

# January 2024 PTO Meeting Notes

Here are your highlights from the PTO meeting held on Monday, January 29th.

## 1. Principal Updates

- Great ideas process – what is the criteria. We need to determine what the process will be.
- NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) is on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - What is NAAPID? Principle Stewart will send out information to parents.
    - NAAPID is a day that promotes and celebrates parents of all races and ethnicities investing in their child's education and growing in partnership with the school community. All families are invited to visit their child's school and support their child's educational future. Some of the goals of NAAPID are to:
      - Promote parent involvement in their child's education.
      - Address the achievement gap facing African American students.
      - Promote and provide strategies for all parents and students to take full advantage of the educational process at all levels of the educational system.
- Planning for the new Lakewood starts in March. The process involves 2 years of planning and 2 years of building. Students, staff, and families will have input. We need all ideas submitted by June.
- We need to get the word out to Lakewood parents on what we raise money for in the PTO and that everyone is a part of the PTO, not just board members.
- Soccer goals update: We have goal posts and nets. The nets have not been put up in years due to lack of staff to do so. Also, there is concern that the soccer goal posts will not be used because there isn't enough staff to watch the kids while they are on the field. The plan is to put up the nets and leave them up for a bit and see how it goes.
- We need help in our school – substitute teachers and school aids.

## 2. Teacher Updates (Mrs. Asani and Julie Johnston, behavior specialist)

- Equity Committee: For the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion calendar, cultural holidays are highlighted, and an activity will be done on each day to celebrate in the teacher's classes. This month is Black History Month and the Lunar New Year.

## 3. President Update (Bryan Goff)

- Readathon- Bryan and Dana will be meeting this week to discuss Readathon details.
  - Readathon is the month of March.
  - Readathon provides a website and materials to conduct the fundraiser.

- 80% of proceeds go to the school.
- We make our own prizes to save on cost of the fundraiser.
- We made about \$8000 last year.
- We are trying to involve some local businesses in this year's fundraiser. Each board member will reach out to three businesses and ask them if they would like to participate.
- Examples for prizes include:
  - Be Lakewood Librarian for a day.
  - Class movie
  - Lunch with the principle
  - Limo Ride
  - Popcorn and pickles
- A bulletin board with submitted pictures of student participants reading will be put up in the school.

#### **4. We have a Girls on the Run Coach – Jenny Mcminis**

- The cost for participants is progressive.
- Participants must be in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Practice starts in March.
- So far, we have 7 participants. We have enough space for 35 kids.

#### **5. Volunteer Coordinator (Dana Knott and Helen Wright) Update**

- Letter to local businesses for the Readathon – Can someone help write one up? There is an example procurement letter that we have used in our Auction Fundraisers in past years on Google drive. This letter contains our tax ID. Donors can place digital ads on our fundraising web pages and their names can be added to the Readathon website.
- For what do we want to use the money? We need to inform people that are donating to our cause that for which our money will be used.
- We could bring back coin donations. This time we can have a “Coin Monster” for the entire school that students can put their change into.
- VIP Breakfast
  - A Signup Genius was sent out but needs to be sent out again because the link has changed.

#### **7. Treasurer Update (Sam)**

PTO Checking Total: \$27,474.68

PTO Savings: \$10,141.59

#### **November Balance**

**Money in:**

- Kroger: \$66.81
- Dominoes raised \$161.
- We received \$610 from direct donations.

#### **Money out:**

- Gym supplies and pull-up bar
- Teacher Discretionary: \$845
- Science Olympiad: \$300

#### **Justice Leaders Seminar**

##### **Guests:**

- **Greg Myers, Equity, and social justice project specialist for the Washtenaw Intermediate School District**
  - School Culture and Diversity- facilitate dialogue on race.
  - Advisory board on integrated schools
  - Integrated schools podcast: Social Justice Work
- **Autumn Campbell WISD Culture and Diversity Team and Transgender Taskforce**
  - Fine Arts teacher with 20+ years' experience

#### **Discussion**

- In talking about diversity, we often mention pronouns and socioeconomic status because these are important to recognize.

##### **Exploring best practices for a socially just PTO**

- Belonging- a video by Brené Brown
  - Brené Brown is a researcher and storyteller who's spent two decades studying courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy.
- Fitting in is the opposite of belonging. You must belong to yourself first.
- Breakout Rooms for Seminar Participants: What is one thing that the Lakewood Community (students, families, all staff) need to experience belonging?
  - People must feel seen in everything we do.
  - People need connection, when we connect, we can feel vulnerable in front of one another.
  - People need to feel included.
  - Accessibility – there needs to be activities that are accessible to everyone.
  - Real belonging is done with community, care and thought.
  - We need a safe space for everyone.
- Construction and Cultivation of Brave Space. "An Invitation to Brave Space." By Micky ScottBey Jones.

#### **Have a Dialogue**

- Discussion: The goal is to persuade others.
- Debate: The goal is to defeat the other's position.

- Dialogue: The goals are to broaden perspective, look for shared meaning, find places of agreement, listen without judgement, and try to understand one another.

1. **Work to connect your head and your heart.**
2. **We are all teachers and learners.**
3. **Take the learning, leave the stories (gossip).**
4. **Practice “Both/And” thinking – inclusivity – not “either/or.”**
5. **Be aware of “intent” and “impact.” (Understand what the intent is of the person you are having a dialogue with. Understand the impact you are having on others.) Be able to apologize authentically.**
6. **Be mindful of how much you are sharing.**
7. **Speak from your own experience.**
8. **Expect and speak your own discomfort and joy.**
9. **Take risks, be brave, be vulnerable.**
10. **Listen to learn, not respond.**
11. **Challenge the idea, and not the person. Do not label the person, address the idea.**
12. **Do not freeze people in time, including yourself.**
13. **Be present and take care of yourself.**
14. **Anticipate unfinished business. You cannot solve everything at once.**

- Adrienne Rich: “Dreams Before Waking”
- What is your greatest hope/longing for your PTO?
- **Homework: Listen to: “Nice White Parents” Episode 1**