

**Lawton Elementary PTA
General Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2010, 6:30 AM
Lawton Commons**

In Attendance: See sign-in sheet, attached

PTA Business –

Fundraiser and Committee Updates:

Melissa Denke, Lawton PTA Co-President, had several updates related to fundraisers.

Move-a-Thon:

The Move-a-Thon was very successful. It earned about \$28,500 gross (\$27,400 Net), which was more than was budgeted. Thanks to Maria Alvord and Joni Hughes for chairing this event.

ReUsies and Mabel's Labels: ReUsies earned \$1,064, which was also better than expected. Mabel's Labels will be ongoing throughout the year.

Christmas Tree Sale:

- The Christmas tree sale will be held on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, starting the weekend after Thanksgiving and continuing through the first two weekends of December. The sale will be in the same location as last year (outside Room 108).
- Hilary Sparrow is chairing this event. We will need a lot of volunteers.
- Last year the tree sale netted \$8,000.
- Yard signs advertising the sale are on the way. Flyers are going home via kid mail soon Spread the word!

Budget Update:

Kirsten Dumo had updated budget information available for review. Some specific updates:

- Chinook books are not meeting our budget goal, but are doing okay.
- Brown Bear will be ongoing throughout the year.
- Enrichment programs have been added to the budget.
- Kirsten has a list of other Board-approved changes if members would like to review.

Spring Fundraiser:

- This year's event will not be a casino night; it will be more auction-like.

- Most committee members are returning from last year. This year Diana Deane-Thompson has joined the committee to handle procurement.
- Changes this year will include the return of class projects, an expanded gift certificate wall, and an expanded live auction. There will not be a silent auction unless more volunteers step up to handle it. Sign-up parties will return.
- The date is not yet definite, but will be in late March (26th?) or early April (2nd?).
- The venue and auctioneer are not yet set, but should be soon.
- This year's theme will be "Mad Men" era.

Other Updates:

- Before- and After-School enrichment is up and running. Many groups have already started, and others are starting next week. Descriptions and enrollment forms are available on the website. Tumbling is filling up fast.
- There will be a music concert next Tuesday night featuring the 2nd and 3rd grade classes. 2nd graders will perform at 6:00 PM and 3rd graders will perform at 7:00 PM.
- The Lost and Found will be cleared out before the holidays, so all parents should check for their things.

Building Leadership Team (BLT) –

Margaret Bolger, BLT Community Liaison, handed out information about the BLT and a list of BLT contacts (see attached). A BLT representative will try to attend future PTA meetings in order to improve communication between these groups.

BLT Overview:

- The BLT is a group of parents and school staff who help to determine direction for Lawton.
- Parent and staff members represent specific grade areas or special programs (e.g. Spectrum/special needs).
- The BLT deals with a range of issues, many of which are brought to the group by Lawton parents.
- Early in the year, the BLT helps to develop the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Other issues this year have included after-school enrichment, Spectrum, etc.
- Any parent may contact their BLT rep at any time with a concern, and meetings are open to the Lawton community.
- In general, the BLT deals with policy/academic issues, while the PTA deals with funding and fundraising issues.

Levy and State Funding Discussion –

Ramona Hattendorf, Lawton parent and Seattle Council PTA President, spoke about the Seattle School Levy and about the two ballot measures on which the Washington State PTA has taken a position.

About PTA:

- PTA is a nonprofit organization that supports children in public schools. The Lawton PTA supports Lawton's students. The Seattle and State PTAs also have advocacy functions.
- Legislative priorities are generated by PTA membership. The WSPTA platform is created at the Legislative Assembly in October.

Endorsements:

- The WSPTA has endorsed a "yes" vote on Initiative 1098, which imposes a state income tax on high wage earners.
- The WSPTA has endorsed a "no" vote on Initiative 1107, which repeals a tax on candy and bottled beverages.
- Although PTA is non-partisan, these endorsements are in line with PTA's commitment to ensure that Washington students graduate from high school college-ready. Both will help to ameliorate the state's budget crisis, and increase the amount of funding available for education.
- SCPTA has also endorsed the Seattle school levy. The district pays for a great deal of basic education that the state has failed to fund (for example, the 6th hour of the school day for all students), and levy funds are necessary to help bridge the gap that state-level cuts have created/will create.

Principal's Report, Q and A –

Principal Helm handed out information from the district about the school levy, MAP testing, and the bullying prevention program.

MAP Testing:

Principal Helm went through a district-created PowerPoint presentation on the new MAP (Measures of Academic Progress).

- We have just completed our first cycle of MAP testing. We will do it annually in September, January, and April.
- Seattle is using only the Reading and Math components of the MAP. These are both aligned with Washington State standards.

- The test is multiple choice for grades 2-10, and interactive (with headphones) for Kindergarten and 1st grade.
- The MAP is computer-adaptive, unlike the MSP, so questions get harder or easier in response to students' performance.
- The MAP measures students' current instructional level. This gives teachers immediate information to tailor instruction to student needs, and – since it will be administered 3 times per year – allows us to track student progress more accurately.
- The MAP provides RIT (Rasch Unit) scores, which are on an equal-interval scale. Student reports will also show percentile results (normed on a large national sample of students) and Lexile levels. These can be used to find appropriately leveled books for students to read independently.
- Typical growth for one year is 6-10 Rasch units. About 50% of students normally achieve typical growth.

MAP Questions and Answers:

- Q: Is the MAP aligned with Everyday Math? A: *Not really. Teachers may need to supplement Everyday Math in order to align with the skills on the MAP.*
- Q: How will MAP results be used when students go on to middle school? A: *Principal Helm has not seen information on this. She will look into it.*
- Q: How much guidance do MAP results give parents on how to support students at home? A: *Results are broken down into specific sub-skills (i.e. there is an overall reading score as well as scores for comprehension, vocabulary, etc.).*
- Q: How does the staff feel about the MAP? A: *Overall, they are happy to have additional information about students that is specific, useful, and timely. They are still trying to figure out how to assimilate everything.*
- Q: Is there any ongoing support for staff in interpreting and using MAP results? A: *Lawton has a data coach, but overall the school does not get much coaching support from the district. Grade-level teams will be supporting each other more in the future.*

Bullying Prevention: Staff members are being trained on the bullying prevention program that Lawton will be using. The program is called Second Step (grades K-2)/Steps to Respect (grades 3-5) and addresses bullying, social skills and community building. Adult responses to bullying should follow a "4 As" model: affirm, ask, assess, and act.

Bullying Prevention Questions and Answers:

- Q: Will parents receive information about the curriculum?
A: *There is information in the handout that Principal Helm distributed at the meeting (see attached). She will also post this to the website.*
- Q: Can teachers communicate with parents about when they are using the curriculum in class? A: *Principal Helm will encourage teachers to send home the unit letters that the curriculum provides.*

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Sarah Terry
Recording Secretary
October 30, 2010
[Approved November 10, 2010](#)