

LISA North – PTA  
Officers' Meeting  
February 19, 2013

Present:

Rose Kubas

Shalonda Tillman

Christine Archer

Arlene Chan-Mouton

All of us as a group, or individually, need to decide if we will continue serving in the PTA as an officer or run again. The establishment of PTA by-laws was discussed for future reference so administration / school will know and have the correct expectations of what the PTA has the capabilities of doing. We also need to establish what we cannot do. Rose asks if we want to agree that there are certain things we won't pay for as part of our by-laws. Shalonda says that by-laws should be written. This year's PTA has paid for a lot of things that last year's (and previous year's) PTAs purchased or promised to the school.

Our terms of office for PTA are for one year.

As PTA officers, we didn't get elected at the correct time. It was September of this school year that we were elected. It should have been May of the previous school year. It takes 6 to 8 weeks to figure out what you are doing and how to run the PTA. We were also challenged at the very beginning with a lot of responsibilities without having time to form a plan. We're still learning and still have things "in the fire." As a PTA, we have accomplished a great deal but have also had a lot of clean-up to do.

We have had a recurring problem with returned checks, some as far back as last school year, up to \$150. Shalonda went to the bank the very day we needed so that we could get our funds for that \$150 check. If she hadn't, we would have lost the money. So we have started to ask for cash and money orders only.

Rose showed us a proposal for the City of Sherwood for the school's parking lot and playground. She met with an official. They like having a contact person, like having the school in Sherwood. They asked us to submit a summary of our school highlighting our accomplishments and what our school is all about. This will run in the Sherwood Chamber's magazine for all current and upcoming residents. We will also be in the City of Sherwood's calendar for next school year.

New playground area plan / proposal would keep kids on sidewalk until they get to play area. No traffic to cross. Area would be enclosed. It is outlined in pink in the picture.

PTA purchased valentines for all teachers. This was 42 orders for Mrs. Pupiales and the student council. They expressed their gratitude to Rose for this contribution.

Help is needed this coming weekend to fulfill tumbler orders. We will meet at 11:00 on Saturday to work on this so they can be sent home with students on Monday. Arlene to put together a spreadsheet

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with all pertinent information. We collected \$354 from the tumblers orders. (We are still waiting on tumbler invoice. Valerie ordered them.)

Labels / caps drive packets were handed out. Some of us received them through or kids' homeroom teachers. Some have not yet. Also sent out toothbrushes to all elementary school students along with dental health packets (with fun activity and coloring sheets). We probably need to send a reminder e-mail to homeroom teachers asking them to remember to hand all of these things out to their students.

Dr. Heard, a local dentist, will come next year to do a presentation for the elementary students. We signed thank you cards to the dentists who provided the school with toothbrushes this year.

For the labels / caps / electronic recyclables drive: Christine will get brown paper sacks from Kroger (ask for a donation of sacks) to distribute to each homeroom class with applicable sign on each. Rose has already heard from one of her children that teachers are more excited about motivating their students to participate in this event because there is a reward incentive. Needs to go in Wed. Mail. Need reminders for each Wed. Mail during drive. Have an extra gift card from Christmas because one teacher left before they were handed out. This can be the teacher prize for the class that contributes the most items. Individual prize winner – family dinner to Marco's Pizza. Class prize – cookies and ice cream party.

Christine mentioned t-shirts for the PTA that reflect our theme – Pay it Forward. Wear them to each event. Might get more people aware of what PTA does. Could maybe sell at beginning of year. Wear them at registration. PTA needs to be more of a presence at school registration. We don't need to just sit at a table hoping people will stop by. Set out a plate of cookies and/or candy.

If we as a group commit to second terms, then perhaps this next year would be better, easier, more productive.

Marco's Pizza fundraiser will start March 8 and run for two weeks. Rose is working with Brent on order form. Will be sent out soon. Money orders or cash only. We will cut Brent his portion after we receive orders. \$30 of Marco's Pizza Bucks will sell for \$20. No cash value. We're getting 15%. Need to decide prizes for overall student winner, winning classroom, and teacher. Pizza party for winning class was decided. Rose asked Shalonda if she could register us for another gift card from Sam's. This could be for winning teacher for Marco's Fundraiser.

Will take all of us to get labels drive done. Box Tops have to be in bundles of 50. Need to get together to organize and send off these labels.

April 27 – Fun Run / Walk. Will include a uniform exchange, bring your own food for picnic. Will be at Sherwood Forest from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Addie Sereal has volunteered to put this together.

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Trying to work out details. This will be a test “run.” Next year, possibly in February, we could hold a 5K for those training for the LR Marathon. We could notify running clubs of the event. This is the same night as prom for the juniors and seniors. It shouldn't interfere as we see this event appealing more to elementary and middle school-aged students. Do we want to ask people to donate uniforms and then we sell at a discount, or just host an exchange? We decided on asking for donations and then selling everything – shirts, pants, shorts, sweatshirts, at a discounted price and then keep all profits.

Teacher Appreciation Week coming up, May 6 – 10. Rose asks for commitment of our involvement. Will need to reach out to other PTA members who are always volunteering to help for this project. One day – lunch for teachers. Possibly form a committee. Green and orange LISA tumblers – a gift for another day. Shalonda suggests giving teachers a longer lunch break – a relief period – so they can better enjoy potluck lunch provided. Rose is going to send out an e-mail asking for more involvement and help for this project. From a magazine with ideas for teacher appreciation, everyone liked the S'mores in a bag idea.

Christine said that on hindsight, she would not have voted to purchase LISA Frisbees. Does not feel like they will sell. Rose plans to try to sell some at Fun Run / Walk. And they are our go-to plates for Winterfest for next year.

Long-sleeved t-shirts are still in front office. Do not want to order anything else until current stock is depleted. There is a LOT of these shirts left. Offering them for sale at registration is an idea. Ordering more shirts, specifically short-sleeved ones, is not an option due to lack of funds. Arlene suggested reducing the price. Rose said maybe at Winterfest. We will have an influx of new and returning students in the fall (100 new students with charter renewal.) We also have two whole boxes of short-sleeved red t-shirts for upcoming kindergartners. We definitely need to have these red t-shirts available to sell at school registration, and tumblers.

We need to change peoples' perception of PTA and what it is about. At very first PTA meeting that school held, its first year of operation, some people were offended by the tone and content. It was focused on individual accomplishments and number of contacts and influence of a new PTA member. This point is that it was not about the school, but more focused on the individual. Our challenge is to get rid of that negative stigma and instead make everyone feel welcome.

Sometimes, school, teachers, other parents, are not aware of everything PTA does. We don't “advertise,” so to speak.

For future t-shirt orders, Rose has a contact who can make t-shirts for \$5 each.

At an earlier meeting, we decided to sell candles for next fall. We can still do that. Rose mentioned that this may be a bit difficult because they are hard to sell, people are picky about candles, about scents,

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quality, etc. She suggested we sell coffee and / or tea instead. We decided to go with the Nectar of Life company. It is coffee only. It is online and can stay available all year long if there are four orders per year. It is kosher, fair-trade, and organic. It comes available in whole-bean or ground.

We would like for people to continue collecting Box Tops, Labels for Ed., Coke caps during the summer. Send an e-mail as reminder.

Land O Lakes and Tyson checks, if we earn enough of those items, are written directly to the school. This could present a problem and we might not see that money for the PTA's use. Land O Lakes check comes from DFAPS.

Second fundraiser next year will be through Snack Attack and will be in January. We chose the option with uniform pricing and only one order form.

The first three activities of the next school year – Muffins with Moms, Donuts with Dads, and Cookies with Grandparents – are an immediate expense of approximately \$3,000. We do not have this money.

The PTA will pay for an ad in the yearbook. Christine has composed it and will send to Shalonda for clip art.

Christine will compose e-mail for Rose to send out asking for help to put together pot luck dinner for teachers for upcoming parent / teacher conference night, February 21.

A Girls Night Out was proposed, as originally suggested by Shalonda. We have had lock-ins sponsored by the Student Council in previous years. It could be moms, daughters, friends. All girls. Movies, games, crafts, bunko, ribbons. Shalonda mentioned a way to make tie-dye t-shirts through a kit at Wal-Mart very inexpensively. If we charged \$10 per person and had 50 people sign up, it would give us \$500, minus food and drink. Decided for May. Arlene mentioned that she thought it was a better forum for middle school and high school girls rather than elementary.

We need to do Wild River Country promotion. Each student could get a card. It gets in a family of four to the park for a discounted price. When used, the school gets a percentage. We get a check from WRC in the fall for a percentage of cards used for admission.