

LME PTC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES-FEBRUARY 15TH, 2017

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Meeting called to order by Dr. Downs at 6:33pm. Introductions were made. Agendas were distributed. 19 people were in attendance. Quorum was met. Meeting minutes from December 2016 were approved.

Dr. Downs distributed forms relative to the district and class size. One form summarized SACS class sizes in relation to other districts nearby. SACS district is third on the list (least to most) with only an average of 22 students in K-5 classrooms. These class sizes are directly related to our referendum which allows a lower teacher to student ratio. He reported that when there are larger classes, the district tries to put an aide in the classroom until a longer-term decision is made. SACS will only hire very qualified teachers. Sometimes the pool of choices is not satisfactory and thus other measures are taken. Dr. Downs reported that when there have been higher class sizes, it has not affected academic performance.

How are decisions made to remedy class size? Factors that are considered by Dr. Downs and the school board are growth, infrastructure needs, debt and impact on property taxes. These factors determine how money is distributed each year. For example, Homestead needs expensive repairs i.e., a new HVAC system. Homestead also has other repair issues as it is the oldest building in the district. This must be addressed soon. On the other hand, schools are getting full again (e.g., Covington is full; LME is full; Woodside is getting full; Summit is open; Aboite and Haverhill have room). Future growth in these schools is analyzed as well. Hiring new sections to reduce class sizes (if there is room), redistricting and/or adding on to schools is considered. Another factor that must be considered in making these decisions is what impact, if any, there will be on tax payers, keeping in mind that most of the tax payers in our district do not have children in school. SACS district does have a company that does this type of analysis.

Options for LME: 1) redistrict neighborhoods to Aboite or Haverhill; 2) do similar addition on one end of LME as was done at Covington; 3) redistrict Covington into LME so that they will also feed into Summit since there is room there and 4) hire new fifth grade teacher to reduce class sizes in that grade. It looks likely that there will be another 5th grade teacher added next school year if enrollment stays

the same. This decision will not be made until summer. If they choose to redistrict a neighborhood to Aboite or Haverhill to reduce class size, incoming 5th graders will have the choice to grandfather in as long the parents provide transportation. Adding on to LME may be a consideration in the future.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Fedele reported that the Science Fair and Maker's Space Night was a huge success. We had over 80 science fair participants which is the largest to date. LME has a scholarship from the state that is funding 3 teachers to learn more about Maker's Space activities and supplies.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Our popcorn machine is no longer working. The board will evaluate the budget to see if a new one can be purchased.

Both Recording Secretary and Communications Secretary positions are open. Rebecca reviewed the duties of each roll. One Co-Vice President position is open. We are in desperate need of a carnival chair next year or this event won't happen! Marie will determine other chair positions that need to be filled so that volunteers can be recruited.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Glow Ball: The Glow Ball Dance will be Friday, February 24th from 6-8pm. Everything is set and ready to go for the glow ball dance.

Teacher Appreciation: The teacher appreciation lunch in March will be moved to Tuesday the 21st.

Color Run: The Color Run is scheduled for March 24th. Sponsorship is needed for this event. Please contact Sarah Medina at boxers2medina@yahoo.com if you know of an individual or business that would like to sponsor our Color Run.

Fine Art's Day: This is scheduled for April 12th. PTC will sponsor a luncheon for all staff members and parent contributors that day.

Spring Book Fair: This is scheduled for the week of April 24th-28th.

Donuts for Dads: Donuts for Dads for last names A-L is scheduled for April 25th; Last names M-Z is scheduled for April 27th.

Box Tops: Angie Guttman reported that the 2nd contest is wrapped up. She is scheduling a box tops counting party here at school in the next 2 weeks. Angie will let us know the date and Teri will put it on Facebook.

NEW BUSINESS:

The idea of asking teachers to help recruit volunteers for PTC events/positions through their newsletters was discussed.

Teri suggested having a “go to” meeting option for the next PTC meeting where people can sign in from home to tune in. Discussions ensued whether this could be done once a year to see if attendance increases.

ADJOURNED:

Marie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Teri seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

NEXT PTC GENERAL MEETING APRIL 18TH, 2017 AT 6:30PM IN THE SCIENCE ROOM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcie M., Co-Secretary