



Meeting Minutes

Linn Grove PTO

Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, September 5th at 6:00pm

Meeting Place: Linn Grove Media Center

Mission Statement:

The PTO is a volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of our children through the cooperative efforts of our families and school staff.

The PTO shall do this by:

A. Fostering closer working relationships between school, parents, and teachers.

B. Providing a forum for discussion and communication between parents, administrators, teachers and the community.

C. Enhancing the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Linn Grove Elementary.

Meeting Called to Order by Kara Larson

Attendance: 12

(Officers in attendance: Kara Larson, President; Kelly Ackley, Vice President; Angela Lincoln, Secretary; Sheri McCormick, Treasurer)

Minutes: Minutes from May 2017 meeting were accepted

1. Building Update:

Chad Buchholz, Principal: New staff members in the building – Alana Sellner, Level 2 Student Support Teacher; Angie Rupe, 3rd grade teacher; Abby Perez, 2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Printy moved to Kindergarten from 2nd grade. Most of our grade levels did share that our “parties” will look a little different this year. Halloween will be a parade of costumes then classroom parties. Winter parties will take on new format, grade level celebration in which all the grade level will come together in a single location and they’ll have celebration during specials time...we are going to need a lot of volunteers for this event. Classrooms get to determine Valentines party to exchange their valentines, which is a small change this year. Mr. Buchholz asked us to participate in Noun-Verb-Adjective activity, where we write down one word on a piece of paper that describes LG (what it means to you, what it is in your eyes, what it can be, our identity, what we believe, what you think we are). Kara will post on Facebook to get more involvement. We are not sure what Mr. Buchholz is doing with these words yet!

2. Current Business:

PTO Events Recap (Vouchers, Chalk the Sidewalk, Chipotle Night): Vouchers are set aside money the PTO gives staff and teachers that have a room. 39 this year get \$35 to spend at the beginning of the year and the PTO will reimburse them. Deadline is end of September unless they want to use it at book fair to purchase books for their room. Chalk the Sidewalk was cancelled. Kids are asking if we’re still going to do it...maybe we can complete it sometime, maybe after spring break...kids were sad it didn’t happen. Chipotle Night: We get 50% back, can order online and pay in store, can only do one per year...we got \$313.80 which sort of replaces Planet X last year.



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Track Fitness Stations Update: The Committee has ordered the fitness stations, they have met with the district, Mr. Harms and Chad to discuss placement. We are currently waiting for the stations to be received. The committee is working with Fairfax Greenhouse to get them installed, Mindy just met with them again on Friday. The bids we received from some other companies were higher than expected, so other avenues to get money to install them are being looked at which include small grants from companies. Once we have installation nailed down the committee will update us on that and if any volunteers are needed at that time.

Library Update: We do have new tables for the computers. We've got some new seating, the stools. Multi-discount card fundraiser provided \$8K and \$3K more from PTO last school year has gone into updates so far. Four benches were ordered as well. Sign in library shows the ultimate plan for the library.

Box Tops (August & September Contest): Quick back-to-school contest brought 890. 19 students got 3 tickets each. Today starts our Book Fair Contest through Oct 6th. One student from each class gets \$5, top 2 teachers get \$25 for classroom. Entry per 10 box tops non-expired turned in. Check out the App! That's great way to get extra money in our account. Sweepstakes to double your school's box tops going on, enter on their website. Bonus box tops on app do not count towards contests. There is going to be first ever National Box Top Week September 24-30 to promote all communities coast to coast to clip and turn in box tops for schools. Always label with your student's name and class so they get credit for contests. We receive two checks per year, 10% automatically goes to library to buy books.

Hy-Vee Receipts – Dates: We are collecting receipts dated from 4/1/17 – 3/31/18. Turn in all your receipts from any of the 13 Cedar Rapids and Marion Hy-Vee Food Stores and Drug Stores. Carmen Bell is in charge of our receipts. You can add them yourselves and write total on receipts, we get \$1 per \$200 in sales. Last year we earned \$1419. Ask your neighbor, family, friends to give you theirs. Email receipts and Casey's receipts do not qualify for this program.

3. New Business/Volunteer Requests:

Bond Vote – September 12th: There are some boards provided by the district at Linn Grove. As many of you know the Linn Mar School District is going for an 80 Million Dollar Bond on September 12th. This will be voted on by all in the Linn Mar Voting District. We did not ask a Board Member to come tonight since between Chad and I we can answer any question you may have, or find you the answer. I will not go in depth about the bond but will stay after if anyone has questions. I just want to make sure everyone knows what we are voting on. Handouts, buttons, business cards. Currently the need for space is at our Elementary schools and middle schools, so the restructuring plan is: Take 5th grade out of the elementary schools, frees up around 21-26 rooms in the district Take 6th grade out of the middle school, which frees up a ton of space as that is about 250-350 kids. Build two 5/6 buildings, one out on land with Echo Hill School, another off 35th Ave, East of Hand and Hand and the 2 white silos on what is 35th Street. They will then build an 8th elementary school which will house one of the yet to be determined historic elementary schools. The date is not set on this as it's when it's needed in the next few years. This will take a 500 capacity school and give it 600 kid capacity, so more room. The historic school left will then be repurposed by the district. This will be located on the land of the East side 5/6 building. Historic buildings will get new roofs, or repaired roofs, renovated restrooms, replace flooring and ceilings and add storage. Excelsior will



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Bond Cont'd: get a better secure entrance, second entrance, Improve traffic flow and resurface parking lot. Again the bond is for 80 million, 55 million to build two 5/6 buildings, 15 million for an 8th elementary school, 5 million for our historic buildings and 5 million for Excelsior. The handouts go over tax increase for your home, so I won't go into that, except to say for a \$200,000 assessed value house it is \$14.99 more a month, the price of a Large Pizza

New RBTA Date – September 22nd: The date was published incorrectly on our calendar. Not a fundraiser, just a fun event, family \$5 at night. Medals for top 5 kid finishers and top 5 adults. Everyone is welcome to come and have fun. Water provided. Finish line ribbon and cannon to start it off. Kids will get a bracelet for every lap they complete. This year is a little different, we are going to do brag tags. They will get a keychain with our RBTA design, every kid will get one of these for their backpack. There are a lot of different styles, like box tops, so we're hoping kids enjoy having them on backpacks. We'll still keep track of how many miles everyone is running because it's great to share with others. We will provide water and snacks for kids that day. Mr. Harms gets them all stretched out before they run. Little Lions participate. Rain date is the following Friday (we think). We'll send out volunteer request and there's option for grade specific times. Can register online or that night, starts at 5:45pm.

Write One for Linn Grove: Handouts will be going out soon. Write a check, not selling this year like we did the last couple years. Goal is \$15K for this event to fund everything in our budget. Budget is on our website right now. Amount needed is \$30 per student. Incentives, student and school-wide, as we move toward the goal. If raise \$50 get to play dodgeball with 3 staff members. Any student who raises \$1 or more will be put in drawing for dodgeball, one student per class. \$1000 dress outrageous, \$4000 staff driving Wizard of Oz bike riding around the halls, \$7500 all-school chicken dance break, \$10K all kids will enjoy day-free of homework, \$15K dress up as a character day (no weapons/no masks). Grand total raised will be announced weekly during fundraiser. Online donation link will be available. All checks made out to Linn-Mar foundation so they are tax-deductible, matching funds contact corporate if possible. If we don't meet our goals, we will start cutting some things from our budget. December/January we'll evaluate the budget and see if we need to make cuts. This event will kick-off this month and end in November.

Volunteers – Lindsey & Handout: Lindsey said they had 7 or 8 people tonight do volunteer orientation. Another orientation is scheduled Sept 19th at 9am. Volunteer workshop is Sept 14th 8:45am-10:45am, come and go as you can. Lunch duty is really in need of volunteers, especially Kindergartners (first shift).

Staff Incentives: Every month we're going to have drawing for staff. Staff can earn tickets by boosting staff involvement in PTO events. Get tickets for every PTO meeting they attend. One ticket for every PTO event you help at. One ticket if your classroom turns in any box tops. Staff Box Tops contests also earn a ticket for that. Can earn ticket for Culvers, McTeacher, or Chick-Fil-A nights. Drawings on last day of the month and they choose a prize from the prize basket.



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4. Teacher's Requests

Little Lions PM Field trip - \$50 because AM bussing not available. \$2/student on Oct 10th. Indian Creek Nature Center, Creature Features. Bill comes after the fact so no check now, will come from Field Trip budget. This was approved, voted in.

5. Officer's Report:

Presented by Sheri McCormick

6. Open Discussion:

Oct 5th is Homecoming parade and Linn Grove will be in it again. NFL60 suggestion to contact the football team to volunteer at the event. Check with Mrs. Hammes to see if the Poms could cheer also.

7. Meeting Adjourned At: 7:21pm.

8. Upcoming Events

Coffee Conversation, Saturday Sept 9th 8:30am @ Westfield Elementary

McTeacher Night – Tuesday, Sept 19th 5:00pm-8:00pm

Red Black Track Attack & Family Fun Run Walk – Fri, Sept 22nd 5:45pm-7pm

Don't forget to turn in Box Tops & Hy-Vee receipts!

Next PTO meeting is Tuesday, Oct 3rd!

Record volunteer hours at <http://volunteers.linnmar.k12.ia.us/login.asp>