
Lowell Elementary PTO Meeting

Tuesday, 10.13.2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Presentations

Watertown Boys and Girls Club - Chris and John came to discuss offerings of WBGC. Serves ages 7 to 18; most kids are 7 to 12. Annual membership is \$25 per child; programs for all kinds of kids. They left fliers for distribution. Sunday November 1 is 5K run. Halloween Carnival is 10/29; fun family event. \$2 with a canned good item and \$4 without; 6-8 pm. WBGC maintains active website and Facebook page. Biddy clinic dates are set up; it's for grades 2 and 3.

Watertown Ed Foundation - Amy Donahue. Hiatus on teacher grants this year. Amy trying to share responsibilities but there is no back up this year. Dancing with the Stars will run this year. Offering the Spelling Bee event to the three elementary PTOs, to run and then to split proceeds into thirds. It is basically free to run this event. Two sponsors are WSB and BSB. It's run per grade; there are "hives" of kids. Always the Sunday before Superbowl. \$60/team. Lowell PTO voted to approved to take over (with other PTOs) as organizer. Amy has all the materials to hand over. Corporate sponsors donate every year. Usually runs 9 to 4 pm.

Ms. Steim and Ms. Connors - Nicole Connors, K teacher, here to show support to PTO. K has participated in the Lowell Learning Garden. It's a real learning opportunity with developed curriculum that will extend as the children change grades. Ms. Steim on Literacy Night and Book Fair. December 18 is Literacy Night--a whole team of teachers is working on this event, to replace Winter Wonderland. Len Cabral will be doing assembly (favorite storyteller). WPL hopefully participating and trying to get kids signed up for library cards. Teachers are encouraging guest readers from community. PTO budgeted \$500, voted to approved to spend on assembly/storytelelr. Book Fiar is Sunday 13th through 18th (Literacy Night is the last night).

Public Book Fair on Sunday; what are the times we should be open? Ask churches to advertise it or announce it during services? It has worked well to have variety of hours, though better not to have money changing hands before 2:15. In the past we have done a few days of selling later in the day to accommodate different family schedules.

Book Fair hours: Sunday 10am-1 pm; M 2:15-3:30 pm; Tu 2:15-3:30; W 2:30-6:00 pm; Th 2:15-3:30; F 2-3:30 and 6-8 pm.

Book Fair (continued) During school hours, the kids come in and we use their scheduled library time to make their wish lists of books. Ms. Steim needs help writing the lists, especially with younger grades, esp. with K-2 grades. Good times for volunteers are 8:45-11 am and 12:10 to 2:15 pm. Morning shift is more helpful because it's the younger grades. Could other parents also volunteer? We have Lowell Community Volunteers has been taken over by Nikki Smith; launching in November. LCV partnering with PTO to get more volunteers.

Events

Halloween event - on 10/30, update from Stephanie. Cafeteria will have face painting and Dunkin Donuts eating (donuts on strings) and pumpkin decorating. No paint, just glitter and glue. DJ in gym doing music. Games in the gym too. Decorations purchased. Need wall decals. 23 middle schoolers and 8 volunteers so far. Spent \$425 so far and maybe another \$30. 4 shifts of volunteers. NO PIZZA being served this year, get the word out so families don't expect to be able to eat dinner this year.

Watertown Savings Bank contest - figuring out distribution sheets that are pre-filled out for Lowell to go home with all kids and scheduling presence on banking Wednesdays for grades 3-5.

Literacy Night - details in presentation section

Book Fair - details in presentation section

Bake sale - 5th grade Pam Dennison and Michelle Monroe doing for grade-level fundraiser. There is a 10/20 meeting for 5th Grade parents.

Auction - A number of people interested in soliciting but we need more. Will hold the auction in March so we have enough time to solicit. Will assign business to individuals for face-to-face solicitation. Room parents could come up with an idea for each room (platter or plate) to auction off. Should reach out to the Lowell Community and ask parents to please donate something? Gift card, service donation, etc.

Still thinking about cocktail reception but will table that for tonight.

Color Run summary - \$1856 made just for Lowell PTO. Michelle Flanagan did a great job.

Finances

Nonprofit status - We have filed paperwork and that part is done. We are able to solicit with status pending.

Dues: \$3135

Financial report: Checking: \$11,033.30, Savings: \$787.33

Subscriptions: \$205.94 (Teacher File Box \$99, ABC Teacher \$40, The Mail Box \$29.95)

Movie Night: \$760.69 (Screen rental \$632.69, Ice cream \$128)

Admin Costs: Paper Goods \$108.10



Fundraising help (dinner nights, event nights). No more gift cards. Kate Swift is going to help with some dinner nights.

School information

Classroom updates - none tonight.

Principal update - 10/20 5th grade parent meeting. Picture Day is this Friday. Can send in forms all week.

Elizabeth is updating Lowell website gradually.

Draft of grant to go to Watertown Cultural Community for Science Night; Candace is putting together grant to go out tomorrow. Free event with hands-on activities.

Teacher are sharing with parents in different ways and it would be great for them to update each other on possible methods.

Enhanced Lockdown drill is coming up. 11/5 information session for parents. Wait a week and then have the drill.

Ideas to discuss

Candy bar Bingo idea from Mary Lynds. \$10 for only 100 seats. Accept candy bar donations and people buy tickets. Play in pajamas? Idea for next year.