

Lake Travis Middle School PTO
Meeting of the 2011-12 LTMS PTO Executive Board
December 13, 2011 – 9:00 am – LTMS Library

1. Call to Order/Welcome: With a quorum present, Lake Travis Middle School PTO President, Babita Deitrich, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., the President being the chair and the Secretary being present.
 2. Approval of Past Board Meeting Minutes: It was motioned to accept the November 8, 2011 Executive Board Meeting minutes as written. **Motion carries.**
 3. Principal's Report: Principal Russell Maedgen reported that his main focus since Friday has been on the lockdown. He attended a district wide debriefing session. He reported that he learned a lot from the incident and felt like students and staff did a great job. He reported that Friday is early dismissal at 1:00 p.m.. The students will go to every class for a short time and lunch.
 4. Officer Reports
 - **Treasurer:** Treasurer Caroline DeLaat reported that she is maintaining the bank account and has updated the budget to reflect items approved at the last General Meeting. She has received a few NSF checks which were easily resolved.
 - **President:** President Babita Deitrich, referencing Jane Rose's resignation letter and the LTMS PTO Bylaws reported that she, as vice president, has assumed the position of president. A motion was made to adopt a statement of change with the state of Texas that, effective immediately, current president, Babita L. Deitrich, shall replace the former president, Lillian J. Rose, as Lake Travis Middle School PTO's registered agent. **Motion carries.**
Babita reported that she is working with the new planner representative and discussing selling ads to appear in planner to possibly offset the cost of the planner to students.
 - **Grade Level Reps:** 6th grade rep. Cindy Hardage reported that Kazaam sign-up is going well with close to 50% of the volunteer spots filled. She reported that Mr Gatti's has offered to donate pizza, and she has been offered free Games to You by the parent/owner. Cindy reported that she still needs committee chairs for games and for decorations.
 - Amy Springer — no report
 - Linda Knebel — no report
 5. Standing Committee Reports
 - **Communications:** Communications committee chair Lynn Ballard reported that the newsletter is going out as normal and the LTMS PTO Facebook page 23 fans.
 - **Fundraising:** Fundraising committee chair Lori Barnett discussed fundraising possibilities. She reported that she is still planning to hold t-shirt design contest.
 - **Membership:** Membership chair Courtney Helton reported that Jill Siler & Myra Pettit will speak on STAAR testing and End of Course Exams at next general meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.
- Special Committee Report
- School Store:** Babita read a report on behalf of School Store chair Lisa McNerney, "My only update is that the school store is doing great. We have some items for sale this week for holiday gifts. I will order the new storage cabinet after the holiday to ensure someone is in the office to receive it."

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6. Other Business

- Committees and quorum clarification: Secretary Stacy Jespersen explained the need for board members to RSVP to Board meeting announcements to ensure we have sufficient board members, as defined by the LTMS PTO Bylaws, present to conduct business.
- Vice President Appointment: President Babita Deitrich motioned to approve Courtney Helton as the vice president for the LTMS PTO. **Motion carries.** Motioned was made to change check signers on the checking account to reflect the change in officers as follows: Babita Deitrich, President; Courtney Helton, Vice President; and Caroline DeLatt, Treasurer. The membership committee chair position is now open; however, Courtney will continue to perform the duties of that position as required.
- Correspondence: Babita Deitrich read a thank you card from 6th grade team of teachers for the delicious pies donated for the Thanksgiving pie store and correspondence from Susan Steffes regarding the Veteran's Day celebration (see attached).

7. Adjourn: It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted 2 January, 2012,
Stacy Jespersen, Secretary
LTMS PTO

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Attachment
Correspondance from Susan Steffes

From: Susan Steffes [<mailto:ssteffes@austin.rr.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 8:09 AM
To: 'jane rose'; 'president@ltmspto.org'
Cc: 'Elena Brooks'
Subject: PTO general meeting (please share)

Dear Jane & PTO members,

I am sorry that I am not able to join you in person today to relay this message.

To those of you who were at LTMS on Friday to do your part in filling up balloons for the Veteran's celebration I'd like to apologize for the delivery of my message. I was upset by the administration's lack of environmental responsibility and refusal to consider an alternate plan for the celebration (having the children pop the balloons as a "21 gun salute" to the veterans instead of releasing them into the environment). That the PTO board did not take a stand to this end and agreed to fill the balloons after I had presented the facts to them the day before upset me further. My emotional plea to you on Friday morning was one that was not well presented and, as I understand it, left a few of you feeling bewildered. While in hind sight a well thought out presentation to you would have been more compelling and perhaps more persuasive I felt short on time and desperate to get the release of the balloons curtailed to minimize the environmental impact and the mixed message being sent to our kids about what is acceptable (biodegradable in 6 months is still ground litter for 6 months; also biodegradable does not mean digestible and many land/water animals will eat balloons). The message itself remains my focus however and I do not apologize for brining my concern and disappointment to you. So, I am writing to apologize for the way I presented my message but not for the message itself. I am deeply troubled by the lack of environmental responsibility the school and PTO showed on Friday, and more troubled by the message it sent to our children regarding their part in environmental responsibility. It is my hope that the PTO will consider the ramifications of their actions more carefully in the future and be strong enough in their convictions to take a stand for what is right, even when it goes against the administration.

Respectfully,
Susan Steffes
PTO member