Langley High School PTSA

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 29, 2024

1. Call to Order – 9:10 am
2. Approval of Minutes – The minutes from the 11/8/2023 Executive Board Meeting (sent out in 1/22/2023 email) were presented to the Executive Board for approval. There were no corrections and the minutes stand as presented.
3. Principal’s Report – Kim Greer
   * Things are going well at LHS. The LHS boys swim and dive team won the district championship. The kids are doing well and the school is quiet.
   * Discussion concerning LHS search for female security guard. LHS has tried to hire for the position 3 times. The first candidate (a security officer at George Washington University) was offered a 50% raise to stay at her current position. The second candidate did not show up for her interview. Qualified female candidates are difficult to find, so in the interim, LHS has hired another male security assistant (a master police officer who retired from FCPS). Head of LHS security, Mark Rogers, will be retiring, so LHS plans to readvertise the position and look again in the Spring. There have not been as many student complaints recently. There is a restroom in Student Services and one in the Office available for student use as an option to avoid hall bathrooms. All FCPS schools are grappling with this issue. The doors are locked open, and staff perform spot checks. Historically, female staff members had a schedule that allowed them to check restrooms, but different culture in schools now. Teacher planning periods cannot be touched and much teacher time is encumbered by school meetings, etc. Giving teachers a mandate is an issue. Suggestion to have a SignUp Genius with parent volunteers to patrol bathrooms.
   * Winter Dance (*Langley After Dark*) will be held on Friday, 2/9/2024 from 8:00-10:00pm at LHS.
   * FCPS teachers have until June to separate from the county without prejudice. There are some teachers retiring. Generally, teachers are retiring or leaving the area, not switching high schools within FCPS. LHS administration meets with teacher teams weekly. A faculty advisory committee (dictated by administration) will bring concerns from staff to principal.
   * Discussion concerning consequences of cheating. LHS has an honor code committee. First time offense has minimal consequences. Second time offense will have more consequences, including being included on student’s record and counselors writing recommendations are privy to this information. Concerns with student phones being on and linked to smart watches. LHS is not using e-Hall Pass because it is only as its implementation and it limits ability for kids to use restrooms when there might not be available passes.
   * Discussion concerning appropriations and academic booster committee fund availability. Academic boosters committee would like a list of teacher email addresses so they can reach out directly. Ms. Greer suggests that they can send information to her and she can send to teachers in weekly academic notes and leadership counsel. Consider sending through Tricia Poythress. Some teachers may be confused about the appropriations process, so propose to have on a “rolling” basis rather than quarter “windows”. Grant requests can be circulated electronically.
   * Discussion of HVAC issues in orchestra area and weight room.
4. President’s Report – Joy Hohenthaner
   * Directories were handed out at the General Membership Meeting on 12/6/2023. PTSA purchased 100 hard copy directories and still has a significant number available. Also at the 12/6/2023 GMM, the school counselors gave a curriculum presentation. Junior class will have curriculum presentation for parents next week.
   * 8th grade open house on Sunday, 1/7/2024, was attended and received good reviews. Thank you to Keuri Patel, Bonnie Myshrall and Clare Bradshaw who helped to coordinate. Thank you to orchestra kids, cheerleaders, crew kids and NHS kids who gave tours. Also thank you to AP Jim Robertson. Ms. Greer thought the event went well. Katie Myshrall created a 3-minute video that was shown at the end of the presentation showing LHS events during the school year from a student perspective.
   * On Wednesday, 1/24/2024, Joy Hohenthaner and Bonnie Myshrall hosted a breakfast for teachers catered by Boulevard Café. Had a great turnout. Maybe will also provide for Professional Development Day in April.
   * Courtyard tables and umbrellas have been delivered and assembled. This has been applied against the courtyard earmark funds.
   * Academic boosters committee has provided support for the Model Judiciary Club by purchasing National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) books. Suggestion to have students and parents reach out to club advisors about academic boosters recourses and funding options.
5. Treasurers Report **–** Mary Lee
   * Expenses include: courtyard tables, umbrellas and bases applied against courtyard earmark; teachers’ breakfast; membership fees for Student Services; DC Trivia contract for Trivia event ($1,100 (plus food costs)); and funds for the Japanese Bowl, Model Judiciary Club books (approx. $900) and National Latin Exam ($174) under academic booster line item.
   * Income from some additional PTSA memberships.
   * Professional Development Fund (PDF) expenses approved by the Appropriations Committee for Ellen Hussain, Lindsy Fisher and Caroline Player.
6. Membership and Nominating Committee –Susan Connery
   * LHS PTSA is 42 parent members short of budgeted number, but way over budget on student memberships.
   * If you know of people interested in becoming involved with the LHS PTSA (particularly Cooper MS parents), please let the Nominating Committee know. Email Susan Connery or Erin Lobato.
   * Existing officers and committee chairs need to submit updated job descriptions.
7. Appropriations/PDF & Diverse Art Langley – Heather Murphy Capps
   * Appropriations – We are having ongoing conversations about moving to a “rolling” vs quarterly basis. Heather Caps thinks it is worth having Appropriations/PDF discussions in a separate meeting. Kim Greer and Bonnie Myshrall want to try the rolling basis. Consider still having periodic in-person or Zoom meetings. The challenge continues to be communication as people don’t read emails. Seeking tips on how to reach out.
   * Potential appropriations expenditures identified for 3rd quarter - Mr. Cho (calculus teacher), identified by student to an adult to the PTSA as possibly needing some equipment; possible need for screens to collect clay.
   * DiverseArtLangley – The committee is advertising everywhere (including Langley broadcast, through art classes, FCPS week at a glance, eNews, etc.). The event will be held 2/12/2024. Heather Capps and Stefanie Stayin will put art up on the date of the event. The topic is “What does Freedom Mean to You?” All students are invited and welcome to participate. Digital art is accepted, but not AI generated art. The exhibition will be held in the main hallway in front of the Office, not Langley Hall, this year, but the format will be the same as previous years. Viewing will take place from 6:00-7:30pm, and attendees can speak to students there to represent their art (those students will 1 hour of community service time). At 7:30pm, there will be a second part which is where get to “reflect” on the art with moderator Danielle Van Hook from the McLean Community Center (MCC). Will be collecting art in the mornings on 2/8/2024 and 2/9/2024. Students will have the choice of continuing to have their art presented at MCC in a McLean Project for the Arts installation after the Langley event. There will be prizes. Attendees will vote on the top 3 pieces of art.
8. Committee Chair Reports
   * Career Connections – Christina Dumas
     + Will be held on 2/27/24, starting at 9:15am, for Sophomores only. As of today, we have 25 speakers. There will be an HR presence to give input on resumes. Setup from 8:30-9:15 am (need 4 parents). Speakers include at least 4 alumni and the first female ambassador from Saudi Arabia to US.
   * Reflections – Elina Dimitropoulos
     + Students waited until the very last minute to submit. The day before the deadline the committee received 20-22 submissions. There were 29 total participants, but only 25 entries were judged because 4 didn’t meet all requirements (such as PTSA membership). Awards included 1st, 2nd (award of excellence), 3rd (award of merit), and honorable mentions. Winners from visual arts and literature (both 9th graders) won 1st place at the FCCPTA level and moved on to the VAPTA contest. Entries from photo, music composition and dance choreography won 2nd place at the FCCPTA level. The FCCPTA award program will be held on 2/23/2024 at Lake Braddock HS, and all FCCPTA winners, friends and family are invited. Thank you to Ms. Gabro and Ms. Mulligan for incorporating Reflections into the classroom curriculum. Next year’s theme is “Accepting Imperfection”.
   * Summer Opportuities –
     + Fairfax teen job fair on 3/2/2024.
     + FCPS Instruction to Industry – in-person event on 2/17/2024 and on-line 2/5/2024 to 2/8/2024. Includes panel discussions with people from around area and help with resumes and cover letters.
     + On the PTSA website – information about volunteer opportunities for the Potomac Conservancy, hospitals, animal shelters, food banks, etc. Click on “Service and Jobs Opportunities” on the right side of the homepage.
   * Family Network - Clare Bradshaw, Robyn Smith, Lainie Miller and Julie DeLong
     + Will hold new family social event on 3/1/2024 or 3/8/2024 – a coffee or potluck lunch TBD. Held a winter social at The Union in McLean.
     + Book talk and parent conversation scheduled for 3/4/2024 (in-person after PTSA meeting at 11:00am) - Jordan Payne and Anna Brown will discuss executive function and anxiety.
     + SCC will host Jeff Selingo on 4/29/2024 at the McLean Community Center (MCC) to discuss the topic of approaching the college admissions process through the lens of mental wellness. Hannah Wolff will moderate the “fireside chat” format. Jeff Selingo has a new book. Discussion of possibility of having him come back in the Fall to speak with LHS seniors in week 1 or 2. Also consider idea of having Karen Burke do a “Top 10 Tips” for junior parents.
     + US College 101 virtual luncheon event on 3/6/2024 at 12:00pm led by Karen Burke – designed for families that haven’t gone through college process in United States, but open to all. Will be recorded.
   * Trivia Competition – Bonnie Myshrall & Shilpa Vaidya
     + 35 students have signed up to date. The event has been advertised on Schoology, the PTSA website and LHS morning announcements. Prizes will include airpods and gift cards.
   * Ethics Day – Margaret Brown
     + Thanks from the Athletic Boosters for PTSA helping to promote school spirit with pom poms at football and basketball games.
     + Ethics Day will be held on 3/20/2024 (date confirmed). Ethics Day is just for seniors, a day away from school. There will be 3 different ethical modules which propose different ethical dilemmas for the students to discuss (including a mock trial, a module on artificial intelligence and a trauma surgeon parent at Langley on medical ethics/transplants).
     + The committee will need volunteers (SignUp Genius to come), but first need a location and are reaching out to options. PTSA may be able to assist with space cost. If you don’t have a senior, please consider volunteering – need table leaders and parents to hand out lunches. You can split the day with a friend. Also encourage freshman parents.
9. New Business – Bonnie Myshrall
   * The LHS PTSA is in the process of proposing standing rules. This will memorialize things that the PTSA we have always done by “tradition” in standing rules to accompany the PTSA Bylaws. The standing rules will need to be voted on by the PTSA general membership. The proposal is to try and make things more efficient, memorialize the appropriations process, provide for transparency and opportunity for discussion, and accountability, among other things. The PTSA’s 501(c)(3) status may be at risk if we continue to maintain such significant cash balances. The standing rules also propose to restructure the 4 vice president spots by merging the VP membership and VP fundraising positions, having a VP of school support who would manage classroom support type activities and committees, a VP of communications and a VP of volunteers. These categories were designed to reflect the main pillars of what the LHS PTSA does. The unofficial “president elect” position would be flexible among these 4 VPs, but we would need someone to “commit” to shadow the President.
10. Upcoming Events
    * General Membership Meeting – February 14, 20024 - Cafeteria – 9am
11. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Submitted to the President for Executive Board approval this March 17, 2024, by Melissa Schwartz.

Approved by the Executive Board on April [\_\_\_], 2024.