

PTA Officers' Meeting Minutes December 20, 2012

In attendance:

Christine Archer

Arlene Chan-Mouton

Shalonda Tillman

Rose Kubas

The PTA officers spent time at this meeting addressing envelopes to LISA teachers and staff members and writing in VISA gift card amounts. We voted through earlier e-mail conversation to give each teacher and staff member at LISA a \$20 Visa gift card for Christmas. The cards will be hand-delivered on December 21, 2012. The cost was \$892.50 total. We purchased 42 gift cards.

Deposit for Winterfest was \$1,219. We made about \$300. This is a rough estimate. For the Winterfest party, we basically play a supportive role and are not trying to raise funds at this event. Winterfest participation this year may have been less due to a scheduling conflict. There was also a basketball game that night.

For our January meeting, the 2nd Thursday in January, we need fundraising ideas. We currently have no fundraisers on the books. The LISA double-wall tumblers are in. We still have some t-shirts, and also Frisbees. We need fundraising ideas for spring and for the beginning of the next school year.

We need to lock our t-shirts up. Rose has already asked administration to give us a designated area we can use to lock up our fundraising items and other supplies. Need a credit / debit type of system for the front office staff to use. Rose asked the staff to at least make tick-marks on paper for every t-shirt sold. They are not saving the order forms. If someone comes to the front office with money for a t-shirt, then he or she is handed a t-shirt at that moment. They do not necessarily even have an order form. In short, we seem to have less t-shirts than we have money deposited for these shirts. After 4:30, the office can become empty of staff. Is there an empty / unused locker? No. Do we need to invest in lockable cabinets? One idea was metal lockable cabinets from Home Depot for about \$50. There is also a large storage area at rear corner of building with space seemingly available.

Next year, for t-shirts, we will pass out order forms. Money must accompany order forms and then the orders will be filled on a specific date. For instance, Fridays could be order fulfillment days. A PTA member would have to be in charge of gathering forms / monies and then filling orders.

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The question was posed about whether or not we could put a notice in Wednesday mail asking for parents to pay for shirts that their student has if not previously paid for.

The point was also brought up that school uniforms, easily viewable and easy to access, are susceptible to being stolen.

The PTA would like to press for more parent involvement all around. It is better socially for our students. It would also help promote the idea of Paying it Forward, a theme the PTA would like to adopt. If we create a buzz about this, somehow garner some excitement over the idea, we might gain more involvement.

Some of our Pay it Forward ideas are to buy teachers lunch. We could put all names in a bucket and draw one – per week? per month? If we pull a teacher's name on a Monday, we could inquire what type of lunch he/she would like, and deliver it to him or her on Friday. We could also donate time to give that teacher 30 extra minutes of lunch time to enjoy it.

We had great feedback on the teacher Thanksgiving potluck. Appreciation was expressed from most who partook.

More Pay it Forward ideas:

- A tray of homemade cookies every now and then in teacher's lounge.
- Ask teachers to select two items from their most-wanted list for their classrooms. Put these slips in a basket at beginning of the year. Draw slips monthly to award teachers these items.

Feedback from the LISA business directory is coming in. We can use these resources for possible teacher gifts. For instance, if we need a lunch given to a teacher, we could possibly ask for donations in-house, from a LISA parent business owner.

Shalonda will sign LISA up monthly for a \$25 Sam's Club gift card. We could put LISA business owners' cards in a bucket and draw from monthly to award the GC to one of them. Want to start after Winter Break.

Labels and Kroger card sign-up. We need to communicate this better to parents and front office staff. We need baskets on the PTA designated shelves in office with labels for each item

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we collect and who is responsible for each item. Rose will set up baskets. All Coca-Cola product lids are needed (and accepted) for coke rewards.

The plasma TV in foyer is not in use. Arlene asked if we could use it for PTA use. Ask Mr. Demirci.

Security concerns:

1. Why don't we have Mag locks on inner glass doors? The doors were built to have those locks.
2. What about back doors? Are they always locked?
3. Can we afford a police officer who can come in for a little bit every day? We currently have parents who are officers / sheriffs, etc., who come to school occasionally in uniform and are a presence at the school. Let's reach out more to our parent law-enforcement officers.
4. Can we start a Watch Dog program at our school? This program uses volunteer dads, uncles, grandfathers, to show up at school at random times just to walk around the school, walk the halls, just be an authoritative presence, a new set of eyes.
5. There are new signs posted about all visitors needing to sign in at front desk. Many people ignore this rule.
6. We need to ask Mr. Fatih about all of the above at our next meeting. Or we need to ask at a LISA board meeting.

Bottom line – We do not want to be so comfortable that we are over-looking obvious safety concerns.

People are not following the school's official traffic flow plan. If we get enough solicitations / warnings or are becoming a menace in the parking lot, to businesses, or impeding traffic on Landers, we could be shut down. Rose spent a morning watching cars violating the officially posted flow pattern. We need signs. This is part of the plan. On next Wednesday mail, we will post the plan again with the words "Court Ordered Mandate" so that people will hopefully begin to realize that this is not an option for us.

PTA bulletin board. Could we use bulletin board directly inside building, to the right, after entering inner glass doors? Need to ask. Currently being used by library for accelerated reading program.

Shalonda suggested a Girls' Night Out at the school. The girls could have activities / crafts that they get to take home, for e.g., hair bows, t-shirts. The fee could be \$10. She also suggested a

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PTA Girls' Club and PTA Boys' Club. The boys could also have a night out and play games such as basketball, ping pong, whatever they like. Bring up for January meeting.

A Spring Fling was proposed. This could be like a picnic / carnival. Administration – pie-throwing contest? It could be a new spring activity.

Regarding playground, Christine will ask her friend, a grant writer at UAMS, about writing grants for playground and offer to make her a formal proposal for taking on this task.