

Laurel Ridge Elementary PTA General Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2022 / 6:30 PM / Via Zoom

Call to Order, Welcome and Housekeeping

Maria Davila (Co-President) called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

Quorum met

Old Business

1. Approval of Past Minutes

- Jarrett Jackson (Secretary) moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting 9/20/22.
- Hearing no objections LRES September 20, 2022 General PTA Meeting minutes have been approved as distributed.

2. Treasurer's Report

● Budget Overview

- Beginning Balance 8/16/22: \$29,023
- YTD Expenses: \$13,266
- YTD Income: approx. \$41,622
- Current balance as of 10/31/22: \$57,379

New Business

3. Budget Amendment

- Now that we have received the money from the Boosterthon fundraiser we need to amend the budget to allow for purchases made with the money
- We earned \$32,201.00, and after accounting for the \$10,800 already accounted for in our current budget that was approved in August 2022, we still have \$21,302 to spend
- The following proposed budget amendments were presented to the general membership
 - i. Increase Buildings and Grounds budget by \$225 to go towards a total of \$3725 for Koi Pond repair

- ii. Increase Teacher Reimbursement line item by \$1000 for a new total of \$3000 allowing 20 teaching staff to receive \$150 reimbursement
 - iii. \$500 for Braille books
 - iv. \$500 for STEM project supplies
 - v. \$3000 for Adopt an Area supplies
 - vi. \$2000 for Teacher Grants
 - vii. \$5000 for Technology
- A motion to approve the budget was made by the chair on behalf on the Budget and Finance committee
- Discussion:
 - i. What is the purpose of purchasing a laptop for the cafeteria? - Anytime there is Audio Visual presentation in the cafeteria (e.g. Fall Showcase) the laptop is used, and the current laptop is outdated and often does not work
 - ii. Why can't Dekalb purchase a copier? - anything beyond 2 copiers for an elementary school this size will not be purchased by the county, and LRES already has 2 copiers
 - iii. We would like to have 3 copiers in the building and place the new one in the teacher's lounge
 - iv. Is the PTA going to budget for maintenance costs of the copier? - we are trying to make the purchase through the county so that DCSD will be in charge of maintenance
 - v. How can we get the district to replace the old worn out copiers? - The district has a schedule for maintenance, repair, and replacement of copy machines that they follow. The BOE approves and purchases copiers to replace school copiers depending on the year.
 - vi. We need approximately \$2000 added to the budget for installation of sun shades. An amendment to the budget can be made in January 2023 for this line item.
- A vote was held on the motion. 20 voted in favor of the motion, 0 against, 1 abstained. The motion passed and the budget will be amended as proposed.

4. Committee Presentations

- **Buildings and Grounds**

- New committee chairs, Daniel Ballard and Lydia Patton
- Adopt-an-Area
 - Daniel Ballard met with Ms. Hammer and the Teacher STEM Committee and reviewed Courtyard projects in which teachers/grades will "Adopt an Area" for outdoor environmental education. Examples of "areas" are the greenhouse, garden beds, pumpkin patch, koi pond, etc.
 - Opportunities for parent volunteers will be created to help with some of these projects, especially the greenhouse.
- Koi Pond
 - The pond is in desperate need of repairs. The PTA got a quote from several vendors and has accepted the bid from Atlantis Water Features.

- The \$3725 expense was approved by the general membership, so the work could begin as early as next week pending coordination with Ms. Allen.
 - Special Thanks to:
 - Ms. Allen - worked with DCSD to get the playground resurfaced
 - Mr. Johnson- keeping the school so clean
 - Chris May - replaced and installed the repaired slide part for free, which saved us thousands of dollars
 - PC Garcia- fixing the broken picnic tables
- **Family Engagement**
 - Walk, Bike, and Roll on October 12 and Celebration of Folks Who Keep Us Safe were successful events
 - Fall Festival held on Saturday November 5 was a great success. Big thanks to all Family Engagement committee members and parent volunteers.
- **Fundraising**
 - Jason's Deli Spirit night on 11/8 earned \$67.65
 - Next Spirit night is on Tuesday December 13 with Cicis Pizza,
 - Book Fair with Little Shop of Stories did well; we are still waiting on the final numbers
- **Student Engagement**
 - Thanksgiving Gift cards
 - please donate money via venmo to Angela Ballard (@Angela-Ballard-3) or CashApp Laura Cline (\$laurajcline), or donate a gift card from a grocery store like Publix, Kroger, or Aldi.
 - Donations of cash or gift cards can also be left in the PTA drop box at the school.
 - All donations will be given directly to the school counselor to distribute.
 - Please donate gift cards or money to Angela or Laura by 11/16
 - Care Closet
 - 10-12 backpacks filled with food from the Eric Hunt Care Closet are going home with school families each week.
 - Anyone who would benefit from receiving this support can reach out to Ms. Wierwille.
 - Anyone who would like to help pack the backpacks can reach out to the committee at studentengagement@laurelridgeelementary.com
 - Angel Tree
 - During the holidays folks will have an opportunity to donate gifts to families. More information will be coming in December.
 - After School Enrichment Activities
 - Dance, Soccer, and Yoga are ongoing and hoping to return in the spring semester

- **Staff Engagement**

- “Staffsgiving”- Wed 11/16, providing Moe’s taco bar, cookies, and karaoke
- Staff Lounge - recently restocked with drinks, snacks, and cleaning supplies
- Staff Lunch - helping coordinate teacher’s lunch order once a month
- Staff Breakfast - planning on providing breakfast January 3 during pre-planning

5. Interim Principal’s Report

- Welcome to Ms. Hartman! She is a LRES parent and former employee, and is well supported by Ms. Allen as she gets ready to start on 11/28. Ms. Allen will continue to answer questions and provide support as she is able as she moves to a new school on 11/28.
- Big thanks to the Family Engagement committee and volunteers for the Fall Festival
- Working on Title 1 plan, several items the school is looking to purchase, and Ms. Hartman is already helping work on getting orders in for software for the teachers to use.
- We are trying to get another piece for the slide on the playground to replace a piece that has a crack in it while it is still under warranty. Ms. Allen called the vendor on 11/15.
- We still need a School Nurse. There has been difficulty hiring due to low salary offered. Current requirements for DCSD are that School Nurses must be RNs.
- School has not received official notice regarding the virtual learning day on 12/6, even though it is currently on the district website.
- Afterschool enrichment - Chess club is trying to start as soon as possible, once they complete the registration process, hopefully by January at the latest.
- Upcoming repairs and projects at LRES
 - i. Mr. Hawkins will come do a building walkthrough with Ms. Hartman to make sure she is up to date on the projects
 - ii. Gym floor replacement is coming up
 - iii. The district will replace the windows in classroom 6 over the Thanksgiving break
- Heavy duty Indoor and Outdoor rugs with the LRES logo are being ordered for the school
- Ms. Allen expressed her gratitude for her time with LRES, and the PTA expressed their gratitude in return
- **Q&A**
 - i. Are all paraprofessionals hired? We still need one 1-on-1 para, and that position has been offered, just waiting to have it accepted
 - ii. What will be the surface for the gym floor? Rubber
 - iii. What’s the current substitute status at LRES? We always need subs, anyone who is willing and able to be a substitute should apply with the county and let the school know to try to get them pushed through HR quickly
 - iv. Any updated communication on the ADA bathrooms? No, no new information. Ms. Allen said she will follow up with that tomorrow.
 - v. Any information about the recent lockdown at the school? The SRO from DHMS let LRES know that there was a general threat to schools in the

general area of LRES. LRES went into a Level 2 lockdown, which didn't lead to any disruption in instruction or the school schedule.

- vi. Any thoughts on moving back to in-person PTA meetings? We may have hybrid meetings when flu, RSV, and Covid aren't as bad as they currently are, in the new year. It is under discussion with the Executive Committee. Childcare would be provided at the school from high school Beta Club members, if we have in-person meetings.

6. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm

Upcoming Events

***see PTA calendar**

<https://www.laurelridgeelementary.com/calendar>