



## GENERAL PTA MEETING 2

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**September 19, 2022 / 7 PM / In-Person**

**Attendees:**

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

**Absent Board members:** Maria Walkup, Mercedes Barton

**LHMS Staff:** Aimee Monticchio, Principal; Marissa Brooks, Guidance Counselor; Miranda Carlson, School Psychologist; Ms. Beard, Guidance Counselor

**Parents/Other:** 24 attendees - see the document: [2022-09-19 PTA Meeting Attendees.pdf](#)

**7:10 PM Meeting CALL TO ORDER by Jessica McInerney, President**

- Presentation/Monthly Topic: *Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)*  
Guidance Counselor Marissa Brooks and School Psychologist Miranda Carlson reviewed lessons students receive in their 'Connections' class, as well as, the meaning of the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) screener and results. Please see the slide show for their presentation: [2022-09-19 PTA General Membership meeting slides](#), slides 2-13
- Highlights include: increased focus and awareness of Mental Health Education since pandemic
  - Students get dedicated lessons each Monday during 4th period and are taught a research-based SEL skills curriculum with a focus on 4 units: Mindset and Goals; Bullying and Harassment; Thoughts, Emotions and Decisions; Managing Relationships and Social Conflict.
  - Benefits of these lessons include: improved self esteem, better grades, decrease in stress and decreased need for discipline.
  - Also helps students get ready for the workforce by improving communication skills, problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity.
  - Middle school is a balancing act for kids and there are so many changes on all fronts, just let your kids know that you're listening

and available. Don't give up on trying to have conversations with them.

- The SEL screener is given to students twice a year (fall and spring) and should only be viewed as a snapshot in time. It is a strength-based assessment and the results report should not be viewed as a report card where low score= doing badly. In this case, higher score = more strengths but it should be viewed with a growth mindset. Ask open ended questions to your student and point out strengths you notice in daily life.
- Secretary's Report– Mary Ellen Spencer
  - [Minutes from the Aug 31, 2022 meeting](#) were reviewed and approved.
    - Anna Gradishar made the motion to approve and Cathy Wilkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.
- President's Report – Jessica McInerney, PTA President
  - The PTA has a new storage space at LHMS and needs shelves. Please donate if you have ones that you're looking to get rid of.
  - Homecoming is Oct 21st. The PTA funds the candy that is thrown in the Homecoming parade and we need a Homecoming POC to buy candy.
  - Chaperones are needed for a science field trip and Mr. Kyle is looking to hire after school program assistants.
  - Consider donating: Silverware, Cloth napkins, White table cloths, Clear storage containers, Coolers
- Treasurer's Report – Kim Hotz [July/August Report](#)
  - Income: \$5,086.70 (PTA memberships and Spirit Wear) and expenses ~\$1,000 (this included supplies, tablets and staff breakfast) which means the PTA has ~\$15,000 in the bank account.
- Principal's Report- From Ms. Monticchio:
  - LHMS can take all 7th grade science students (not just the advanced classes) on the “watershed experience” field trip and they are lucky enough to get to walk to the water source.
  - VGA (Virginia Growth Assessment) is starting soon. Encourage students to show what they know.
  - Lexia and Mathspace are computer programs used in 4th periods as a way to strengthen and enhance lessons learned in math and reading.
- Committee Reports

- Spirit Wear (Lily Rider) - there is a backorder from the supplier of pajama pants (a very popular clothing item)- she is trying to work with the vendor to minimize impact. When Spirit Wear comes in 1-2 volunteers are needed to sort and distribute orders.
- Hospitality (Jessica McInerney) Goal is to do something for staff/families once a month. Since students are here for only 2 years this is a good way to help build community.
  - Staff were emailed Thursday with a form from the PTA to find out what they would like/need this year and we're hoping the hospitality group can help them.
- Fundraising (Jessica McInerney): Dining for Dollars: we received \$152.27 from the Chick-fil-A event and \$109.92 from the Mod Pizza event. Come out on Oct. 31st for Flippin' Pizza! The Chipotle date has been canceled.
- Membership (Karin Vleck): have 175 members so far. Last year there were only 136 total, so we've had a strong start. Membership fees will increase in 2023 and the board will discuss this and have a report for the October meeting.
  - There are still discounts being offered for Spirit Wear when you join the PTA plus select Panther Pledge. And discounts are offered with certain companies through the National and VA PTA. Just ask for your membership number.
- New Business:
  - Adult Night Out! Sept 29th at Glory Days- Fox Mill. This is a new event for this year and there was discussion about the best days of the week to have the event. Will try for one in the fall, winter, and spring on varying days to see which day suits parents better.
  - Langston Hughes Fan Section at the South Lakes Homecoming game: Middle schoolers are supposed to have chaperones at football games. It is not a drop off event. PTA will coordinate a fan section where chaperones can sit together and cheer at the Homecoming game and maybe future home games.
  - Clarifications: Skate night means Ice Skating and this is a drop off event. Students do not need chaperones to remain at the ice rink.

**Meeting ADJOURNED at 8:18 pm.**

**Key Dates:**

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:

- Flippin' Pizza: Oct 31st (All Day)