

Lincoln Middle School
PTO Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2016

Present at Meeting:

Mr. Shawn Messmer
Mr. Gleason
Mrs. Cohen
Marie Moran
Sue Zimmerman
Kathy Schmitt
Wendy Locascio
Katie Kornely
Kim Biederman
Julie Berthold
Susan Zeich

Called to Order at 7:08 pm

Presentation: Mr. Shawn Messmer, Principal of Maine South

Mr. Messmer discussed important points for incoming Freshman/Current 8th grade students

- Course placement process complete
- Finish 8th grade strong
- As you start high school, there is no magic formula. Ask what the best thing is for your student in terms of placement and experience.
- Spring MAP test will be used for placement along with final grades to ensure placement is correct
- Summer School – in the past, not a lot of offerings for incoming Freshmen. Opened up World Communications (graduation requirement), Health (graduation requirement) during the summer for Freshmen that are typically for Sophomores. Also offering World Cultures.
- Offering Freshman AP World History. But will be more forgiving in placement for AP World History.
- Recommends summer bridge course.
- Bringing back Math Academy this summer for those who struggled with math for those going into Intro to Algebra. Will have different format. Will have a lot of diagnostics. May expand for all of students.
- Summer school is optional. Not required in order to graduate.
- Piloting online government for Seniors. If it works, he could see them offering that in the summer. Every senior has to take it.
- Transfer credit policy is up to 6 credits. Kevin Scotolero is the person to contact for transfer credit. Have become a lot more liberal in allowing transfer credits.
- Hope 8th graders enjoy the summer before starting high school. Your schedule starts to revolve around the schedule of the student.
- Encouraging students to take more advanced courses and more AP classes.
- They are starting to try to encourage students to move up to the next level. Mr. Messmer is now receiving a report that shows students who are getting As. Encourage them if good reason to change their placement.
- For math placement, want to ensure students have the prerequisite scores to be able to do the curriculum. There is a placement test for incoming Freshmen. This test is being rewritten.

- Looking at better aligning math in D64 for preparation for high school. Ultimately, if schools are aligned last math test in 8th grade would be the step before next level at high school.
- Looking at math sequencing. Maine South has too many math courses/levels.
- State of Illinois starting next year will require SAT rather than ACT. SAT has been changed to align more with common core. A lot of prep work for SAT is available for free. ACT does not have as much information available for free.
- Once you get into high school, as a parent let go some but still stay in touch with what is happening with your student. Make sure they aren't hiding something from you. Stay on top of them. Make sure they get involved. Make sure they have a good group of friends.
- If parents have concerns about placement at Maine South, they should contact student's counselor and they are open to having more dialogue about placement.
- All are invited to Principal's second cup of coffee. Held monthly. Next one is April 14 at 9:00am.

Principal/Vice Principal Report

Mr. Gleason

Mr. Gleason reported on the following on behalf of both he and Mr. Gleason who was not present at the meeting:

- Just completed POWER. Great to see high school students leading the groups. It is a great experience for the 8th grade students.
- St. Baldrick's is the big talk at Lincoln right now. Over \$75,000 has been raised. 8-9 teachers will have their heads shaved.
- PARCC test coming up in April. We do not have two tests this year. Only one test will be given this year.
- School year is ending earlier this year. School ends on June 2.
- Spring fever – make sure students stay focused.
- ROARS – this month's theme is you are responsible for your own learning. Act safely is next month.
- Very successful mid of the mid. Very positive with students. He encouraged us to reach out to the teachers to get feedback.
- He brought up that crossing the street at drop off is not safe. They are really encouraging parents to drop off so they are on Lincoln property. The parking lot should not be used.
- Teachers are getting on going executive behavior training. This is provided by an ELF grant two years ago. Funding through district has allowed this to be ongoing.
- Spring conferences coming up on one day March 22.
- Scheduling process is underway. If there are concerns or changes wanted, please let them known sooner than later.

Teacher Liaison Report

- Ms. Cohen reported on St. Baldrick's. If we raise \$100,000 we will be the 21st top fundraiser in the nation.
- Hoops for Heart just raised over \$1000.
- Faculty appreciates how generous this community is. The students have rallied around this and have risen to the occasion.

PTO Event Update

- Vshow is thriving. April 6 is tryouts. Rehearsal is on April 20. Show is on April 22 at 3:15 (late departure for bus) and 7pm show that evening. Ticket prices are \$5.
- 8th grade promotion dance is in planning stages. Need additional help with set up and clean up.
- Teacher appreciation week May 2-5. End of year lunch for staff on June 1.

Treasurer's Report

- Account balance is \$15,488
- Mid of mid costs \$2223
- Revenues from Chipotle \$544, Yankee candle \$343, Panera \$32
- Membership brought in \$8975
- Seed library cost \$634

Approved of Minutes

Katie Kornely motioned to approve the minutes. Sue Zimmerman seconded the motion.

New Business

- Yankee candle fundraiser is once again happening now.
- Will try for Chipotle fundraiser again this school year.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm