
Lottie PTO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Call to order

A meeting of Lottie PTO was held via Zoom on March 2, 2022 from 7:04- 8:10 p.m.

Agenda.

A copy of the agenda was shared by Brad Utrup in the chat before the meeting was started.

- Call to order
 - Zoom walk-through, voting in reactions for thumb up/thumb down, raise hand function to make comments at any time in the meeting
- Introduction of participants:
 - Mrs. White- Principal and is very excited to be at Lottie! It's been a challenging year again, but we are getting through.
 - Mandy Estes- Vice President of PTO. Three kids: Brielle (5th grade), Will (3rd grade) and Ally (Kindergarten)
 - Lisa Macomber- Secretary of PTO. Emerson (4th grade) and Lucas (2nd grade).
 - Krystalynn Campbell: Treasurer of PTO. Three kids: Emmy (5th grade), Owen (2nd grade) and Reese (Kindergarten).
 - Chris Lowe: has a first grader who always says great things about the school. Is excited to join and contribute whenever he can.
 - Laura Thomas: retired from Anchor Bay. Taught at Lottie Schmidt. Belongs to the Church next door to Lottie Schmidt and they are looking for ways to support the school. She's anxious to hear what we are planning.
 - Carlie Critchett: has two kids: Brielle (Kindergarten) and a two-year old who she is trying to get into the Early Childhood Center. Looking forward to many wonderful things in the year ahead.
 - Jaclyn Prevost-Bethel: two children: Kindergarten and 3rd grader.
 - Beverly Stankiewicz: two children: Natalia (2nd grade) and 3-year-old who at the ECC. Excited to be a part of the PTO and looking forward to a lot of fun events, particularly the roller skating event.
 - Audrey Utrup: Brad's wife. Has a son, Austin, who is in 4th grade and a 6th grader who is at Middle School South. She's very excited to see what new thing we have coming and is very excited to have Mrs. White at Lottie.
 - Patty McWain: son, Liam, is in kindergarten and a 4-year-old at ECC. She is a High School teacher at Anchor Bay High (runs the Teacher Cadet program)
 - Holly Gruzowski: has a 2nd grader, Carson, and a two-year-old who is potty training and trying to eliminate the pacifier. Excited to be here. It's important to her that she is involved in her children's lives.

- Matthew Macomber: has two children: Emerson (4th grade) and Lucas (2nd grade). Lisa is his wife. Excited to be a part of this group.
- Stevie Napper: has a kindergartner and a three-year-old. Just moved here in November and said Lottie staff has made her family feel welcome.
- Kristi Webber: son in 3rd grade. First year in district and they are loving it so far! They are excited to be a part of the group.
- Mrs. Coleman: Office Manager, 5th year there. Excited to see and hear what parents want them to do and is excited to see parents back in the building and to work to create good memories for the kids at Lottie.
- Matt McEveney: two sons, a kindergartner and 2nd grader. He and his wife Jen are here to help out in any way they can.
- Approval of previous month's meeting minutes (Lisa)
 - Thumbs-up vote. Meeting minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's Report (Krystalynn). Previous balance was \$6,816.35 from prior years.
 - Incoming funds: Donation of gift cards from Home Depot of \$3,000 reserved for landscaping project. This year, we have collected the following money from fundraisers: Little Caesar's \$1,896. \$110 from Recess Donation Drive. \$450 from Trini's Carryout Fundraiser.
 - Outgoing funds: spent \$178.82 on STEM Night for food, drinks, and paper supplies. \$325 spent for the 5th grade Celebration (\$75 deposit for the photo booth, \$150 to Brandenburg Park to reserve a pavilion, and a \$100 security deposit which we anticipate getting back). \$46.40 spent for bins so far to organize the items on the recess carts.
 - Current balance is \$11,774.13 (\$3,000 in Home Depot gift cards earmarked for landscaping project)
- Committee Reports
 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: Brad shared that they met a week ago and it is going well. Audrey and Brad Utrup, Emily, Jen McEveney, and Matt Macomber. Some items are planned but are pending some follow-up. Multiple things going on that week and they have already received pretty big donations. Multiple meals planned, goodie bags for the staff, etc. No money has been spent from PTO funds. Jaclyn mentioned that the group decided to cut out stars and they will ask the students to write a staff member's name or something about a staff member. She asked about the logistics of hanging these on a bulletin board.
 - Mrs. White suggested the bulletin boards located in the cafeteria, the back hallway along the cafeteria near the bathrooms, or between door #9 and the main office. Mrs. Coleman agreed that the bulletin board near the teacher's lounge would be a great spot as well.
 - New Rink Event: Mandy shared that they will meet on April 13th at 7 p.m. at Tim Horton's. The event is booked for Friday, May 13th from 5-7 p.m. The group will finalize pricing and ideas to make it special. It will not be a money maker for the PTO. Anyone who wants to join the committee can let Mandy know and is welcome to join!
 - Landscape: We originally thought we had \$6,000 from Home Depot but we ended up getting \$3,000. There was a bit of miscommunication between Mandy and Mrs. Berglund during the pandemic when we received the gift cards. This money will not be used during the district-wide Beautification project. Brad shared the landscaping plans he devised. This will become part of the Green School initiative, so native Michigan plants will be a primary focus. The front of the building will be the focus (between the main

- office entrance and the flag pole). Anyone who has landscaping expertise or a willingness to help is welcome to help out- reach out to Mandy Estes. The plan is to do this in early May, once Home Depot receives the plant and after the ground freeze has passed. Holly Gruzowski's dad owns a landscaping company. She said she is willing to ask him for donations. The \$3,000 grant from Home Depot must be used towards landscaping first.
- 5th Grade Celebration: Krystalynn mentioned that she has been working with Mandy Estes, Anita Mills, Stephanie Halicki, and Dawn Mabray. It will be held at Brandenburg right after school on the last day of school. They have received many donations from local businesses. The 5th graders will be raising funds for their own celebration. They will be getting sponsored and based on the amount of money they raise, they will receive tier-leveled prizes. These include opportunities to pie a teacher in the face. Teachers who have volunteered to participate so far include: Mr. Mittlestadt, Ms. Hurley, Ms. Sacker, Mr. Latosz, and others. Gift cards will be placed in the favor bags. Middle School South has donated sunglasses that say "South Strong." A company has donated time and supplies for slushies offered at the celebration. A photobooth company has given a deal on the package. Krystalynn believes that the group will be really close to breaking even without having to ask the PTO for funds. Mrs. Coleman was recognized for helping recruit teachers to get pied in the face. The goal is to have an extra \$150 after everything has been paid so it can start the tradition of being passed down to the next grade.
 - Principal's Report (Mrs. White). Mrs. White reminded us that this is March is Reading Month and said she hoped that we enjoyed receiving the chapter readings every night. Having community members get involved was nice, too. There are two more books in the series if you enjoyed reading this book. Quite a few students earned prizes for answering questions correctly based on the reading. The calendar mentioned a reading celebration. Mrs. Sacker has been doing a movie with each group of students as an extra reward since whole-school activities are still not happening.
 - The staff is looking forward to Spring Break.
 - When we return, they will be starting M-Step testing, NWEA MAP Testing (K-5 as part of the state requirements), and Mi-Access testing. There will be a lot of testing, especially for 5th graders, who test in all four subjects: reading, math, science and social studies. 4th graders only test in math and reading for the state assessments. A letter was sent out to parents recently regarding the M-Step.
 - The other big thing going on in the school is the PBIS initiative. The new mascot is the Lottie Labs (Labrador retriever). Mrs. White is using a company to develop a consistent logo and branding throughout the school so it looks unified. They will be creating large posters to hang in the school and will provide clip art that can be used on flyers. The acronym for behavior expectations will be PAWS. She pointed out that March is a difficult month for any school since there are no breaks and behavior issues seem to start off. This is why it is important to stress and teach the expectations through the PBIS system.
 - May 4th: a school-wide walk-a-thon to raise funds to purchase the posters and branding and help pay for school assemblies and things for next year like the prize cart to reinforce good behavior. The goal is to raise \$3,000. This walk-a-thon coincides with ACES day (All Children Exercise Simultaneously). More information will be coming out soon.

- Mrs. White said she knows people are wondering when they can come back into the building and whether they can help out for field day; the principals are having a meeting after Spring Break and she will report back out to us.
- Mandy asked if there was anything the PTO could do during the M-Step for students. Mrs. White said water and snacks for students would be a great idea. She also said that creating cute posters like “Lottie kids are smarties” with smarties attached is good for morale. Peppermint-scented Smencils to “wake up” the brain and mints for anxiety-induced stomach aches help. Ice cream sandwiches as a reward for finishing the test helps as well.
- Teacher’s Report (Mrs. Hurley). Mrs. Hurley was absent.
- Unfinished Old Business
 - Trini’s fundraiser for March 21st (Krystalynn). Trini’s called Krystalynn during the event to let her know that they had a huge turnout from our school and they had to call in additional staff!
 - Recess item drive (Lisa). Lisa shared a PowerPoint showing the results of the recess drive.
 - Rock Your Socks (Mandy). Mandy thanked Jamie Freeman for bringing up Rock Your Socks to honor World Down Syndrome Day. Mrs. White shared that many kids participated, and Mrs. Coleman shared that Mrs. Chaney wore socks with her own dog on them! Mandy said that if any parents have days like that they would like us to promote, to let us know.
- New Business
 - Grace United Methodist Church - Laura Thomas. Mrs. Thomas shared that she has connections to Lottie and has the need to give back. The church has reached out to Mrs. White to see how they can support the PTO and school. They have discussed ways to support staff to create a positive atmosphere for students. The pastor came in to do some reading for the school. She said we are doing a marvelous job of helping students and the events we have planned sound fun and exciting. If we have ideas for how the community can help out, to let them know. The church is primarily grandparent-aged parishioners. The church has set aside funds to support the community.
 - Mrs. White said she welcomes the idea of mentoring opportunities with members of the church.
 - Mrs. Prevost-Bethel shared that she remembers dissecting fish in Mrs. Thomas’ class when she was in 4th grade and that it was a memorable experience.
- Open Forum.
 - Brad offered to bring in live fish for the students to examine. Mrs. White said this would work well with the Green School initiative.
 - Brad talked with Shawn Elliott (Mrs. Elliott’s husband) who is involved in AYSO. The AYSO would like to donate small soccer goals and they are interested in using Lottie’s soccer field for practices. They are looking at the AYSO board to fund the cleanup and once that is done, he will reach out to Mrs. White to work out logistics.
 - Krystalynn said that Emmy had a suggestion for class pets. Mrs. White said allergies are a concern here and that classroom pets do not count towards the Green School initiative. Mrs. Allen has a grant for pets.
 - Krystalynn asked the PTO was willing to approve the purchase of cinch bags to start getting the tiered prizes ready for students when they hit the threshold. She asked for \$100.

- Brad suggested that we could vote now for \$300 to cover the purchase of supplies. The funds raised through the fundraiser would come back to the PTO once the students raise it. The vote passed.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, April 21st at 7 p.m.
- Vote to adjourn
 - Thumbs-up vote.

Adjournment

8:10 p.m.

Notes taken by Lisa Macomber

Date of approval