

# Learwood PTA Minutes

Thursday, November 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am., and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Jennifer Porter welcomed everyone, passed around the sign in sheet and asked for volunteers to man the table at parent teacher conferences to sell spirit wear and raffle tickets to the choir concert for 6 seats of your choosing and a parking pass.

## **Principal's Report:**

Mr. Cocco spoke in place of Mrs. Ramsey.

- He discussed Blockhead Printing, a software to send forms and paperwork to the copy center in order to get copies made. There have been issues with this software and training will need to be done. Mr. Cocco will look into this further and get back with the Jennifer and the PTA on his finding.
- Thank you for the food for the trip to Washington D.C.
- He hopes the concession stand is successful. They will try to promote it better and PTA will put a better sign up so people know it exists.
- Activity night coming up Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the PTA
- Conferences on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:45 – 7:15
- Girls basketball season started this week, boys start in January. They had a AD principal meeting last week and the schedule will stay with the girls starting out the season and boys following for the next couple of years and will revisit the schedule at that time.
- Wrestling starts on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Don George, who was assistant coach last year is going to be our head coach this year and we will have 2 assistant coaches, Mike Tominek and one other gentleman.
- Tuesday was staff In-service day and it was a very nice day and good program. He feels Learwood has very good programs that are done in house and he was pleased with how it went.
- In answer to Jennifer's question about the anti-bullying session, Kathleen Scott mentioned that the turnout was counted around 70. That figure was up from 0 at other potential gatherings and was declared a success.
- Megan Sammons asked why there is no athletic trainer at the middle school level, based on the number of concussions and injuries this year and last. She gave several examples and stated how students and coaches should be made aware of the potential brain injuries, their signs, recovery times, symptoms and follow up. Students are getting up and trying to shake it off and don't inform coaches or parents about injuries or symptoms because they are unaware of the seriousness of these situations. Mr. Cocco will be happy to have someone come in and do a more in-depth talk to parents, coaches and students to make them more aware of these potential life-changing circumstances. Wendy Hamilton suggested that this issue be taken to the school board and the Ohio Sports Assn. And that a Sports Safety Course should be required of all coaches. Mr. Cocco explained that the coaches have training in this area, but the transference of information could be better and there is always room for increased training or a refresher course could be done.
- In answer to the question of early release during Parent Teacher conferences, no early release this year.

**Clipboard Items:** Jennifer re-visited the volunteer opportunity to sign up to sit at the PTA table during conferences and sell spirit wear and raffle tickets to the upcoming choir concert at the PAC.

## **Executive Board Reports**

**Secretary:** Minutes were presented for review and approved.

**Treasurer Report: Amy Lodge** No activity for November. This report does not reflect any small amount of interest earned in October. Amy did follow up on the \$5.00 dormant fee. The bank said they would waive the dormant fee if we kept the savings account. She told them we can't keep the savings account because it's not designated for anything and they said then they can't waive the fee. And that came from the bank president.

Amy mentioned the concessions and Connie Datko stated that they brought in around \$50.00 from this last game.

**Council Delegate Report: Wendy Hamilton**

- There were questions about whether other PTAs provide food at their meetings. Some PTAs even provide babysitting.
- Holiday concerts are coming up
- Erieview grossed about \$10,000.00 selling cookie dough
- Westview is having a math and science night in association with Ashland's Teachers Education Students
- The High School craft fair is December 3<sup>rd</sup>. And they are bringing back their Math and Science club.
- There was talk about Bill #136 – Kathleen Scott will speak on that later.
- There was discussion about the Race to Nowhere movie. A private independent film discussing cheating, suicide, students not prepared for college and academic pressures on students in a local community setting. Council members will view and decide whether this film will be opened up for public viewing. The initial viewing in Bay Village was very well attended. Discussion on this topic included AP classes, honor society and errors that have been made by the decision makers that would not be corrected and the pressures on the students to be their absolute best – not only from the parents and the schools, but the students themselves.

**Board of Education Delegate Report: Nancy Klingshirn**

- A new district treasurer has been hired with a start date of March 1, 2012. This individual currently holds the assistant treasurer position.
- They spoke of the voucher program and house bill 5 changes that could be coming our way.

**President's Report: Jennifer Porter**

- Congratulations to Ron Jantz, Pam Ohrdzansky and Jim Stowe for being elected to the Schoolboard
- Event concessions: Big thanks to Kristen and Connie for coordinating this. Please see Kristen or Connie to donate 16.9 oz waters, full size candy bars or 12 oz cans of soda to offset cost to PTA. This will help to fill in the gap from the flat donation campaign not meeting its goal.
- Monique Boudreau asked about a mass message or e-mailing system to continue to offer the opportunity to donate to PTA - that would not go to just members, but go to the entire parent collective. This would also help for parents who do not get paperwork brought home from their child, or it gets lost. A mass reminder for parents would be nice. Mrs. Vogel can do a mass broadcast message to the parent collective if approached to do so. Otherwise, our efforts only go out to the current PTA membership.
- Thanks to Joanie Umek for posting our newsletter, which is now online. If you have an event coming up, please submit to the newsletter, people still look for information available through that medium.
- Jennifer re-read the proposed changes to the By-laws. Tara Nardi motioned to accept the By-Laws as read and Monique Boudreau seconded the motion.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Cookie Walk: Julie Grosel**

The date for the staff cookie walk will be Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, afterschool in the Media Center. E-mails for volunteers will be sent out on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Then Teresa will send out invitations to the staff. If there's a snow day, the event will be moved to Friday. Suggestions based on issues from last year were to give parents a reminder and a suggestion that they can drop off their donations when they arrive for the band or choir concert when that event happens to be the night before the cookie walk. This will alleviate parents forgetting or running out of time due to concert chaos.

### **Dance concessions: Jennifer Porter**

Dance is Friday Nov. 18 from 2:55 – 4:55. An e-mail went out to get volunteers. Only 2-3 people needed and the plan is to sell pizza, donuts, soda and chips.

Merri Killius is coordinating chaperones for the dance which will be held in the Multi-purpose room.. If you volunteer, you child is admitted for free. Tickets will be sold for the event. Ticket price is \$5.00 at the door and \$4.00 pre-sale. Merri would like to borrow equipment to begin a picture taking effort as a fun reminder of the event for the students to take home. If she can get the paper and equipment to work this out, they will procede. They also hope to have corn hole in the cafeteria. Volunteer request will go out on Friday, she is looking for 6 volunteers. She could also use a volunteer to help sell tickets at lunch time on Friday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fundraising: Jennifer Porter**

Spirit wear sales runs until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. Forms will go home today. \$2-\$3 has been added to each item that goes into the PTA fund. Last year we raised \$200-\$300 with this fundraiser.

Also PTA will be selling raffle tickets for the choir concert for 6 reserved seats of your choice at the PAC, plus a parking space close to the building. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00 for the choir concert on Tuesday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a 100% profit maker for PTA so spread the word.

Reflections promotion began by making the 8<sup>th</sup> graders aware that many of the photos they take on the trip can be entered in the Reflections Art Fair. Each entry gives the student a chance to win an I-tunes gift card in a raffle designed to entice students to enter. 3 I-tunes gift cards will be raffled off. Next week promotion will begin on TV and morning announcements. The deadline for entries is Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. It is later this year to give students more time to enter. Judging will begin at the beginning of January. Learwood had 4 entries last year.

### **Community Service Chair – Wendy Hamilton**

PTA is being asked to donate toward a basket for CRS fundraiser, which is due Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. Wendy will have a basket for people to drop off gift cards or cash at the PTA table during conferences. The theme this year is 'The Heart of the Community'. Learwood PTA basket theme is suggested to be a valentine basket or a cardio basket. Please spread the word, there is great need. Wendy will do a Just Between Friends reminder.

### **Old Business**

Vicki Fritzman took the opportunity to thank the PTA members for their donations toward the basket for the Camp Imagine Silent Auction. Everyone had a good time and we had double the donations. The silent auction brought in close to \$2,300.00. Many thanks to all who donated.

### **New Business**

Kathleen Scott spoke about Senate Bill 5 being defeated. House Bill 138 which dealt with vouchers. It hurts the schools because now anybody can get vouchers for any reason any time. House Bill 153, budget bill, school districts like Avon Lake are getting clobbered by the state, with all the things we've become to rely on like the power plant, etc. being pulled out from under our feet. It's basically a change in funding that we knew was coming, but has since been sped up. And the preliminary Rankings are out and causing a stir. There's a big emphasis on the taxpayers getting their money's worth. But not everything is included in the equation and throws off the numbers. This all comes through ODE. Avon Lake's AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) is the biggest contributor to the school's decline in recent rankings. It was also noted that Avon Lake has been at the top for a while and it's hard to show progress when you're already at the top. Our performance went up even though the ranking went down.

PTA President Jennifer Porter ended the meeting with a Happy Thanksgiving and wishes for a good holiday break with your families and we'll see you in January

Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am.

Important dates to come:

11/14 – Veteran's Day Program  
11/17 & 11/21 – Conferences 3:45 – 7:15 (NO early release)  
11/18 – Activity Night (PTA) 2:50 – 4:50  
11/23 – 11/27 – No School (Thanksgiving Break)  
12/13 – Winter Chorale Concert 7:30 (PAC)  
12/14 – Winter Band Concert 7:30  
12/15 – Staff Cookie Walk  
12/16 – Reflections Entries Due  
12/21 – 1/2 - No School (Winter Break)  
1/12 – PTA Meeting – 9:00 a.m. in cafeteria

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Fritzman  
Learwood PTA co-secretary