



Linwood Howe PTA MEETING

September 5, 2024

Present: Anna Dembs, Emma Smizik, Emily Sacchetti, Cody Ryder, Elaine Delacruz, Mayra Marentes, Kim Sadler, Sara Jones, Amber Iannazzo, Jen Chyi, Abby Lavin, Katie McNayr, Sarah Wechsler, Kevin Seldon, Jessica Albers, Megan Desmond, Rachel Martin, Wesley Flowers, Jenny Lieser, Seth Burton, Shadie Shafii, Claire Pemstein, Fei Krelle, Marion Cueva, Mike Muson, Bridgette Trovato, Zoe Bekas, Tara Prescott-Johnson, Bjorn Prescott-Johnson, Ami Lipman, David Travato, Clare Norris-Bell, Joshua Cohen, Jamari Buxton, Gabrielle Zadra, Christine Zembel, Jesse Holthaus, Mr. Chabola, Ms. Natoli

Excused absences:

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm. President Anna Dembs presiding.

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from June 6, 2024 were approved.

3. Principal's Report - Mr. Chabola

- Thank you to everyone for coming to the meeting, thank you to the PTA, and thank you to our new families who have joined us. A big thank you for making the start of the school year so great, and for everyone's patience and understanding.
- Please be aware of neighbors when picking up and dropping off - do not double park or block driveways.
- There are new lunch time policies for 1st - 5th grade, including assigned seating to make lunch period less chaotic. There was an issue of disrespectful attitudes towards lunchtime staff. This is a temporary solution and classes can earn free seating. This is also an opportunity for students to talk with students who they may not have talked to before. Already the lunch aides have noticed that less trash is being left behind. Two classrooms won the ability to choose their seat this week, and each week there will be two classroom winners. Noon duty staff has been doing a fantastic job both at lunch and during lunch recess.
- As was communicated, there was an incident on campus yesterday. There is a structured process that had to be followed and was followed in this incident. The school communicated with the district office and school security, as well as the counseling staff. Safety is a top priority and is taken very seriously.
- There was back to school morning this morning and tomorrow morning - thank you to everyone for coming. There will be a "Words matter" presentation tomorrow for 3rd -5th graders during the back to school morning.
- Picture day is 9/11, and the purple slip should be brought back with students.
- There will be a Restorative Practices mentor on campus on Tuesday to work with staff on building community within community circles and problem solving.
- There will be indoor PE, recess, and lunch on Thursday and Friday this week due to the heat.
- Please put names on water bottles and outerwear and check the lost and found often.
- Please reach out to Mr. Chabola with any questions. Thank you to everyone for being here!

4. Teacher's Report - Ms.Natoli - Thank you for the back to school lunch and the PTA money for teachers. Ms Natoli is happy to communicate with the teachers about anything the PTA would like to communicate.

5. President's Report - Anna & Josh - Meetings are Thursdays at 6pm. All the dates are listed below. Please RSVP if your children will be attending for pizza and babysitting numbers. Please sign in to every meeting. We approve the minutes from the previous meeting at each meeting. The meeting notes can be found at linhowepta.com. Please join the Linwood Howe PTA Facebook group. Please join and renew your PTA membership. Coffee at the steps will be monthly. Next one is 9/26.

6. Financial Report - Kim

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was run from 06/06/2024 to 09/04/2024, the opening balance of account ending #6970 was \$37,682.16.

There were deposits for the yearbook sales, spirit wear, 5th grade and CFP Studio for \$3,799.65. There were disbursements for \$36,106 consisting primarily of classroom enrichment for this year at \$12,900, 5th grade (class of 2024) for \$5,200, and staff support & appreciation for \$9,500 between the end of last year and the beginning of this year. With total deposits and disbursements, the closing balance as of 09/04/2024 is \$5,375.96. There was a transfer of \$100,000 between accounts x1494 and x6970 on 09/04/2024 that will be reflected in the October Treasurer's Report. The July and August 2024 bank reconciliations for account ending #6970 have been reconciled. The opening balance of account ending #1494 was \$129,991.08. There were two Totem deposits made for \$706.75. The ending balance as of 09/04/2024 is \$130,697.83 and the July and August 2024 bank reconciliations for account ending #1494 have been reconciled.

BUDGET TO ACTUAL

The Budget to Actuals report was run from 07/01/2024 to 06/30/2025 yesterday. As mentioned above, there was \$3,024.65 for income and \$20,666.74 of expenses for this year.

Regarding expenses, almost \$13,000 of the \$19,500 has been spent for classroom enrichment (BrainPOP, Scholastic, and Mystery Science), \$795 was spent on the Joey Taylor Memorial Bench, \$1,747.52 was spent on Staff Support & Appreciation between water towers and WrapStar, and almost \$2,500 for teacher reimbursements.

MOTIONS

Kim moved to approve checks #2447 through #2477 for a total of \$36,105.85. Motion passed.

Kim moved to allow herself to write checks until the next PTA meeting. Motion passed

7. Committee Reports

- VP of Communications - Emily - This role involves making sure PTA events and information are communicated out to the school community whether it be in Mr. Chabola's Dragon Diary, Facebook posts or emails via Room Parents. If you have something PTA related to be communicated out, please email Emily at emilysacchetti@gmail.com - she aims to get Dragon Diary info to Mr. Chabola every week on Wednesday evening.
- Membership - Rachel - Doing a membership and spirit wear sale on 9/12 and 9/13.
- Spirit Wear - Megan & Anna - Doing a spirit wear sale on 9/12 and 9/13. New spirit wear options will be available next week. We will also sell at Family Fun Night.
- Yearbook - Lucy & Anna - If anyone is interested in working on the yearbook, please let Anna and Lucy know.
- Fundraising/Raise Craze - Emily - Emily is the Chair of fundraising again this year. At Lin Howe, we do one main fundraiser every year called Raise Craze. This year's Raise Craze fundraiser kicks off Monday, October 7th and ends Tuesday, October 22nd, so you'll be hearing and seeing a lot more about it very soon. If you're new this year, Raise Craze is a kindness fundraiser. Students register and ask friends & family to support Lin Howe and then pay it forward for the donations received by completing Acts of Kindness. The best part about Raise Craze is that they guarantee a keep rate of at least 90% of the funds raised - last year we had a keep rate of 95%. This is a big difference from past fundraisers. This is a great way to teach our students the importance of kindness and gratitude while also raising needed funds! It also allows for every student to be able to participate because everyone can complete Acts of Kindness even if their family & friends can't provide financial support. This year's goal is to raise \$100,000 and complete 1,000 Acts of Kindness. Last year, we raised \$111,696.38 and completed \$2,350 Acts of Kindness. Reaching our goal funds school field trips & assemblies; classroom supplies; school programs; PE equipment, family fun

nights and PTA programs. We're always looking for people who want to help - you can reach out to me or email LinHoweRaiseCraze@gmail.com to get involved.

- Equity Committee - Fei - New display cases were added in the front. PTA will use the display cases to highlight the cultures of our students. People are signing up for different display cases and supplies have been purchased. We have gotten great sign ups for the fall.
- Book Fair - Sara & Katie - Book fair happens twice a year. First one will be the week of November 4th. We love to have volunteers come in during class visits. Please become a cleared volunteer if you would like to volunteer at the book fair. The theme for November will be space.
- Green Team - Jen & Amy - The green team holds two school beautification days each year. The first beautification day will be Sunday, October 20th. The green team also does the Green Ambassadors program that teaches the kids about sustainability. There are five parents who volunteer each month, but we are always looking for more parent involvement. Green Ambassadors will start in October. We are also trying to revive the veggie garden near the Kindergarten yard, and would like to restart salad days for this school year. More details will be sent out soon in the Dragon Diary.
- CCEF Ambassador - Emily, Shivani, Raaj - Emily is one of the CCEF Ambassadors this year along with Raaj & Shivani Shankla. For those that don't know, CCEF is the Culver City Education Foundation that funds districtwide arts & STEM programs at all of the CCUSD schools. The Ambassador role serves as a liaison between CCEF and each of the schools in the district. We will help make sure that Lin Howe is up to date on CCEF fundraising and the programs they're funding. This year all TK-5th grade students will have 30 minutes of music instruction every week made possible by CA Prop 28 Music & Art Education funding as well as donations to CCEF. 3rd graders receive recorder instruction and 4th & 5th graders receive ukulele instruction which are both supported by CCEF donations. CCEF also provides funding for the 4th & 5th grade instrumental music program and workshops with the Symphonic Jazz Orchestra.
- Reflections - Parrish - Reflections is a PTA sponsored art, media, and dance contest. Looking for help with brainstorming sessions with classes this year. Entries are due in the office by 10/18 or emailed to Parrish. Please reach out to Parrish if you are interested in helping.
- Family Fun Night - Marni - Family Fun Night is September 21st and will be a movie night. Lyle Lyle Crocodile will be the movie. Winter Wonderland will be Saturday, December 7th. Hope for another dance in February and a spring movie night.
- Dragon Wagon - Emily - Dragon Wagon is Lin Howe's Walking School Bus and we kick off next Friday, September 13. We meet to walk from 2 locations: at 8:10am in Carlson Park (corner of Motor and Braddock) or you can also jump in at any point as we walk up Braddock and at 8:20am at Ince/Lucerne. A permission slip for this year will go out in the Dragon Diary tomorrow and is on Facebook. We ask that first graders and under have a caregiver walk with them. No dogs, bikes or scooters so we can keep things safe and calm for everyone. If your child has a tag from last year they can reuse it, otherwise we'll have new ones. We're always in need of volunteers to help keep the Dragon Wagon going, so let Emily know if anyone is interested in helping or you can email LinHoweDragonWagon@gmail.com.
- 5th Grade Committee - Jen - The 5th grade committee organizes 5th grade special events, promotion, Pali Camp, and other activities. There will be a meeting on 9/11 for 5th grade parents. We will have to raise more money than we have in the past to pay for Pali Camp, which is a 5th grade tradition. We are also considering a Halloween themed dance to raise money for the committee with a suggested donation.
- Staff support & appreciation Committee - Angela & Katie - Hosted a back to school lunch for the teachers and staff. National staff appreciation week is in May. We will also host a taco truck in December and May for the teachers and staff.
- Social Committee - Kevin - This committee plans events for parents (not kid events). Please let Kevin know if you have any connections with venues where we could potentially host an event. Karaoke night will be on a Thursday night in late September or early October. We are also trying to do a Whatsapp group for Kinder and TK parents. Events and the Whatsapp group are not Lin Howe sponsored.
- Special Ed Committee - Gabby - The committee has provided programming to all students in past years, including Angel City. Please let Gabby know if you would like to join the committee.

8. Announcements/New Business

9. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Emma Smizik
Secretary

_____date adopted as printed _____date adopted as corrected

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, September 5th & Friday September 6th 8:30-9:15 Back to School Morning
- Monday, September 9th "Dads Happy Hour" *Not official PTA sponsored event
- Wednesday, September 11th School Picture Day
- Thursday, September 12th - Friday September 13th Membership/Spirit Wear Drive
- Saturday, September 21st- FFN Movie "Lyle Lyle Crocodile"
- Tuesday, September 24th- Makeup Picture Day
- Wednesday, September 25th "Moms Happy Hour" *Not official PTA sponsored event
- Thursday, September 26th- Coffee at the Steps

UPCOMING PTA MEETINGS 2024-2025 School Year

- Thursday, October 10th - PTA Meeting 6pm
- Thursday, November 7th - PTA Meeting 6pm
- NO PTA MEETING IN DECEMBER
- Thursday, January 9th - PTA Meeting 6pm
- Thursday, February 6th - PTA Meeting 6pm
- Thursday, March 13th - PTA Meeting 6pm
- Thursday, April 10th - PTA Meeting 6pm
- Thursday, May 1st- PTA Meeting and Honorary Service Award Celebration - 6pm
- Thursday, June 5th - PTA Meeting 6pm