

PTA General Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2013

In attendance: Jessica D'Amore, Suzanne Iovino, Suzanne Laschet, Angela Barry, Sabina DeGaetano, Stacey Gosman, Katie Ottenheimer, Patty Vazquez, Jenice Lyons, Maryann Protasiewicz, Karina Yakubov, William Bowman, Marni Blotner, Jody Bard, Shauna Wold, Terrence Roker, Meghan Clark, Dee LaNave, Tanya Rivera, Mi Jung An, Hilda Haynes-Lewis

Meeting called to order by Angela Barry at 7:35pm.

Welcome and Introductions

- Thank you to Terrence Roker for managing our PTA website at www.littletorpta.org
- The PTA is looking for people to get involved and volunteer

President's Report – New Business (The Year Ahead)

- Welcome Back BBQ is coming up on 9/27/2013. Cost will be \$5 per child, \$10 per adult, max \$25 per family. Last year's was great with burrito bar from American Burrito and lots of other food. Flyer will be going home soon. Kids love going to events at the school!
- Membership Drive/Contest – the first class with 100% participation gets to choose Ms. An's Halloween costume. If you join, you will be added to the list and receive weekly and other informative email blasts.
- Spirit Day – today was Spirit Day. Winner yet to be announced. Usually the first Wednesday of every month. School clothing will be available for purchase soon.

VP Report – Suzanne Laschet

- Membership Drive – please take a flyer and sign up if you haven't already
- Scholarship Committee – looking for a chairperson to head this up. Suzanne Iovino talked about the level of commitment – happens in the Spring, 4 mandatory meetings. Tanya Rivera (1st grade mom) volunteered to chair this committee.
- Angela mentioned we have a lot of fundraisers, such as Cherrydale Farms which is coming up soon. Still looking for someone to be VP of Fundraising. All the money goes towards programs and items for the students, such as Field Day t-shirts and end of the year events.

Treasurer's Report – Katie Ottenheimer

- Budget distributed
- \$12,500 must be raised each year to support the Cultural Arts program, which provides amazing assemblies and workshops for the students.
- Stop and Shop A+ program raised \$760 last year
- \$271 was raised from Target – a program enrolled in by the Clarkstown Council of PTA's. Use your Target credit card when you shop there and LT will get a percentage of the sale.
- \$1800 was added into budget for School Beautification. Asking for volunteers to help with this. Maryann Protasiewicz (kindergarten mom) indicated that she owns a landscaping business and she will donate a worker and some plants to this cause.

VP Report – Suzanne Iovino

- Stop and Shop A+ program – go to Stop and Shop website and click on A+ Program to register your card. LT will get a percentage of your sale every time you shop there. Do not try to register at the store, as they cannot assist with that. Program runs from October through March.

Must sign up each new year with your card.

- DeCicco's – when you shop at this store, please mention LT and the PTA will get a percentage back from the sale. Not up and running for this school year yet, but should be within the next few days. Made \$200 last year.

Other Business

- Stacey Gosman is the chairperson for the recess equipment. She confirmed that teachers can request up to \$40 worth of equipment per class.
- Shauna Wold is the chairperson for Art to Remember. The students create artwork in art class at school and it can be made into items such as mugs, ornaments, place mats, t-shirts, etc. Made \$870 last year.
- Dee LaNave is on the 5th Grade Committee. She announced that they picked the winner of the parking space raffle: Raymond Ploss from class 4J. Made \$70.

Principal's Report – Ms. An

- Welcome to everyone. Smoothest school opening for Ms. An so far. Staff did a great job getting the school ready. Thank you to parents for the smooth transition. The superintendent and some staff visited first day and students were very comfortable. Police have had a presence in the school several times already this year.
- First fire drill was today (two minutes and 48 seconds – good time for the first one). Usually try to keep them under two minutes.
- Ms. An would like to designate a time once per month to meet with parents about any academic or educational concerns/questions. She has tried to do this in the past and hasn't had much success, but would like to try again. Will send information home soon.
- Katie Ottenheimer asked about a flyer she got home about the Friendship Group. Ms. An responded that the Student Assistance Counselor runs the group in each grade for children who are interested. Parental consent must be obtained. It is a facilitated lunch session where students talk about friendships, family, problem solving, etc.
- Question about transportation issues so far this year. The white and black buses has been arriving at school very late and the students are getting to class as the other students have already begun their work. Ms. An indicated that there have been multiple challenges at the beginning of this school year across the district, and she is aware of this issue and is in contact with the bus garage about it. She stated that the first two weeks of school are not an indication of what bus timing will be as it takes longer to review safety procedures with riders during this time, causing the buses to be later. Ms. An explained that students are allowed into the school starting at 8:00am, they start walking to their classrooms at 8:22am, and the late bell rings at 8:30am. She assured parents that if students were missing instruction time, she would call transportation right away. She urged parents to wait for the timing to stabilize after the first two weeks of school, and to call transportation if they have any specific concerns, as they are generally very responsive.

Open Floor

- Dee LaNave talked about the 5th Grade Committee's Annual Basket Raffle Night, which is coming up on November 15th at the Town and Country in Congers. Cost is \$50 per person. Buffet, DJ, over 100 basket prizes, and male fashion show! Helps to fund the 5th grade trip. Don't have to attend the event to buy tickets for the raffles – can be purchased at the school, as well. 5th grade parents are asked to donate a basket each. Caryn Toren has been working hard getting donations since June.

- Jenice Lyons is chairing Picture Day this year. New company is called Coffee Pond. Wants to try outdoor shots with Ms. An's permission. Forms will go home on October 1st and Picture Day is October 15th. Must pre-pay. Can do so online, but still must send child to school with form that day. Made \$1700 last year from picture sales. Jenice requested a volunteer to help her out that day and Shauna Wold agreed to do it. If anyone cannot afford the pictures, the company has a scholarship program, which will be handled with discretion.
- Question about how to sign up for lunch money program. Go to mylunchmoney.com to sign up. Call the office if you require assistance.
- Marni Blotner is chairing Box Tops this year. Last year made \$1100. Go to the website and sign up to make \$0.50 for the school. First contest will be in October.

Angela thanked everyone for coming and adjourned meeting at 8:32pm.