

SLLIS - PTO Minutes

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Welcome and President's Update (Tina Greer)

- Plan to wrap up by 7:10, so children can be picked up by 7:15. Need to respect time of staff providing child care.
- President's report
 - Back of Agenda includes answers to some of the parent questions submitted at the last meeting. Please review.
 - PTO is building its own website. Hopefully next month it will be ready.
 - Contact sheet is in process. Decided to include list of committees, their goals, and co-chair contact info. We are contacting co-chairs to make sure they are ok with having email addresses listed publicly.
 - In communication with SLLIS re PTO owning buzz book. Sounds like SLLIS's new website and app platform (not to be confused with separate PTO new website) may have opt-in capability so families can agree to allow SLLIS to forward contact info to PTO.

SLLIS Fundraising (Development Director Lydia Chen)

- SLLIS has the following fall fundraising efforts planned:
 - Winter sale of gift/cookie dough. Proceeds go to SLLIS website development. Goal \$5,000. Seems doable, as last year Chinese program families raised \$3,000 with same sale. Parents asked in future to get a little more info including purpose of fundraiser, % SLLIS receives for sale, donation options if parents don't have time to participate. One parent gave contact info to Lydia to assist with this effort. Others asked for longer lead time on sales. French program families only got flyers on Oct. 31.
 - Box Tops--fall submission raised \$510.10. Thanks to Spanish program parent Angela Archambault for her effort on this fundraiser. SLLIS receives \$5 for every 50 box tops. Spring goal is \$1,000 so we need 10,000 box tops. Start clipping them now!
 - Schnucks and Amazon donate to the school when you use the Schnucks Gives Back program or Amazon Smile. There will be a table at P/T conferences next week to give info on how to sign up. Also keep an eye out for Dine Out nights where eating at a restaurant on a particular day sends money to SLLIS.
 - Giving Tuesday is Nov. 28. SLLIS is hoping to raise \$5,000 for field trip busses. This will give us 20 busses
 - SLLIS website has a green "donate now" button on the top right. Use it to make a one-time or recurring donation to SLLIS.

- Lydia is grateful to see so many families eager to make SLLIS great. She loves the school and what it offers children in St. Louis. Working together we can help SLLIS succeed in its mission. Please feel free to reach out to her at lydia.chen@sllis.org with questions. Debi Viamontes, PTO treasurer and Fundraising committee chair, connected with Lydia and hopes to coordinate future fundraising efforts between SLLIS and PTO.

VP Update (Tugrul Ozdemir)

- Social/engagement committee is working on building the website. Plan to have a forum board for each of the committees to communicate and exchange ideas.
- Planning a social gathering for all school families. Committee has several ideas, e.g. aerodynamic competition...paper airplanes, and is coordinating with principals to make something definite. Goal is to have lots of school families come together, not just kids.

Communication Report (Kathryn Bonney)

- Will update at next meeting. Kathryn is out of the country today. Goals are to complete list of room parents (by contacting teachers where she hasn't found person) and to communicate with room parents about expectations of the role this year so we can have some uniformity

Finance Report (Debi Viamontes)

- On track to submit 501(c)(3) paperwork soon. Have parent volunteer to help with this.
- Fundraising committee is hosting used uniform sale during P/T conferences. Will be at Marine this time. Please send donations to receptionist at either campus by Friday Nov. 3. All clothing and shoes will be sold for \$1, coats for \$2.

Committee Liaison Report (Liz Turpin)

- Teacher appreciation: Thursday November 9 committee will organize brunch for teachers and staff on each campus. Staff is happy to have homemade food (unlike policy for kids who may be unable to determine which foods have allergens). Committee will create sign up list so we have a variety of food, drink, and papergoods at each campus. Have lead volunteers for each campus. Will accept donations if people can't bring food. Any extra funds will go into PTO account for future events.
- Facilities/Tech committee: Trying to figure out to get started. Will get list of committee members and ask Sebastien Babolat and Baldomero Alvarez for tech needs and ways parents can help support. Will discuss other ideas with committee members.

School Improvement Committee Update (Ben Wolf)

- Communication boards will be placed at both schools so we have physical place to see what's going on.

- Curriculum night in December will help parents know what's happening in the class rooms.
- Committee is brainstorming about how they can support the PBIS team.
- Attendance is a concern and are also working to figure out why kids aren't coming to school and how parent community can support school goal of improving attendance numbers
- Other topics committee plans to work on: closing the achievement gap, measures to assess achievement in target language that works across language programs
- Next meeting is on November 14 at 6:30 at the Carpenter Branch Library. Please come all are welcome. Also passed around note cards for any ideas parents have for this committee to work on.

SLLIS Admin Update (Rob Biesendorf)

- Introduced all language and culture reps who were present at meeting: Fan Yang, Coumba Gueye, and Ana Lopez
- Update on English instruction--had to cut some English teaching positions after federal budget cuts came down and it was not the best situation. Have now worked out a plan for the next trimester so that the reading interventionists and ELL teachers will push into classrooms on both campuses to give additional English instruction. This will end up increasing English instruction for most students compared to last year. For example, last year in the Chinese program K-2 students had 100 minutes per week of English instruction from a teacher, French had 220 minutes, and Spanish had 125 minutes This year it will not be 180 minutes. Plus students will have iReady on top of that.
- Staff transitions new 1st and 3rd grade teachers will be starting in Spanish program one within a week and the other within a month. SLLIS did not want to just hire a warm body, but wanted to find teachers who can really deliver what we are looking for. Feel very good about these new hires.
- Target language instruction for K-5 students is virtually 100% outside of English instruction. 6th grade at Marine is a team teaching program so less. 7th and 8th grade is virtually all English instruction, except their target language classes; so this is like the instruction will receive in high school and college.
- Intern imbalance--parent question about why Chinese program had interns and others had few or none. We are coming together into 1 school from 4 very separate programs. We are slowly aligning everything to be equitable. In terms of financial expenses, it costs approximately 7k per intern when J-1 visas, monthly stipends, daily breakfast/lunch, and Amity International fees are taken into consideration. The cost is the same regardless of country of origin. We currently have seven interns, 6 in the Chinese program and 1 in the French program. In terms of other resources needed, a substantial amount of time is needed to work with Amity on the part of SLLIS personnel. There are limitations on the type of work done by the interns and number of hours spent at the organization. As we begin budget planning for next year in early 2018, we will be examining various options for interns, and involve the PTO and School Improvement committee in the process.

- NWEA testing is nearly complete. SLLIS does NWEA testing each trimester to track student progress. Based on prior test scores, school sets a progress goal for each student with idea that SLLIS should be supporting that student's progress to reach the target. Data from Chinese program testing (which is completed now) is that 74% of Chinese program students met their math progress goal, and 70% met communication arts progress goal.
- **Upcoming events / activities:**
 - No school on November 3, teacher report card prep for end of trimester
 - No school Nov. 9 for P/t Conferences. Conferences this year are from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday Nov. 8 and 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday November 9.
 - No school on Nov. 10 for Veteran's Day

Actions:

- Tina gather info for contact sheet and committee list, report re PTO website progress
- Debi and fundraising committee:
 - connect with Lydia to review spring fundraisers and how PTO can support and compliment SLLIS fundraising plans.
 - Uniform resale
 - Finalize 501(c)(3) paperwork and file with government offices
- Kathryn to reach out to all teachers for whom she doesn't have room parent listed, to create basic list of room parent duties (keeping in mind past practices in various programs may have been different), and begin communication plan with all room parents.
- Tugrul to set date for community activity, recruit parent help to organize and host.
- Liz organize and host teacher/staff brunch on Nov. 9
- Ben/Danielle: conduct school improvement committee meeting, report back