 2020-2021 school year.

The nominations are:

Maria Davila - president

Mandy Betts- co-VP

Brooke Gifford - co-VP

Katie Miller - treasurer (continuing for 2nd year)

Laura Cline - secretary

Mara Block moved that the slate be adopted. Anna Skold seconded the motion.

Because it was an uncontested election, members voted by voice.

The slate of nominees was accepted. We congratulated the new PTA officers for 2020-21.

Principal's Report (Kari Schrock)

Ms. Schrock thanked the outgoing board for their work the past year.

Ms. Schrock said she knew everyone has been chomping at the bit to get more information about the new school year and virtual learning, but this is new for everyone, so some things are still being worked out. Ms. Schrock thanked everyone for patience as we wait for all the pieces to fall into place.

School / staff preparations:

LRES is fully staffed, which is huge. Teachers started officially yesterday, but there was a virtual professional development institute last week that helped tremendously.

Ms. Schrock thanked the PTA for the gift baskets for all staff provided during preplanning yesterday. Ms Schrock also shared that the school has spent money on equipment for teachers to make at-home classrooms -- dry erase boards, tripods, magnetic boards, etc. These are things one takes for granted in the classroom, but that one might not have access to at home.

Ms. Schrock says the school is looking for ways to connect with new students. She says staff is working towards preparing for the virtual open house. The staff knows they will be missing in-person open house, so they need to be creating what connections they can.

Devices Supplied by District for Distance Learning:

Ms. Schrock says the district has made a commitment to be 1:1 and that every child will have a device. The district has decided to distribute them to grade 3-5 first. This does mean that the first month PreK-2nd grade will not have district-provided devices; we will come up with other methods of teaching the lower grades in that time. Eventually, every DeKalb student (including Pre-K) should be able to receive a district device, hopefully by sometime in September.

Ms. Schrock apologized for not sooner sharing the distribution schedule for devices for grades 3-5, which has been complex because the logistics are complicated. A Dojo message will go out tonight with the detailed distribution schedule.

Virtual Learning Schedules:

LRES will be using the district's template for a daily/weekly schedule. M, T, Th, and F will involve synchronous and asynchronous lessons, and Wednesdays will be a work

day (including time for parent or student conferences, professional learning for staff, planning, etc.).

Questions for Ms. Schrock from the Chat:

Will K-2 be getting tablets?

No, Ms. Schrock believes we will be receiving Chromebooks for those grade levels.

Can we continue these monthly meetings this year with you via online conferences?

Yes, Ms. Schrock thinks they will be necessary, and although the format is different, she plans to continue to have them so that we can make sure information is out there.

Can you talk about demographics at school?

Ms. Schrock says that enrollment is lower this year, possibly because parents had to pursue other options in the face of virtual learning. She is hesitant to say too much more because she would need to look at the information in depth, but she is happy to update us at the next meeting.

What is the update for this year's Milestones?

Ms. Schrock says we have not been given a definitive update, and we are assuming as of now we will be testing as usual.

Will special services like 504s and IEPs will be on M, T, Th, and F as well?

Ms. Schrock says all services will continue as normal. Case managers for IEPs will be contacting families and working out nuances for how to provide services during digital learning. We will be working with parents to provide 504 services, too.

Are the class assignments on Infinite Campus accurate?

Homeroom assignments are accurate. Still working on filling in other areas.

Understanding Milestone testing is up to the federal waiver request - Have you received confirmation on MAP testing at the district? Will the kids do this from home?

There is a discussion about doing MAP at home, which is happening now. The district is exploring that, but we don't know details yet.

Will we be getting class lists? Your homeroom teachers should be reaching out to touch base and to confirm everything is accurate. We will be having a Zoom link for class meetings. Third, fourth and fifth grade will be having full grade Zooms.

Will the teachers be connecting us to Infinite Campus during open house? Not exactly, but you'll be given the tools and information to be able to be connected and know what's going on.

Ms. Schrock asked that everyone take a deep breath and stay patient. We're going to go slow at first so we can go fast later.

How do we find out information?

The school itself: Email, ClassDojo

The PTA: PTA website, PTA newsletter, PTA Facebook group

Ways to Connect with PTA:

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP:

<https://laurelridgeelementarypta.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=b94d670c85830ae4d044d0fcb&id=8732964349>

PTA Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LaurelRidgeElementaryPTA/>

MemberHub: <https://laurelridgepta.memberhub.com/join/j035fc%20>

Mara Block motioned to adjourn. Sarah Smith seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming events: (see PTA calendar: <https://www.laurelridgeelementary.com/calendar>)

Virtual Open House - August 13th, 2020, 9am-12pm

Chalk the Walks, Virtually! - August 16th, 2020, 6-9pm

First Day of School - August 17th, 2020

Next General PTA Meeting - September 22nd, 2020, 6:30pm