



# GENERAL MEETING

**January 10, 2022 / 7:00 PM / Virtual**

**PTA and School Staff Attendees:**

**LHMS PTA:** Suzanne Zurn, President; Kimberly Hotz, Treasurer; Candice Benvenuti, Secretary

**LHMS Staff:** Aimee Monticchio, Principal; Ms. Liz Falcone, Staff Grants and Math Department Chair; Michele Beard, Director of Student Services; Karen Bach, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor

**Parents/ Other:** Geoffrey Precht, Farrah \_\_\_\_\_, "Guest" \_\_\_\_\_, Jenn Flora, Jessica McInerney, Zach, Kara Manton, Marisol Hernandez, Lana \_\_\_\_\_, Jennifer Glynn, Toren Sutherland-Glaab, Natasha \_\_\_\_\_

**7:00 PM Meeting CALL TO ORDER by Suzanne Zurn, President.**

President Remarks & Welcome – Suzanne Zurn President

- As a reminder, we record all of the PTA meeting. If there is a meeting or presentation you missed, you can go to Schoology and watch the previous recordings.
- Welcome and Happy New Year!
- Quick recap: Great enthusiasm at Skate Night and finishing the year well! We sold over 200 tickets for Skate Night! Dining for Dollars in December was ok, but it all adds up. We are looking forward to a strong start to this new year. We have Langston Hughes History, Dining for Dollars, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Skate Night, Basketball, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party coming up.

Presentation/Monthly Topic: Registration and Goal Setting, Michele Beard, Director of Student Services and Karen Bach, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor

- Presentation Highlights: LHMS Academic Advising and Course Selection – What You Need to Know for Your Rising 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Grader
  - Our counselors are working with our students to help them select courses of interest
  - Counselors: Marissa Brooks, Mark Blocker, Karen Bach, Phyllis Degraffenried
  - Registration site is live on January 12<sup>th</sup>. You can find videos and information on our site regarding registration.
  - Course recommendations from teachers will be provided in late January.
  - After teacher recommendations, our counselors will meet with students to advise them throughout February.
  - Course Selection forms are due March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Differences between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: SOLs – 3 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade/ 2 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade; 8<sup>th</sup> graders can take Japanese or German, as well as Spanish or French/ 7<sup>th</sup> graders can take Spanish or French; increased options for high school credit courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 8<sup>th</sup> graders have the option to take advanced art, music, and design classes; 8<sup>th</sup> graders go on a field trip to Finance Park; any student earning a GPA

of 3.75 or higher in 7<sup>th</sup> grade can become a member of National Junior Honors Society

- IB Middle Years Program – if students are considering the IB Diploma Program at SLHS, they should take Algebra and a world language in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Open access to honors classes (except Geometry), all will take honors history and civics.
- Discussed the Math course sequence and high school credit courses.
- Support classes are offered: Math, Reading, Special Education, ESOL, and Study Skills.
- Rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade dates:
  - 1/14 - Herndon High School counselors will meet with students virtually;
  - 2/1 - high school transfer applications open;
  - 2/2-7 - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will work on a 4-year plan with counselors;
  - 2/14-17 - SLHS counselors will meet with students for course selection;
  - 2/25 - high school course selections are due.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade v. 9<sup>th</sup> grade: In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, students must pass a certain number of courses and SOLs to graduate; increased world language options; increased options for clubs and after school activities; high school competitive sports; year-long elective courses; increased work expectations; honors level/advanced courses include a “grade bump” GPA; advanced course options IB at SLHS and AP are Herndon high school.
- Questions, contact:
  - Michele Beard: [mbeard@fcps.edu](mailto:mbeard@fcps.edu)
  - Marissa Brooks, 7<sup>th</sup> grade A-K: [mlbrooks@fcps.edu](mailto:mlbrooks@fcps.edu)
  - Mark Blocker, 7<sup>th</sup> grade L-Z: [mfblocker@fcps.edu](mailto:mfblocker@fcps.edu)
  - Karen Bach, 8<sup>th</sup> grade A-K: [kabach@fcps.edu](mailto:kabach@fcps.edu)
  - Phyllis Degraffenried, 8<sup>th</sup> grade L-Z: [pjdegaffenr@fcps.edu](mailto:pjdegaffenr@fcps.edu)

#### November Meeting Minutes – Candice Benvenuti, PTA Secretary

- Presented the meeting minutes for approval; meeting minutes were also shared on screen.
- There was a motion to approve; 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion.
- November meeting minutes were approved and will be posted to LHMS PTA website.

#### President’s Report – Suzanne Zurn, PTA President

- Did a mini-President’s report in the welcome.
- E-mail: [president@lhmspta.com](mailto:president@lhmspta.com)

#### Principal’s Report – Aimee Monticchio, LHMS Principal

- Happy New year!
- Our budget and predicted numbers will drive our staffing for next year. We are down about 100 students from two years ago. We are hoping to get back to post-COVID days soon.
- We are fully open! Renovations are now in the finishing touches stage. We have fully renovated spaces, and every hallway is open.

- We made a change to our Connections period, our 3<sup>rd</sup> period. It is a time that is it an advisory class. Students work on their reading and math skills through the programs Lexia and Math Space. Teachers have students every other day in 3<sup>rd</sup> period. 60 students will be recognized for advancing through that curriculum.
- Our social emotional learning is to help students reconnect and relearn social and organizational skills. It allows student and teachers to connect and students to connect with each other to improve ourselves.
- Reading and Math inventories will be taken to benchmark students to ensure students are moving along and improving and receiving interventions as needed.
- We close out the quarter next week. We have a half day next Thursday, teacher workday on Friday, and a staff development day on Monday.
- This weekend is a long weekend also with the Monday holiday.
- We will recognize students with end of quarter awards for all of their hard work.
- We are committed to remaining open. We have been fortunate as a staff. The extra week helped us. Last Monday, about 14 teachers were unavailable due to different COVID-related reasons. Today when we opened, only two staff members were unavailable to attend.

#### Treasurer's Report – Kim Hotz, PTA Treasurer

- Showed a 6-month view of the PTA's budget. Skate Night and Spirit Wear gave a nice boost to our revenue. Skate Night = \$2,109.62; Spirit Wear = \$4,165.06. We received nice donations from parents that will be applied to different programs. Dining for Dollars and Amazon money.
- Overall income = \$9,121.28
- Expenses have done a great job limiting expenses.
- Total expenses = \$6,831.06
- Net Income = \$2,290.22
- Very grateful for the community contributions and the support. We had a very conservative budget. The extra surplus will help us provide funds towards additional opportunities. Any suggestions as to where to spend the funds, please reach out to us.

#### New Items for Business

- Dining for Dollars Days: Suzanne Zurn
  - Feb 10 at Noodles & Company
  - Most Dining for Dollars have been netting us \$75-\$100 per event, but they add up and allow us to support our teachers with staff mini-grants. Please continue to support our Dining for Dollars.
- Staff Mini-Grant Applications: Liz Falcone
  - A huge thank you to the PTA for supporting us. We have been able to recognize and support more and more students and extend our programs of support.
  - Jody Lawrence, Reading Specialist – Requests \$250 to buy book-related prizes such as bookmarks, journals and vinyl stickers in addition to snacks and gift cards for students who participate in Learning Ally's Great Reading Games. Students participate in a 7-week event proven to help educators engage students and increase reading stamina by reading books of their own choice for at least 20 minutes a day, share book recommendations with their peers to earn bronze,

silver and gold medals. Last year, thanks to our PTA's support, Hughes placed #8 in the Nation in their performance in these games! We would love an opportunity to see that support again.

- Move that this application is considered and approved. There is a student recognition line item and two discretionary line items. We have \$800 in the student recognition program that we could use, not sure if the reading program is the right place for student recognition. We did approve \$300 last month for a P.O.W.E.R. Cards mini-grant for student recognition and could put that in the student recognition and put the reading program in the staff grant, for accounting purposes. We are not switching the budget, just adjusting where we are allocating funds.
- Motion on the floor to approve; 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.
- Second Skate Night Fundraising Event – 02/18/2022 – We secured a second skate night. We netted over \$900 after costs for the first Skate Night in December. The kids had a great time. We had a limited number of dates to pick from for a second Skate Night. Cost will be a flat \$10 rate, because there are some Member Hub processing fees that cut into the profits.
- Bylaws Review – We need to review our Bylaws every number of years, and this is the year that we need to review and update them. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer.

#### Other Items for Discussion

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party – Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade party chair was not on the meeting. Targeted donations can be made. We have \$1,000 set aside for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade party, but if you want to donate additional funds, please donate.
- Traditionally, the PTA has done a hospitality event for the staff in February in the staff lounge. Some years, volunteers had gotten together and put together little goodie bags for each staff member. We are open and welcome any and all ideas. Looking for volunteers to help organize the event. Suggestion to put up a writing wall for students to write thank you to teachers on it.
- Usually have our February PTA meeting during the day with the event. We are moving it to the evening on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Basketball game might be a March date. Will double check that date and let us all know.
- The link is still open to our survey to provide feedback about topics you want the PTA to focus on this year: <https://forms.gle/KLxEb7hVNqaqwMxm6>
- Key Dates:
  - January 17<sup>th</sup> – Schools and Offices Closed – MLK Holiday
  - January 18<sup>th</sup> – “Helping Your New Middle Schooler Survive & Thrive” – Educational series for parents/caregivers by 7<sup>th</sup> grade principal, Amy Smith – 6:30-7:30 pm
  - January 20<sup>th</sup> – 2-Hour Early Release – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
  - January 21<sup>st</sup> – Student Holiday – Teacher Workday
  - January 24<sup>th</sup> – Student Holiday – Professional Development Day
  - February 10<sup>th</sup> – Dining for Dollar Day at Noodles & Company
  - February 14<sup>th</sup> – PTA hospitality event for staff

- February 15<sup>th</sup> – PTA Meeting, Topic: Langston Hughes' History – 7:00 p.m.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> – Skate Night
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> – “Helping Your New Middle Schooler Survive & Thrive” – Educational series for parents/caregivers by 7<sup>th</sup> grade principal, Amy Smith – 6:30-7:30 pm (*last one*)

Thank you everyone!

**Meeting ADJOURNED at 8:16 pm.**