

MINUTES

LaSalle Language Academy

Date | time 1/16/2014 6:15 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Percy Wang

Approval of Minutes

The 9/12/2013 minutes were approved.

Motions

1. Motion brought by Jon Hicks to establish an audit committee with the intent of establishing financial guidelines and processes for the handling of PTA/FOL funds. The motion was approved.
2. Motion brought by Jon Hicks to establish a FOL By Laws Committee to review and re-write, as needed our out dated By Laws. The members of this committee: Ann Manley, Pam Lannert and Jon Hicks.

Officer's Reports

PTA President Percy Wang called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

1. Principals Report, Elisabeth Heurtefeu
 - Holiday Market raised \$5,600.00. 75% was generously donated to LaSalle Language Academy.
 - Our children raised \$2,272.00 for Unicef from their collection boxes on Halloween.
 - Successful school science fair
 - Successful first ever 'Geo Bee'. Grades 4-8 participated. There were 10 finalists and the winner was Sydney Wilson (8th Grade). Our participation also resulted in a free subscription for all families to the National Geographic geography license for kids online tools and games.
 - PTA/FOL organized school events La Posada & Brinner were successful community building evenings.
 - Security camera equipment (worth \$12,000.00) was recently donated to our school to better enable us to monitor the school grounds.
 - A landscape architect for CPS assessed our playground and gave estimates on improving our outdoor play space. The results were \$950,000.00 to re-do with asphalt, and 1 million dollars to install turf fields.
 - The school received \$5,000.00 grant from the Italian ministry.
 - Steve & Kate's Camp will rent our school over the summer months and pay \$30,000.00 for the facility. The money will be put in a CPS fund that is directed by the LSC.
 - CPS has asked LaSalle's engineer to spend 25% of his time working at Lincoln school since they do not have one.
 - LaSalle needs a new water heater, but the cost to replace it would be approximately 1 Million dollars, so we are opting to fix it as needed to avoid this prohibitive replacement cost.
 - Bus service has returned to the previous contractor, United Quick, who are much better.
 - Ms Westrop is teaching technology this year. This is the first year it has been in the Kindergarten and first grade classrooms. Keyboarding is being taught to third grade and up, and Ms. Westrop is offering a computer science elective to 7th & 8th grade students.
 - The school wants to add more technology/devices and is currently researching their options.
 - A projector has been installed in every classroom, 5 of which were paid by CPS.
 - Digi Do: This is a pilot program for the school year. The program is currently in use at Lincoln High School and Lane Tech High School. The administration is currently exploring making this investment,

and the current equipment is on loan. It consists of 2 carts of 34 tablets and free software. Teachers in grades 3, 7 and 8 are using them at least once a week.

- The NWEA testing is in December and will provide a midpoint for teachers on student assessment in the school year. They will be tested again in May.
- LaSalle is still required to host ISAT testing as well. The ISAT tests may or may not be used for high school applications. At this time CPS has not made a decision on this matter. Ms. Heurtefeu gave CPS the feedback that she had several very emotional reactions in kindergarten to testing. It was disruptive.

2. President's Report, Percy Wang

- Mark your calendars for the auction on March 15 and the Sock Hop on February 11.
- WE now have inclement weather flags to help notify parents.
- There has been discussion about hosting a PTA sponsored event to discuss transitions in years where there may be more significant change; like 3rd to 4th, 4th to 5th, 6th to 7th, and 8th to 9th.

3. Vice President's Report, Karla Standish

- Awesome Holiday market hosted by LLA family who generously donated 75% of raised money.
- Giving Tree has a goal of \$50,000.00 this year. We are currently at \$38,000.00. To date 107 LLA families have donated.
- Benefit is on March 15 and we really need items donated. Please solicit for our school!
- Restaurant.com gift cards were successful venture. We sold 50 cards at \$10 each. LaSalle gets \$6.00 of that \$10.00!
- There has been discussion of a Spring jog-a-thon and car wash.
- Auction invitations and parking was discussed.
- Auction chairs would like to organize 15 parent parties for this years event as they are very profitable for the school.

4. Vice President's Report, Jon Hicks

- We have established a permanent audit committee to support the PTA& FOL Treasurer. They will be reviewing transactions, statements and tax returns and putting processes into place. The committee consists of 3 members with accounting experience. They have a 1-year term.
- Mr. Hicks brought forth the aforementioned motions.

Committee Reports

Committee reports

- Academic Team: Our first school academic tem, The Robotics team, lead by President Wang and David Soderna, participated in a competition on December 14 and won a research award. They will move to state competition on February 8.
- Fine Arts: They received some new members this year and are happy to announce this year's school wide residency: Improv! It will take place over 2 weeks with a March 3 kick off.
- World Language: January 30 is Chinese New Year. They need volunteers for Jan 21 to decorate the school.
- Student Exchange: Spanish & French exchange groups have been and it was great!
- Directory will be ready very soon!
- Sports: Ski trip is planned for January 24. Glen Kahn is working with Christian Manrique to coordinate the details.

Announcements

1. CPR training sponsored by your FOL/PTA will be offered on March 10. It will be first come, first serve and is being organized by parent Ben Hosek.
2. Mini grant applications are available.
3. LLA is working on contacting LLA alums for an 8th grade project. They are paring 8th grade students with alumni to profile them and learn about their journey. Please reach out if you know anyone.

Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn was proposed at 7:50 pm and passed unanimously.

Next meeting is March 13, 2014