



GENERAL PTA MEETING 1

August 31, 2022 / 5:30 PM / In-Person

Attendees:

LHMS PTA: Jessica McInerney, Kim Hotz, Mary Ellen Spencer, Karin Vlcek, Lauren Yi, Rachel Oh, Kayla Williams, Anna Gradishar, Lily Reider, Ellen Harr, Mercedes Barton, Cathy Wilkins

Absent Board members: Maria Walkup

LHMS Staff: Aimee Monticchio, Principal; Sharon Duncan-Hudspeth, 7th grade AP; Maya Skaff, Family Liaison

Parents/Other: 66 attendees - see the document: [2022-08-31 PTA Meeting Attendees.pdf](#)

5:37 PM Meeting CALL TO ORDER by Jessica McInerney, President

- Presentation/Monthly Topic: Meet the Principal, Aimee Monticchio; Meet our School Board Representative, Melanie Meren; Meet the 2022/23 PTA Board Members
 - From Ms. Monticchio:
 - There are 985 students this year and the school is fully staffed; although, there is still a need for special education teachers. Everything has started off smoothly and there have been no complaints from parents about the new cell phone policy.
 - From [Ms. Meren](#):
 - The new “away for the day” Cell Phone Policy has been successful and this is what teachers said they need in order to educate. Feedback is welcome.
 - The addition of the 15 minute middle school recess is also off to a good start. Ms. Meren wants to explore funding to improve outdoor spaces that promote physical activity in recess. This will be explored as a part of next year’s budget.
 - There are translation services available in many languages. Please use them.
 - Dr. Reid will be at South Lakes on Sept 7th from 6:30-7:30pm. This is a good opportunity to hear her vision for Fairfax County public schools and for her to hear your thoughts and needs.
 - Other topics that are a big deal for this school year:
 - Safe transit and transportation to and from school: Two parents were hit by cars while in the crosswalks last year.
 - Exploration of Therapy Dogs in schools: could be added to make students feel more comfortable and ease the transition back to in-person school.
 - Watershed Education: outdoor education is an important way to improve students' learning and deepen understanding of concepts.
 - Workforce Alignment: to be successful must align interests with local workforce so as to not travel too far.

- o From the current PTA board:
 - Kayla: Intro to communications and plea to join new [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) groups. Reach out with any questions or suggestions.
 - Kathy: Skate Night is financially beneficial to the PTA and good community builder, Skate Nights scheduled for Dec 3 and Feb 10, will need a new volunteer for next year,
 - Rachel: Lots of volunteers needed for the 8th grade party! Come with ideas
 - Lauren/Mercedes: Hospitality Chairs will be doing something once a month- any ideas are helpful and welcome and volunteers are needed!
 - Karin/Lily: Membership/e-Commerce/Spiritwear, waiting to accumulate a bulk amount of spirit wear orders to get the bulk discount. Please be patient. There are now 127 PTA members; there were only a total of 136 members last year, so membership is quite successful so far. As of now, if you join the PTA at a \$50+ level, you receive a 10% discount on spirit wear. You also get 10% discount on the current inventory of spirit wear if you pay cash or check. This offer is good until Sept 30.
 - Ellen: There is a complete web redesign going on right now, please reach out with ideas or expertise.
 - Anna: Will need many volunteers for the basketball game fundraiser to be held in March, great community builder
 - Maria (Jessica filled in): Dining for Dollars will start strong and have several dates on the horizon. Please come out and support the first event at Chick-fil-a on Sept 7th from 4-8pm.

- President's Report – Jessica McInerney, PTA President

- o Welcome to all and thank you!
- o Support, Inclusion, Activism, and Community-Building: Theme for this year!
- o How others can help: Ideas or support for Panther Community Enrichment, Monthly Hospitality, Website Consultant, 8th Grade Party, Sort Spiritwear orders, Basketball Game, Ice Skate Nights, Collect donations from local businesses, Mail Merge expert, General Volunteer
- o Consider donating: Silverware, Cloth napkins, White table cloths, Clear storage containers, Coolers
- o All are welcome!

- Treasurer's Report – Kim Hotz, PTA Treasurer

- o Presented the proposed 2022/23 budget for approval - [see the document: FY2022-FY2023 Budget.xlsx](#)
- o This is Kim's third year as Treasurer and will be her last year. There will need to be a replacement for next year and she will happily train the next volunteer.
- o Kim reviewed some of the budget highlights before the vote:
 - the Rainy Day fund of \$7500 (money that will stay in the bank) and
 - carry over funds of \$4000 which will include \$1000 for PTA supply replacement costs (supplies that were lost during the renovation) and the new Panther Community Enrichment fund of \$3000.
- o Three questions were asked about the proposed budget (by two attendees)
 - What is Skate Night? PTA fundraiser held twice a year at SkateQuest

- Why is the 8th grade party income \$2000 but the expense is \$500? In the proposed budget the expense was adjusted to \$2500. The PTA plans to pay \$500 from its own funds to cover the cost of the party but will use all of the income generated from ticket sales to pay for the party costs. Adjusting the 8th grade party expense meant that the Net Income adjusted to \$1,185.75 from \$1,385.75. This expense and net income change created an amended budget. The vote will be for the amended budget not the originally proposed budget.
 - What is the goal of the rainy day fund? To leave money in the bank in case a future years PTA experiences a downturn in membership or donations and doesn't have funds to cover expenses for that year.
 - The amended budget was approved after Anna Gradishar made a motion to vote on the budget as amended and Mary Ellen Spencer seconded the motion. There were no votes against the budget approval.
- September 19th Meeting Preview: Guidance Counselor, Marissa Brooks, and School Psychologist, Miranda Carlson, will be presenting on the Social-Emotional Learning lessons the students receive in their 'Connections' class. They will also review the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) screener and the meaning of the screener's results. FCPS students complete the screener twice a year, answering questions about students' SEL skills, feelings, relationships, school environment, and well-being. Parents should have received their student's results from the Spring 2022 screener in the mail this past summer. If not, please contact your student's school counselor.
- Reminders:
 - Important emails to read: "News from the LHMS PTA" via *News You Choose* is emailed every Wednesday, "LHMS Weekly News and Updates" via *News You Choose* from our principal is sent every Friday. Look for these for your information and planning.
 - Thank you Kayla Williams for all you do in keeping the community informed!!
 - PTA website: www.lhmspta.com
 - Purchase spirit wear and membership (Remember, membership fees will increase January 1, 2023).

Key Dates:

Sept 2-5 - Labor Day Break

Sept 7 - Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A on Sunset Hills @ 4-8 p.m.

Sept 7 - Dr. Reid at Superintendent Community Conversations at South Lakes High School from 6:30 to 7:30pm

Sept 19 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm

Sept 26 - Student Holiday - Rosh Hashanah

Oct 5 - Holiday (Yom Kippur)

Oct 10 - Student Holiday (Indigenous Peoples' Day)

Oct 17 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm

Oct 21 - SLHS Homecoming Parade

Oct 24 - Holiday (Diwali)

Oct 28 - End of First Quarter- 2 hour early release

Oct 31 - Student Holiday

The Dining For Dollars dates are as follows:

- Chick-fil-a (near Target): Sept 7th from 4-8pm
- MOD Pizza: Sept 18th (All Day)
- Chipotle: Oct 5th from 4-8pm
- Flippin' Pizza: Oct 31st (All Day)

Thank you everyone!

Meeting ADJOURNED at 6:22 pm.