

November 9, 2015 Lunenburg PTO meeting minutes

In Attendance: Andrea Moore, Lisa Harrison, Karen Chow, Maribeth Ford, Lisa Stone, Brian Spadafino, Tim Santry, Corinne Jones, Sarah Call, Mary Jo Doege, Meredith Weiss, Sherry Nolan, Alix Lind, Wendy Bertrand, Ami Powers, Jessica Frank, Jim LaVeck, Allison Melvin

- I. a) Principal Spadafino gave an update on LHS...A successful 1st term has completed and report cards are set to go out 11/12 or 11/13. Students and faculty enjoyed spirit week leading up to the Homecoming Parade. The pep rally was full of enthusiasm and spirit! As always students outdid themselves with the floats and Principal Spadafino was thrilled to see so much community support during the parade. LHS football team is set to play their last game on 11/25, and the LHS field hockey team is still in the running for a championship slot. With the time change and the holiday season fast approaching Principal Spadafino stresses how this time of year is an emotionally difficult time for students and adults. There is so much pressure on students with academics and then to add on outside stresses can become overwhelming. He thinks it is very important for all people to watch out for one another's wellbeing and be supportive. LHS is running for the 2nd year a Transitions Program. This room is staffed with social workers and teachers to help the students who come through for an hour of the day or stay the whole day. This room can be used for students returning from a medical leave to provide time to catch up with academic work before returning to the classroom, but is found to be mostly used for students who are feeling overwhelmed or anxious with an academic or social aspect of school. LHS is tuned into the fact that a statistic states that 21% of students have some sort of mental health issue, and provide this Transitions Program to support the student while keeping them in district. Advisory groups are up and running, they meet multiple times a week. During the longest block the groups use this time for assemblies, and to get to know one another and get conversations started. NHS inductions will be held soon. The LHS community is very excited about moving into the new school, but knows with this move brings a jam packed May and June, plans and scheduling is already taking place to make the transition smooth. Principal Spadafino personally hopes this new school can also be used in the community for example adult ed classes, Park and Rec, etc.. Principal Spadafino explained that a Tech Committee is being formed, a teacher from each grade throughout the district is wanted so planning of future technology purchases can be planned out wisely insuring not all district technology will need to be replaced at the same time in the future. Principals Spadafino and Santry touched briefly on the change of SAT's in January. Also there is discussion about changing to either PARC or MCAS 2.0; a decision will hopefully be made quickly (10th graders MCAS will not change due to graduation requirements).

- b) Principal Santry gave an update on the doings at THMS. THMS is very appreciative of the PTO and their help with the end of year celebration, Scholastic book fairs, open houses and the ultra-successful Penny Wars! This year alone Penny Wars made over in \$9,000! Enough money was raised so no student will be charged with a grade level field trip along with other

opportunities! This year THMS will be using the PTO donation along with another donation to purchase 12 Chrome Books that will be available to students and teachers. The School Advisory committee meets once a month, this year's focus is on the transition of next year's reconfiguration of THMS. They are working on the budget and a handbook to reflect a school of grades 3-5. 5th grade Natures Classroom was held in October, and went well the students enjoyed themselves. 11/10 there will be a Veteran's assembly where students were offered the chance to invite a veteran they know who will be recognized with a breakfast and school wide assembly. On 11/25 the Turkey Trot will take place. Cross Country had over 90 kids participate this year, 5th 6th and 7th grade State meet was this past weekend whereas 4th grade will compete this week. Most clubs are up and running, with the exception of STEM that will hopefully begin this month. Honor roll breakfast for grades 6 and 7 will be the first Friday of December, and report cards will go home 11/13. The Lions Club has been actively fundraising for the new Turkey Hill playground; they have almost met their goal.

II. Karen Chow made a motion to approve October's meeting minutes. Jessica Frank seconded the motion, all in attendance agreed.

III. Ami Powers reported the membership numbers are at 261 members making that \$3,225 in membership fee and \$758 in donations. A lot of the Peanut movie attendees were not members, thoughts on approaching those people for possible membership. Ami hopes in the future to have grade levels of members more readily available in order to run more accurate reports on our database. It is currently inconsistent. Discussion was had in doing one more email blast to the current 8th grade parents reminding them of the scholarship requirements.

IV. 1) A Miles for Myles subcommittee needs to be formed soon. Sarah Call and Corinne Jones would like to email folks in regards to an informational meeting possibly in December or January. 2) The Peanuts movie was a huge success, looking to the future for another in late winter. 3) Barnes and Noble fundraiser is all set for 12/10. Jess will send out the volunteer spot for the teachers to sign up for reading slots. Advertising will begin on 11/16. 4) Parent's night out is penciled in for April 2nd at the Elks club in Leominster.

V. Sherry Nolan will send a blurb into the Ledger saying what a success the Peanuts movie fundraiser was. She felt that advertising as an "event" on Facebook got the word out quicker as other people were able to "share" it to their own Facebook page. The Scholastic book fair at LPS brought in roughly \$6,000, LPS will receive roughly \$1,500 for their own use. Sherry is continuously working on updating the website and her next project is the membership page.

VI. Jim LaVeck reported that the B&GC Rockin' Auction brought in roughly \$8,000! There are 163 active members; there is talk about renting out space from the church across the street. The B&GC is very happy with their enrollments, but would love to see more parent involvement. The next fundraiser will be a poker tournament this winter.

VII. Lisa Harrison submitted all the information for FY15 to the accountant. Lisa reiterates the importance to promote the employer match program for more donations.

VIII. Karen Chow has contacted the theatre department at LHS and The Boys and Girls Club to see if they would like any of the items the PTO is looking to part with in the storage room. The B&GC will schedule a time for a walk through and the theatre department has yet to respond to the email.

IX. Karen Chow is now using the email service Mailchimp, because she was having multiple emails bounced back while using Google.

Next Meeting December 7th, 2015. TCP room #13