

PTA General Meeting “Middle School 101”

13 Sept 2018 / 6:30 PM / LHMS Library

ATTENDEES

Katie McClain, Aimée Monticchio, Brian Plancich, Ellen Harr, Karen Hottle, Gloria Tovar, Maria Claudia Restrepo, Liz Falcone, Natasha Petinaux, Christina Blocksom, Laura Benabaye, Tina Carr, Nancy Darmory, Patricia Kovacs, Debra Penn, David Penn, Fiorella Agule, Kerstin Gordon, Madhavi Chada

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm Meeting CALLED TO ORDER by LHMS PTA President Katie McClain

I. Guest Speaker -- Brian Plancich, Assistant Principal LHMS

Topic: Middle School 101

- I. The Hughes Team
 - A. Principal & assistant principals
 - B. Security Team
 - C. Support Staff/Liaisons
 - D. Counseling Staff
 - E. Teachers
- II. Core Values
 - A. You belong here
 - B. We believe you can be successful
 - C. We are here to help you do so
- III. All students will be making adjustments/transitions during the middle school years
- IV. Attendance -- things parents should know
 - A. New front office staff this year
 - B. You need to bring ID to check out your student during the school day
 - C. LHMS maintains a tardy list and detentions take place on Thursdays

D. Call outs (for missed time at school): if you receive a call out that your child has missed a period of the school day, check with the front office to verify this information. Occasionally there is a clerical error, but we want to be sure parents are notified if their child is missing school.

V. Discipline

A. Mission -- Create a safe learning environment at LHMS

B. Goal -- To develop, improve and support our students in learning & educating

C. Our Process -- Work with students and parents

VI. Social Media

VII. Electronic Devices

A. Away for the day (after 7:30 am & during classes)

B. Kids more engaged as a result

C. New policy for LHMS (began this school year)

VIII. Community & Hallway Behaviors

IX. New Opt-in Locker Policy (began this school year)

X. Q&A Period

II. Review & Approve Minutes from previous meeting (26 July 2018)

- LHMS PTA Secretary Ellen Harr reviewed the minutes
- Katie McClain motioned for approval of the minutes
- Liz Falcone seconded the motion
- Motion approved unanimously by vote of the LHMS PTA Membership present

III. Review & Approve PTA Bylaws

- LHMS PTA President Katie McClain explained that the PTA Bylaws had been reviewed, updated, and signed by the LHMS PTA Executive Board as part of a periodic review process required by the Virginia PTA governing rules and regulations
- Christina Blocksom motioned for approval of the Bylaws
- Motion approved unanimously by vote of the LHMS PTA Membership present

IV. Review & Approve PTA 2017-2018 Audit

- LHMS PTA Treasurer Karen Hottle explained the process for conducting the annual audit of the PTA financial matters
- Tina Carr motion for approval of the 2017-2018 Audit
- Motion approved unanimously by vote of the LHMS PTA Membership present

V. Review & Approve 2018-2019 PTA Budget

- LHMS PTA Treasurer Karen Hottle presented the budget to the membership for approval
- Discussion
 - Should more funds be allocated for staff grants
 - Budget does allow for flexibility to allocate additional funds to mini-grants, if needed later in the year
 - PTA Membership Dues
 - Proceeds from membership dues are in the budget; sources of this revenue include both dues and Panther Pride donations
 - Student Directory
 - Not published in hard copy last year
 - Discussion of publishing electronically via Blackboard
- Christina Blocksom motioned for approval of the 2018-2019 Budget, sources
- Motion approved unanimously by vote of the LHMS PTA Membership present

VI. President's Report -- Katie McClain

- Always available by email: president@lhmspta.com
- Volunteers & parent involvement critical to PTA mission & success
- Must be a member to vote; can pay online or see Tina (PTA Membership chair)

VII. Treasurer's Report -- Karen Hottle

- Addressed earlier in meeting with audit/budget items

VIII. Principal's Report -- Aimée Monticchio

- A smooth opening to the new school year
- New locker opt-in program a great success
- FCPS HR gave LHMS a 3rd assistant principal; 16 new teachers; new front office staff
- The instructional staff works in coordinated teams
 - Facilitates efficient planning & uniform student experience
- Upcoming field trips
 - 8th Grade Finance Park
 - 7th Grade Watershed Experience
- Career Day -- October 29, 2018
 - Need volunteers who can talk to students about their careers

IX. Staff Mini Grants -- Aimée Monticchio (in lieu of Liz Falcone)

- Guest Speaker -- \$500
 - Information about the grant request
 - Requested by Sarah Milhoan & Lesley Boger
 - Dept: Learning Circle -- Fostering a Respectful & Peaceful Community
 - Grant will fund a professional guest speaker to provide LHMS staff with tools for incorporating mindfulness in the classroom. Supports this year's school-wide focus of student engagement and relationships.
 - Tina Carr motion for approval of the grant request
 - Motion approved unanimously by vote of the LHMS PTA Membership present
- Summer Reading Incentives -- \$75
 - Information about the grant request
 - Requested by Hannah Converse
 - Dept: English 7
 - Grant will fund incentives for students who completed the summer reading "Bingo" program.
 - Tina Carr motion for approval of the grant request
 - Motion approved unanimously by vote of the LHMS PTA Membership present

7:41 pm Meeting ADJOURNED by LHMS PTA President Katie McClain