



GENERAL MEETING

November 16, 2020 / 7:00 PM / Virtual

PTA and School Staff Attendees:

LHMS PTA: Ana Gabriela Godoy, PTA President; Kimberly Hotz, Treasurer; Annmarie Swope, Secretary; Nicola Hamilton, Communications

LHMS Staff: Aimee Monticchio, Principal; Michele Beard, Director of Student Services; Liz Falcone, Teacher and Staff Mini Grants

7:02 PM Meeting CALL TO ORDER by Aimee Monticchio, LHMS Principal.

Principal Remarks & Welcome

Wellness Presentation

- Ms. Monticchio introduced the guest speakers – Kasey Cain, School Counselor (also District Resource Counselor and Private Therapist), and Mark Blocker, MS School Counselor (8th, L-Z)
- Presentation: (See attached)
- Ms. Cain presented Wellness Concerns and FCPS Supports. Highlights included:
 - Overview of FCPS SEL (Social Emotional Learning) and Mental Illness Resources
 - FCPS has a strong focus on SEL this year. FCPS staff has had an increase in SEL training this year
 - SEL teaches healthy life skills and coping mechanisms (i.e. self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision-making)
 - Mental illness includes a range of emotions and how one responds to events
 - Working hard to ensure there is an understanding of the difference between the two and to remove any stigmas towards mental illness
 - FCPS provides several SEL online resources as well as a Parent Resource Center (provides presentations every Friday), Student Wellness Tips from various FCPS students, and mental health emergency numbers
 - Every school has a counselor, psychologist, and social worker.
 - Calls to FCPS will be directed to local school staff to assist
- Mr. Blocker presented Ways LHMS Counselors and Staff are Supporting Wellness. Highlights included:
 - LHMS Clinical Team includes Ms. Michelle Beard, Kathryn Hidalgo Arrieta (School Psychologist), Angela Niblett (School Social Worker), Karen Bach (School Counselor, 7th grade A-K), Phyllis Degraffenried (School Counselor, 7th grade L-z), Constance Batkins (School Counselor, 8th Grade A-LA) and Mark Blocker (School Counselor, 8th Grade Le-Z)
 - The group distributed two student surveys (Sept and Oct) as well as conducted calls to households

- Wellness Services and Activities include Mindfulness After School Program, Wellness Spirit Week, SEL Lessons during the school day, check-ins on students during the school day per referrals by teachers, parents or other students, Panther Power Cards,
- Aimee will share the presentation to the LHMS community tomorrow, Nov 17th
- Open Discussion after presentation:
 - Would like to see more engagement between teachers to students and students to students during the school day
 - Concerns regarding kids not using video or mic during class and teachers not making the classes more interactive.
 - Compared increased engagement in elementary classes vs middle school classes
 - Middle school students have indicated they are not as comfortable seeing themselves on screen or hearing themselves via the mic.
 - Reports of closed chat rooms
 - Parents are concerned their kids are not socializing at all with other kids and are having difficulty meeting other students. It was recommended that parents explore after school programs and encourage participating in the small groups during class
 - Encourage teachers to use google meet rather than BBC due to better features including ability to show more videos
 - Other parents voiced how well their students are doing and how they have utilized school resources to help with engagement, time management, etc.
 - Staff will be encouraged to use google meet. Did not in the beginning of the year as the site had less engagement features than BBC
 - Staff is working to ensure teachers are trained and encouraged to enhance interaction, collaboration, and engagement
 - Recommendation to start a parent support group/activity to help show how many people are going through and feeling the same and can offer support and ideas to help during this difficult time
 - Staff will be doing more fun activities, team building events, etc. during the connection block starting in December

October Meeting Minutes

- Due to Annmarie's mic not working, Aimee Monticchio stepped in to present the meeting notes
- Meeting notes were shared onscreen
- Liz F made motion to approve
- Gabriela G 2nd the motion
- October meeting minutes were approved and will be posted to LHMS PTA website

President's Report

- No updates
- Grateful for people engaging and supporting one another
- Together we can get through this difficult time

Treasurer's Report

- Kim Hotz presented highlights of the proposed 2020-2021 budget
- Budget was provided on LHMS PTA website for review by LHMS community after October's PTA meeting
- Unfortunately, Kim was not able to share her screen with the final budget during the meeting but she did provide a detailed overview

- Highlights included
 - Revenue generators are spirit wear, dining for dollars (\$95 from October Mod Pizza event), retail programs (i.e. amazon smile), donations (i.e. membership, sponsors)
 - Programs (8th grade celebration) and large fundraisers (i.e. Skate Night, Basketball Game) are on hold
 - Expenses are insurance, VA and Fairfax PTA dues, Spirit Wear, teacher appreciation, Principal and PTA President funds
- Liz F made a motion to approve the budget
- 2nd by Gabriela G
- 2020-2021 budget was approved and will be posted to LHMS PTA website

Principal's Report

- Staff is working hard to get school ready for Group 8 in late January
- Securing additional cameras, mics, etc. to help with concurrent model
- Aimee conducted a parent meeting in October to review the Concurrent model. There were 117 participants.
- Tomorrow, Nov 17, there will be an online celebration of those students who were recognized by their teachers for their demonstration of being "On a Roll" during the 1st quarter
- There will be two catch up days for students on Dec 17 and 18 to help ensure they do not have schoolwork during the winter break. Thanksgiving Break will also not have any new assignments.

Committee Chair Reports

- There were no reports from Committee Chairs

Other Items for Discussion

- There will be no PTA meeting or Executive meeting in December
- Next PTA meeting will be Jan 11th and PTA Board will meet 30 minutes prior

Key Dates:

- PTA Fundraiser at Chick-fil-A on Sunset Hills tomorrow, Nov 17th
 - Mention LHMS and PTA will get 25% of sale
- Thanksgiving Break: November 25th – 27th
- Virtual Parent Coffee with the Assistant Principals: December 2nd at 6:30pm
- Upcoming PTA Meetings: Mondays at 7pm
 - January 11th
 - February 8th
 - March 15th
 - April 19th
 - May 17th

Meeting ADJORNED by Aimee Monticchio, LHMS Principal on 7:54pm.