

## SEPTEMBER 2024 PTO Meeting Minutes

Here are your highlights from the PTO meeting held on September 9th 2024.

### 1. Principal Update

- Ms. Sica is our new part time assistant principal at Lakewood Elementary.
- Staff have been working on a smooth transition into the school year despite some of the challenges faced since the first week of school .
- The Lakewood Bond Meeting is September 10th. Parents are invited to hear about new designs and developments with regards to new Lakewood building updates.
- Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15th through October 15th. Mrs. Stewart will be meeting with the Latina parent advisory group on September 11th to plan assemblies and other ways to celebrate throughout the month.

### 2. President/VP updates

- Ali Novara was voted in as Vice President (15 votes)
- Calendar Updates:
  - VIP breakfast and Book fair dates can not be finalized until coordination between volunteers is sorted out.
  - Schuler's Fundraiser and Book Bonanza planning is on hold until VIP breakfast and book fair dates have been confirmed
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - Meet informally with VIP breakfast and Book fair volunteers to finalize perspective dates
  - Confirm with Scholastic that those dates are available to schedule.
- Outdoor learning Space: A product of a school wide fundraiser in March called the Read-a-Thon. The money raised through this fundraiser was named specifically for the outdoor learning space. A total of \$10,000 was raised.
  - Designs have been made by two teachers: Mr. Solomon and Mrs. Recla
  - **ACTION ITEMS:**
    - Volunteer forms need to be distributed to lakewood families
    - Schedule community gathering to begin construction of space for an upcoming weekend
- Plans for the PTO to attend a Staff meeting will be pushed to the October meeting. Date TBA

### 3. Teacher Update:

- Teachers are very appreciative of the teachers' lunch from the first day of school..

### 4. Volunteer Updates

- Display Window: Change to Hispanic Heritage Month display
- Grade level reps: The PTO is reinstating this position within the PTO with the hope to improve communication between the PTO board and parents at each grade level.

- Laura Duren: confirmed as the third grade representative
    - **ACTION ITEM**: Follow up with individuals who have expressed interest in the Grade level representative role.
  - Lead volunteer zoom meeting
    - **ACTION ITEM**: Create a zoom meeting to review the different lead volunteer options for the events we hold throughout the year and what the commitments look like.
  - International Night:
    - Mrs. Stewart will begin discussions with a small group at the end of September or early October to ensure the social justice standards are upheld during the International night event.
  - Fall Festival: The original date set for the fall festival conflicts with the University of Michigan and MSU Football game so the date will need to be changed for this event.
    - The discussion surrounding conflicting dates with religious celebrations during the month of October resulted in the decision to:
      - Incorporate celebrating our communities diverse cultural celebrations with the Fall festival to create a broader cultural event.
      - Representation for Diwali, Dia de Muertos and Sukkot
        - **ACTION ITEM**: Volunteers needed as representatives
      - **The Fall festival will be held on October 19th.**
  - Curriculum Night Plan
    - Robin Pollak will be speaking on behalf of PTO
  - Website volunteer forms
    - Before popsicles on the playground a form was added to the PTO website for parents who are interested in volunteering. Forms were also available at the PTO table during the event.
    - Results: One hit on the website and four people filled out the form in person.
    - **ACTION ITEM**: Mrs Stewart includes a link to the website in the next news letter to encourage parental involvement.
5. Communications/Social Media Updates
- Jodi Hecker is hoping to find assistance with the website and social media efforts.
6. Fundraising Updates
- Fundraising Letter: Robin is proposing to distribute a hard copy letter to be sent home to all Lakewood families explaining how we fundraise. The letter will describe the importance of PTO fundraising and will emphasize that the PTO only wants families to contribute in a way that feels comfortable to them. The letter will also include an outline of the year in regards to fundraising.
    - Website should include an area for direct donations
  - Spirit Wear Sale:

- Due to poor communication with the current T-shirt supplier the PTO is looking to work with a new and possibly local supplier. The Spirit wear sale will be postponed until a new supplier has been identified.
- Fun Run Proposal: Incorporating aspects of Color Run into the Fun Run Event
  - Positivity messages written on shirts and throughout the event
  - Incorporating Fun Run into classroom and/or art class programming to build more excitement surrounding the event
  - Combining grade levels rather than having each grade run separately throughout the day.

7. Treasurer Update: See Budget Meeting Minutes