

Lincoln PTO Meeting  
January 17, 2017

**Attendees**

Dr. Laurie Heinz  
Michael Malatesta  
Stuart Eng  
Irene Kappos  
Mrs. Manzi  
Sue Biagi  
Pam Olafsson  
Dr. Murray  
Mr. Gleason  
Jennifer Rabito  
Jean Costigan  
Anne Dempsey  
Melanie Lee  
Rita Knapp  
Denise Reeder  
Bridget Basquin

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

**Welcome and Board Introductions**

The following were introduced:

Dr. Heinz – Superintendent

Michael Malatesta – parent. Recently ran for Judge. Wants to discuss upcoming event for St. Baldrick's.

**Principal/Vice Principal Report**

Dr. Murray welcomed everyone back after the break. He asked how everyone liked having the full two weeks after the holiday.

Dr. Heinz mentioned that we are aligning the calendar with the high school and the plan is to return January 8, 2018. We will be similar to D207 but not exact, in particular we will not get out in May.

Dr. Murray discussed the Open House on Thursday. There will be a session with the current 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The course selection process will be discussed for current 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

New learning spaces was discussed. The Tribune had a nice article on the learning spaces. A presentation was given by Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Dabe in December at Association of Illinois Middle Schools' state conference on learning spaces that was very well received.

Dr. Heinz brought up the master facility survey that was done about three years ago. A plan was put together that was 2-pronged – health life safety and modernization. This was discussed at length with the Board. Projects were prioritized. Certain things had to be done first for safety. Lincoln was moved to the top of the list as Lincoln is very old (90 years).

They have been working with architects and designers to make the space more 21<sup>st</sup> century at Lincoln. It is very exciting.

Please come to the Board meeting on Monday, January 23 at 7pm to support the work being proposed at Lincoln. The meeting is at Jefferson.

Board asked for security analysis. They have gathered information, suggestions, etc. Secured vestibule was a primary recommendation. They are hoping the Board will approve more than one next year. The past year Washington was the only one approved.

They are proposing doing Lincoln next year as the first priority. Tie in to the work already proposed to the library at Lincoln.

Before winter break, had people try to get into all schools in the district as a trial. They were buzzed in and then had full access to building. Only at one school was someone stopped because didn't have a lanyard.

They want day to day visitor management. They want to know who is in the building in addition to the big safety concerns (shootings).

On Monday, they are hoping the Board will approve the Lincoln library work as well as the Lincoln secured vestibule work.

Talked to the PTO presidents to fund some of the more interesting, fun stuff. What they are asking the Board for is the safety, more critical projects.

Secured vestibules will be very costly but Dr. Heinz believes it is well worth it to protect the building from not only the shootings but also the day to day management of visitors.

Dr. Murray brought the discussion back to the Open House. Open House kicks off the planning for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade/next year's 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Any communication or information that parents would like to submit to Dr. Murray on what works best for their child in terms of learning style etc. to influence core placement should be submitted by the end of February.

## Vice President Report

Mr. Gleason mentioned cell phones, chrome books, etc. and their role in students' lives. Next week, there will be a speaker that will talk to each grade level about internet safety. Mr. Gleason asked for parent support to reinforce the messages outside of school/at home.

Second step curriculum is being implemented. Teach students social emotional curriculum. Once a month, homerooms take an hour to go over the lesson.

8<sup>th</sup> graders are doing the career unit. He asked to have parental support to make sure the 8<sup>th</sup> graders finish strong. Mr. Messmer helps in sending a letter to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders that third trimester matters and to finish strong.

ROARs behaviors continue to be emphasized.

## Dr. Heinz report

Dr. Heinz talked earlier about the proposed work at Lincoln.

Dr. Heinz mentioned the window project. They were able to save money by doing some of this on the off season. The windows have been delayed in getting the materials on premises. We are now looking at the end of January. They want to minimize disruptions to learning. Nice natural light in learning spaces.

We are in Year 2 of strategic plan that will take us to 2020.

We have a new 4 year agreement with teachers. On Monday hope to approve 4 year agreement with teacher assistants. After that they will look to get an agreement with custodial, secretary staff.

A lot of committee work is being done at the district level. Math, English Language Arts. Study being done on student assessment/report cards.

A lot of work being done to standardized entrance and exit criteria.

If you haven't come to a Board meeting, Dr. Heinz encouraged parents to attend. They take place every other Monday. If you can't make the meeting, you can access the Board minutes through e-News. Please sign up for E-News if you haven't already.

She mentioned the discussion on hot lunches. The Board said no to hot lunches initially. Parents spoke up. So they brought back to the Board. The Board agreed to revisit. They will be putting the entire District out to bid to get information. Once the bids come back, a package will be put together with the most responsible bidder. And then that will be brought to the Board. At that point, the Board will approve or disapprove.

If anyone has follow up questions, please email Dr. Heinz.

### **St. Baldrick's Fundraiser**

Michael Malatesta has been involved with St. Baldrick's for a number of year. He is a Lincoln parent.

Head shaving event for St. Baldrick's is planned at Harp and Fiddle on April 1 from 11-5 pm. This is the same day as the Labor of Love event.

Because Lincoln does it every three years, they would love to have a head shaving fundraising event on the off years.

He is asking for help in getting the word out. Any help in getting volunteers to shave their heads and fundraise would be appreciated.

90 cents of every dollar goes to pediatric cancer research of the money raised.

### **Teacher Liaison Report**

Ms. Kappos had a few teachers ask how they could support book club.

### **Treasurer's Report/Budget**

Bank balance is \$18,109. We paid out teacher grant to PE department for the TVs totally \$1700. At our last meeting we approved two other grants. We have yet to pay these out. We are waiting for the invoices.

Other small expenses were paid – PE dancers \$425, ELF donation \$250.

Income – Moretti's was \$132. Star Wars \$1450. Chipotle \$341. Yankee candle \$442.

### **Communication Committee Report**

Send Pam Olafsson any information that needs to be included in Monday mailers.

Add information on the book to encourage people to read the book for the book club.

We used Wild Apricot for the Star Wars tickets. It worked relatively well. We already had Pay Pal set up so we decided to use it.

### **PTO Event Update**

Dining Fundraisers – see above

Teacher Grants – QIT \$1000, PE \$1700, and Library \$1000

Star Wars – we didn't sell as many tickets as we thought. We charged more \$20 vs. \$13 last year. We plan to do it again next year. Stuart thought possibly the increased price had something to do with a lower turnout.

Teacher Appreciation Week - Committee from last year volunteered again to do this year. It is the first week in May. They do something for the teachers every day of the week. Pam Olafsson confirmed the budget is \$1200 this year.

Dr. Murray encouraged parents to have students or parents write personal notes. Dr. Murray can be copied and it will be put in the teacher's file.

Book Club update – we are still trying to plan an event. We will need the teachers' help. We want parents to read the book before the event. Dr. Murray thought he might be able to get copies of the book. March might be a more realistic date. Teacher statements about their excitement about the book would be good to promote the book club. Mrs. Reeder and Mrs. Dempsey will work together on this event.

Mid of the Mid -

This is planned for January 27. Same theme as last year. Carnivals. We have enough volunteers. Park District does not want us to have any food. Students may get snack on the way out. Last year they spent a lot of money on giveaways that were just thrown away. Labor of Love is doing St. Baldrick's on behalf of Benicio and his family. We are buying the back page of the Labor of Love program from his classmates to him in lieu of the giveaways from last year. There is a DJ. Games. Posters are being made.

Power – it is being planned for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Volunteers will be needed. Anne Dempsey is the PTO liaison. Information was included in the Monday mailer.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Murray moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Rita Knapp seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### **New Business**

Jean Costigan has an idea for Lincoln school to do a trip to the Lincoln museum. This would be a one day field trip. The field trip is expensive \$130 per child. Jean suggested we do fundraising. The trip needs to be booked about 9 months in advance. Chaperones are needed. Stuart asked that Jean put together a proposal and send information to the PTO.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.