



GENERAL MEETING

November 15, 2021 / 7:00 PM / Hybrid In-Person & Virtual

PTA and School Staff Attendees:

LHMS PTA: Suzanne Zurn, President; Nicola Hamilton, Vice President; Kimberly Hotz, Treasurer; Candice Benvenuti, Secretary; Traci Pickering, Membership/Spirit Wear

LHMS Staff: Aimee Monticchio, Principal; Ms. Liz Falcone, Staff Grants and Math Department Chair; Marissa Brooks, Counselor;

Parents/ Other: Heather Doerr, Larry Howell, Cathy Wilkins, Debra Penn, David Penn, Jessica McInerney

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

President Remarks & Welcome – Thank you to those who joined us. We continue to provide the hybrid meeting so all can have access to join.

Presentation/Monthly Topic: Mental Health and Resiliency, Marissa Brooks, Counselor

- Presentation Highlights:
 - 7th Grade Counselor for those with last name A-K
 - Resiliency – important skill for students and adults; ability to overcome something negative in our lives
 - Requires time and intentionality
 - How to build resilience: Pro-Social Bonding, Clear/Consistent Boundaries, Life Skills Development, Caring and Support, High/Realistic Expectations, Meaningful Participation/Contribution
 - Be honest where appropriate in sharing situations as an adult where you are being resilient
 - Fairfax County youth survey is given each year showed student who had three or more protective factors are more likely to manage stress, make better choices, develop healthy habits
 - Resilience building activities: storytelling (recreate the narrative to lead to a better ending), open door/closed door (examine results of negative events), strengths and gifts (reflect on positives they have to offer)
 - Family Resources and Student Services staff contact information are in slides of the presentation as hyperlinks: [Resilience PTA Presentation](#)
 - Questions, contact Marissa Brooks: mlbrooks@fcps.edu

October Meeting Minutes – Candice Benvenuti, PTA Secretary

- Presented the meeting minutes for approval; meeting minutes were also shared onscreen.
- There was a motion to approve; 2nd to the motion.
- October meeting minutes were approved and will be posted to LHMS PTA website.

President's Report – Suzanne Zurn, PTA President

- It's great to see more people in the library for our meeting and great to have those online, as well.
- Upcoming Fundraisers:
 - Dinning for Dollars at Noodles in Co. on 11/17
 - Skate Night on 12/3 at Skate Quest
 - Glory Days multi-night on 12/6-10 – must have original receipts
 - Please support our PTA; we need the fundraisers to be successful
- We will not have a general membership meeting on December 13th. We will have an Executive meeting but not a general membership meeting.
- E-mail: president@lhmspta.com

Principal's Report – Aimee Monticchio, LHMS Principal

- This month has gone quickly.
- End of first quarter was at the end of October; then two teacher workdays to finalize grade; you can now see grades in SIS.
- Over 500 of our students had all A's or A's/B's; they received recognition for their first quarter achievement.
- We had staff members nominate students who are "On a Roll" and rewarded close to 90 students.
- Our AVID program students were recognized for varying exhibits of achievement.
- Our afterschool program is up and robust with a high participation rate.
- In-door soccer team, Futsal competed against Lake Braddock MS and defeated them 11-2.
- Diversity week is this week; we are highlighting the differences between us; 44 nations are represented by our student body; we have different countries' flag hung in the school now; on Thursday, 11/18, afterschool from 2:30-3:30 pm in the cafeteria, there will be a presentation by our AVID/ESOL students; all events this week are to promote and celebrate all of the countries we represent.

Treasurer's Report – Kim Hotz, PTA Treasurer

- Income and expenses from October 1-November 15:
 - Income \$ 815.41
 - Expenses \$1,272.06 – (This includes a spirit wear payment)
 - Net Income -\$456.65
- Our budget is getting a little tight, but hopefully after winter break, we will see funds from some of our larger fundraisers.
- With the holidays coming up, don't forget to link your Amazon Smiles account to LHMS.

Webmaster's Report – Peter Crowe

- Unable to attend, but in the process of updating/changing domain hosts to save some money.

Committee Chair Reports

- Membership/ Spirit Wear, Traci Pickering
 - Just did a big delivery of spirit wear last Wednesday!
 - We are still selling spirit wear. Spirit wear can be given as a gift. Write in "GIFT" on your order, and you will be contacted privately for special delivery rather than giving it to your student.
 - In the membership, you can add a Panther Pride donation on top of your membership.
 - You can also add your Skate Night tickets to your cart.
 - Link to PTA Store: [LHMS PTA Store](#)
- Skate Night update: Cathy Wilkins set up our Skate Night at Skate Quest Reston for December 3rd from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Advanced ticket price online \$8; door price \$10, includes skate rentals and entry; Skate Quest has COVID protocols in place, concession stand with hot chocolate, etc.
This can be a drop off event; plan a kid night out. We are doing Skate Night earlier than in past years, so we are able to host a second Skate Night.

New Items for Business

- Dining for Dollars Days: Suzanne Hotz
 - This Wednesday, Nov 17th at Noodles & Company
 - Dec 6-10 at Glory Days Grill at North Point
This is a different format than all others we've worked with. Families must submit the ORIGINAL RECEIPTS to us, and then we submit. Plan a get together, work lunch, etc. during these days.
 - Feb 10 at Noodles & Company
 - Le Madeleine in the works
 - MOD Pizza is being scheduled
 - And a few others in the works and will be announced when scheduled.
- Staff Mini-Grant Applications: Aimee Monticchio
 - Hughes POWER Committee (*Punctual Ownership Welcoming Engagement Respect*) – Jordanna Bergman, Sharon Duncan-Hudspeth – are requesting \$500 for 100 \$5 gift cards for distribution during Friday lunches to recognize students' success and growth.
 - Any gift cards \$5 donations would be appreciated.
 - We have exhausted our staff mini-grants budget, but we have a donation of \$300 towards student recognition, which we could cover some of the cost of this grant.
 - There was discussion and a suggestion to support it with the \$300 tonight and revisit for remaining \$200 based on our fundraising; we value student recognition and want to find a way to support it. The \$300 donation would get them through the first part of the year.
 - There was a motion to approve the \$300 grant and 2nd; the grant was approved at the level of \$300 with revisiting it in the spring to approve the other \$200.

Other Items for Discussion

- 8th Grade Party and targeted fundraisers – carryover from an email about a general topic about targeted fundraising to fund a specific purpose. In the past, some fundraisers were earmarked to fund the 8th grade party. This has not been the model in the past few years. There's passion around staff mini-grants and passion around doing an 8th grade party. Let's come up with a creative solution. For anything over \$300, there has to be a vote of the general membership. We want to be open to support opportunities, but we have a tight budget this year.
- There was discussion of ideas; questions about designating on the membership site to have donations be specified to go to a certain category; we have the infrastructure but need those passionate about it to step up and promote it; comments about how generous our community has been so far this year with donations for the staff and pizza parties.
- We could promote as the end-of-year charitable giving and designate categories for:
 - Staff grants
 - 8th grade party
 - Student recognition
- There was a motion to set up 3 designated fundraising categories to advance year-end giving to our community to support the following categories: staff grants, 8th grade party, and student recognition; the motion was 2nd; and approved.

- 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:
 - November 17th – Noodle & Company, 11648 Plaza America Drive, 4:00-8:00 pm – Fundraiser night; use code "Giving25" for LHMS PTA to receive credit
 - November 24th, 25th, & 26th – Schools and Office Closed for Thanksgiving
 - December 3rd – Skate Night at SkateQuest Reston, 7:30-9:30pm
 - December 13th – No PTA Meeting
 - December 1st – "Helping Your New Middle Schooler Survive & Thrive" – Educational series for parents/caregivers by 7th grade principal, Amy Smith – 6:30-7:30 pm
 - December 6th-10th – Dining for Dollar Days at Glory Days Grill at North Point; submit original receipts to LHMS PTA
 - December 17th – last day of school until January 3rd
 - January 10th – PTA Meeting, Topic: Registration and Goal Setting

- Highlights:
 - Look for the emails for upcoming winter concerts, club pictures
 - We are in the Gym!!!.

Thank you everyone!

Meeting ADJOURNED at 8:06 pm.