

## Linwood Howe PTA MEETING

February 6, 2025

**Present:** Anna Dembs, Emma Smizik, Kim Sadler, Emily Sacchetti, Kevin Seldon, Ruth Ann Arbuckle, Elaine Delacruz, Christine Zembel, Katie McNayr, Marion Cueva, Sarah Wechsler, Christie Nittrouer, Gabrielle Zadra, Amber Iannazzo, Joqueeta Holmes, Mr. Chabola, Mr. McCullen, Ms. Natoli

### Excused absences:

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm. President Anna Dembs presiding.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from November 7, 2024 were approved.

### 3. Principal's Report (Mr. Chabola)

- Thank you all for being here tonight.
- The TK/Kinder tours have been well-attended, which is great.
- There will be a parent info night about the iReady math and reading reports on Zoom on February 24th.
- This week has been National School Counseling Week for Ms. Lizotte.
- Thank you to everyone who participated and provided information on the CA Healthy kids Survey and Youth Truth Survey. We are working to implement changes that we heard through the surveys. Summaries of the survey results are available in the Dragon Diary.
- Thank you for the display cases - they have been amazing.
- Thank you to everyone for all you do!

### 4. Teacher's Report (Ms. Natoli)

- Thank you for the taco truck, the spirit wear, and the gifts in December!

### 5. President's Report (Anna)

- Thank you Parrish for Reflections!
- Thank you to Christine for Winter Wonderland!
- Thank you to Angela and Katie for coordinating the staff lunch in December!
- Scholarship Update - One scholarship recipient from last year was disqualified so we will have an additional \$750 for this year (\$2,000 plus the \$750). The selection will take place on May 6th. Presentation will be on June 9th. The PTA received thank you notes from last year's scholarship recipients.
  - We will also be doing an additional scholarship in Joey Taylor's name for \$795.

- Honorary Service Awards nominations are due 3/17.
- PTA Positions will need to be filled for next year. A survey will go out again in the Dragon Diary about interest. Committee roles will need to be filled as well.
- Digital Safety Parent Event will be on Monday, March 3rd. Please RSVP.

## **6. Financial Report (Kim)**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report was run from 11/07/2024 to 02/05/2025, the opening balance of account ending #6970 was **\$131,533.89**. There were deposits primarily for 5th Grade Committee, Raise Craze and the Fall Book Fair for **\$28,398**. There were disbursements for **\$21,576** consisting primarily of Fall Book Fair, Teacher Reimbursements, Spirit Wear, Raise Craze and the May movie night. With total deposits and disbursements, the closing balance as of 02/05/2025 is **\$138,355.77**. The January 2025 bank reconciliation for account ending #6970 has been reconciled.

The opening balance of account ending #1494 was **\$123,656.92**. There was no activity in this account. The ending balance as of 02/05/2025 is **\$123,656.92** and the January 2025 bank reconciliation for account ending #1494 has been reconciled.

### **BUDGET TO ACTUAL**

The Budget to Actuals report was run from 07/01/2024 to 06/30/2025 yesterday. Year to date, there was \$184,006.94 for income (58% coming from Raise Craze, 29% coming from 5th Grade Committee) and \$75,710.13 of expenses for this year. 76% were expenses for the Fall Book Fair, Teacher Reimbursements, Raise Craze, Classroom Enrichment, Field Trips and Program and assemblies.

### **MOTION**

Kim moved to approve checks #2544 through #2519 as well as two bank fees for a total of \$21,575.97. The motion passed.

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

Kim moved to increase the 5th Grade Committee income and expense budget lines to \$54,000. The motion passed.

Per the request of Ms. Y in the library, Kim moved to increase the Library line item by \$150 for library software. The motion passed.

Comparable to prior years, Kim moved to give additional teacher reimbursement funding to teachers based on the above target Raise Craze incoming funds in the amount of \$8,400. The 23 teachers (TK through 5th grade) as well as Ms. Liber, Ms. Del Valle, Ms. Hall, Dr. Morales and Ms. Jones will be receiving the additional \$300 that can be rolled over to the following 2025/2026 year. The motion passed.

## **7. Committee Reports**

- Equity Committee - Fei/Mayra
  - **Lunar New Year Celebration** - Last Friday, we had a fantastic Lunar New Year Dragon Parade at Linwood Howe, beautifully hand crafted by Irene Yue. She continues to share the celebration by bringing her vibrant dragons to other Culver City schools this week.
  - **Black History Month Activities** - This month, we are celebrating Black History Month with a fun and educational Bingo card activity, along with a special school-wide playlist featuring music from Black artists. Join us in honoring and learning about Black history and culture!
  - **PTA Equity Committee Inclusion Contest** - Our PTA Equity Committee has launched an exciting Inclusion Contest! The contest began last week and will run until February 14. Encourage your students to participate and showcase their creativity in promoting inclusivity at our school.
  - **Join Linwood Howe for the Screenland 5K!** - Register now for the [Screenland 5K](#) and be part of Linwood Howe's running team! Let's come together as a school community and enjoy a fun and active event.
- CCEF - Emily - Taste of Culver City will be on May 4th. Be on the lookout for ticket sales as the event will sell out!
- Special Education Committee - Gabby - Please let us know if you want to get connected. The committee will be planning an appreciation event in May.
- Green Team - Jen - School beautification day will be on May 3rd. Green Ambassadors was postponed until next week due to the rain. It will be a salad party, and the students will add the compost from last month into the garden. In February, we want other classes to come for salad parties. Jen was contacted by someone who is interested in collecting single use plastic that can't be recycled. Ridwell would collect and recycle the items. Jen will follow up. We are also having students with green vests (3rd to 5th) to help encourage students to keep the campus clean during lunch. We also have students with red vests working on conflict resolution (4th and 5th graders). Green vests could also help with plastic recycling. Earthfest will be held at El Rincon on Saturday, April 19th, and we need a volunteer to run the Lin Howe booth.
- 5th Grade Committee - Mariena/Jen - The committee has raised over \$50k for 5th grade activities, including Pali Camp, a potential Sacramento trip, and end of year celebrations. The committee needs an additional \$10k for the Sacramento trip, which is tentatively scheduled for May 29th. T-shirts are also being made for the 5th graders.
- Family Fun Night - Dance Party - Marni - The dance party was moved to April 11th. The theme is "formal", and Nurse Tim will be the DJ. Movie night will be May 17th.
- Talent Show - Jen - The talent show will be March 15th.
- Social Chair - Kevin - We had an awesome Karaoke night this fall. The goal is to do another event in March before spring break. The committee is working on building membership. Please let us know if you have suggestions. Parents of younger kids (TK- 2nd) started a soccer game for parents on the weekends at the Lin Howe field. The committee is also planning a weekend playdate on the Kindergarten playground.

**8. Announcements/New Business** - *Please see upcoming events and PTA Meeting dates below.*

- The school calendar for the next three years will come out shortly from the school district. The first day of school will be August 20, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Gaga Ball - The kids are really enjoying it. However, it is on the turf, so the soccer players are not happy. We could purchase turf to put on the blacktop, as gaga ball will not work on the grass. It would be approximately \$800 to purchase the turf.
- Measure E is continuing to evolve. The current plans are to build a whole new building on the kindergarten area, as well as a brand new building along Irving with 10 new classrooms, including a music room. We would also be adding a parking lot for 48 cars. Several parents and staff are part of the committee, and Mr. Chabola will share an update soon. The garden will stay by room 26. The tentative timeline would be September 2028 for work to be complete.

**9. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

Emma Smizik  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ date adopted as printed                      \_\_\_\_\_ date adopted as corrected

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Monday, February 10th - NO SCHOOL (Lincoln Day)
- Monday, February 17th - NO SCHOOL (Washington Day)
- Friday, February 28th - Coffee at the Steps (after morning drop off)
- Friday, March 7th - NO SCHOOL (Teacher Work Day)
- Saturday, March 15th - Talent Show
- Thursday, March 20th - Coffee at the Steps (after morning drop off)
- March 24th - April 4th - NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
- Friday, April 11th - Family Fun Night Dance Party (rescheduled from 2/21/25)
- Saturday, May 17th - Family Fun Night

**PTA MEETINGS 2024-2025 School Year**

- 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