



Meeting Minutes

Linn Grove PTO

Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, January 3, 2017 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: 14

(Officers in attendance: Kara Larson, President; Angela Lincoln, Recording Secretary; Sheri McCormick and Kelly Anderson, Co-Treasurers)

Minutes: Minutes from December 2016 meeting were accepted

1. John Hanson, Ed D.

John shared his family's experience with elementary schools in Norway while they were there for one year on a Fulbright Scholarship (2015-2016) and the implications for American schools. In Norway, school begins at the primary school which is 1st grade – 7th grade, lower secondary is 8th – 10th, upper secondary high school is junior-senior-super senior and it's a very big deal to graduate from that. Schools are 180 days each year but their days are shorter and all sports are divorced from the schools (clubs only). Students' board at up to secondary schools is free and tuition is free at any age so you can go back later in life if you want to do something else. High schools have profiles/niches. There were three big lessons John took away from his experience: 1) **Play** – their schools have a big emphasis on play, the students play outside every day no matter what; 2) **Building Friendships** – there are planned events for students and parents, they have friendship groups that meet one time a month where kids do an activity and snack then the parents sit together and chat for 30 minutes after that to promote friendships; 3) **Looping** – students have one teacher for 1st – 4th grade, then a different teacher for 5th – 7th grade. John thinks Looping is actionable here in the United States. John teaches at the Linn-Mar high school and can be contacted if you would like more information.

2. Building Update:

Chad Buchholz:

- Celia's last day is tomorrow, January 4th. Holly took her spot; we are in the process of hiring the other spot.
- Mrs. Perry has officially retired. She missed her last week in her classroom. Her long-term sub is Abby Perez; license should be ready in a few days.
- In January we have lots of assessing to do with students.
- Today we were re-teaching and reviewing expectations because it's the first day back from winter break, and the kids did very well.

3. Teacher's Requests:

There are no requests this month.



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4. Officers Report:

Presented by Sheri McCormick.

5. Current Business:

December Events Recap: We made \$114 from La Cantina Day. Kara will email The Play Station to see how we did on that night. Holiday Bazaar was a successful event with double the vendors as last year. We did get lots of positive feedback and some changes are recommended for next year (e.g. start time later and extend longer into the day, maybe don't offer tables to the vendors, all in one location (gym or cafeteria) would be ideal, send out contracts earlier). Need to block the Friday for next year's asap...must let them know in May.

Box Tops: We should be receiving a check in a couple weeks for \$2,692.30. The students know about the January contest, teachers are getting involved and talking about it with the students. Contest scheduled to end January 13 (has since been extended one week to January 20). The next contest will be for the Book Fair.

Hy-Vee Receipts: Current total is \$137,890.22. Please ask friends and family to save their receipts for our school too. End of this year's program is March 31, 2017, and we'll need to make sure that is communicated with everyone.

6. New Business

Family Fun Night: Meeting is scheduled for January 11th at Kara's house 5:30pm to discuss this year's event. Will discuss Chairs, keeping prices down, how Bowman Woods feeds everyone for free.

Fitness Station Committee: Goggle Drive for access to all paperwork, committee formed last month. Kelly Anderson, Amy, Angie, Becca.

Food Drive End of January: We will start this 7-10 days before Planet X event so we can deliver it at that time.

MANE Event 3/24, 6:00pm: This is the Linn-Mar Foundation annual fundraiser at the Marriott. Cost is \$60-\$65 per person and theme is Roaring 20's. Everyone can dress how they want, the meal is really good, and Linn Grove can put together 1-2 tables as needed (possibly a great Mom's Night Out event).

Linn-Mar High School Open House 1/22 1pm-4pm: We encourage you to go see the high school renovations, these are self-guided tours. Ribbon Cutting event is January 30th 7:45am at Pride Rock (door closest to the stadium).

7. Open Discussion

8. Meeting Adjourned At: 7:19pm.

9. Upcoming Events

Cuddle Up & Read – 1/6, 5:30pm

Linn Grove at CR Ice Arena – 1/19, 6:30pm

Linn Grove Skate Night, Pajama Party – 1/26, 6:00pm

Lunchtime Learning – 2/3, 12:00pm @ LRC

Planet X Night – 2/5, 5:00pm

Coffee Conversation – 2/11, 8:30am @ Oak Ridge

Science Night – 2/22

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

Next PTO meeting is February 7th!

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