



Lyon & Pleasant Ridge PTA Meeting
February 18, 2025
9:15 AM at Lyon School

Minutes

Present: Jen Havill, Leisl Bonakdarpour-Jaberg, Ruth Karakosta, Shannon Shryock, Jaylee House, Shannon Shryock, Emily Alexander, Amy Kiekhofer, Joel Holland, Stephanie Killian, Allison Alden, Michelle Reider, Sarah Wagoner, Katie Jones, Stefanie Shefler,

Stephanie Herrera, Casey Cullen

Zoom: Meg Spathis, Katie King, Kelly Lieber, Ann Phister

Meeting called to order 9:20 AM.

1. **International Night Recap - Joel Holland** – Thank you to those of you who attended. Joel could not have done it without his co-chairs, Suma Shah and Natalie Badawi! Planning to have a chair and an assistant chair in the future, so that the next person can step in next year. It seemed like attendance was down (200-300 people estimated), but everyone loved it. Pleasant Ridge was a nice location because of the layout of the classrooms. Thank you to the volunteers. All of the GBS student volunteers were excellent. They really took the initiative of asking what they could do. Stephanie Herrera hosted the Mexico room all on her own.
2. **Family Bingo Night Recap - Meg Spathis** - There was a wait list for the event! There were over 100 people. Goode & Fresh for all you can eat pizza for \$5 was popular and worked well. No downside overall, but the capacity limits limited attendance – so a pricey event when only 50 kids were there (per child benefit) with their parents/guardians. Maybe lower end prizes in the future. It was a “super easy event to run,” though.

- 3. Benefit Update - Ann Phister & Stephanie Herrera** – Benefit will be held on March 8, 2025 at Valley Lo. 140 tickets sold so far! Many donations from local businesses have been made. Valley Lo has donated beach passes and beverage passes. Someone donated \$2,000 over this weekend. People are looking at the sponsor packages. Starting to look for extra entertainment for the Benefit. Hope the event will be fun, and it is casino themed. Menu will include heavy appetizers, and a cash bar.

Is anyone interested in doing a sign-up party? This is a great way to give back, too. Stephanie Herrera, for example, is hosting a party: Eras Tour backyard party. Dance party for families on a Friday night. Another way to support would be to get friends together and sponsor a casino table. \$750/sponsor a table. Families can donate a bottle of wine for the wine pool. (Cannot drop off at school. Contact Jen or Steph, or drop off at Kaplan's house.

General sponsors – have hit target for this school year. Separate from benefit sponsors.

- 4. Next Dining for Dollars: Culver's on 2/20/25 (corrected from 2/18/25 on agenda)**

- 5. Upcoming Events: Family Movie Night, Science Fair (need judges), Spring Book Fair**

- 6. Grant Review & Vote - Katie Jones**

Nine grants were applied for this year. Roughly \$15,000-20,000 per year for grants. This is Katie's fourth year in this position. It is roughly split between the schools, usually. (This money comes from the fundraising and the benefits.)

Grants Proposed:

Lyon - Drama Room Soundproof Panels (\$3,000) -Absorbition will save some "drama."

Lyon - Multilingual Book Set (\$800) – Kindergarten (Most things with books get high scores.

Lyon – Set of Read-Aloud Books (\$1,000) – Kindergarten (Students come in with English as a second language, and so students can get exposure to English books.) Stefanie – "Making sure all our families can read together."

PR – Fantasy Novels sets of books (\$724) The Thief of Always – so each student can each have their own copy.

PR – Second half of Esther Storie's Historical fiction/related non-fiction books for LRC (\$1, 260.) She applies every year for a grant, and Katie applauds her for doing it every year.

PR – Teacher's Lounge Furniture (\$4,000) – Desperately in need of new furniture. Hoping for it to be a cohesive environment. This should be a good start. Maybe incorporate some wish list items from the grant application into Teacher Appreciation Week (such as supplies and a new microwave.)

PR – Finding Nemo Drama Show Kit (For 4th grade for next year) (\$545) – Advising yes.

LY – Adaptive Art Kits (\$200) – Advising yes.

LY - Art Room: Air Purifier and Filters (\$200) – for days with clay, etc. Yes. LY can provide more filters in the future, according to Ms. Shefler.

PR – 4th Grade teachers asked last year for collaborative games. Half the amount was granted last year, with the idea of donations of games (not successful.) Exec felt all the grades could use more for soft start and indoor recess. \$700 for each grade, and remainder for EL (English Learners), across the grade.

Total just under \$15,000 (majority to Pleasant Ridge this year. Lyon - \$5,200, PR – \$9,529.)

Teachers must have receipts submitted by June 1, 2025. Teachers usually implement as soon as funds are available, apart from the Drama Panels which will be installed over summer 2025.

Katie will inform teachers by letter this week.

Vote for Teacher Grants passed by 22-0.

Question asked: Do we add a teacher column to the metrics? “It becomes more subjective.” – Katies Jones.\

7) **Report from Principals - Mrs. Shefler**

It was great to see families at International Night! It was a great opportunity for families. Bingo night was “crowded in the best way possible.” Report cards are out. Conferences are coming on Feb 27th/28th. Thank you for providing lunch. No School on Friday, Feb 28th. Just finished benchmark assessments. Making sure we know who needs or doesn't need additional support. Second grade – enrichment is not coming back, but we offer opportunities for students who need more enrichment, such as book clubs in the classrooms, asking the students higher order thinking questions. Students learn how to talk about a book, as that can be a challenge and learn how to write about their reading.

Instructional learning meet as a team – we are implementing all the strategies, both academic and SEL, and use data for that. Culturally responsive practices are in use. We look at data beyond district 34, to push the gap forward for international students. Small groups. Vocabulary half days with staff. Discussions on how to support students at all levels. Making students aware of what they need to work on. Retentional focus. Academic strategies.

SEL: The highest need right now is in the hallways and dismissal (and when

students are sent off on their own. Physical contact issues are being discussed. Students need to learn when not to get in others' faces, etc, and there is a lot of non-compliance, although we [as a school/staff] don't want to be "militant." What does non-compliant mean? Students might need reminders or visuals (like they need to go to a quiet corner.) There are 10 books on foundation strategies!

Lyon practices the Positive Ratio – every student needs three positive to one negative comment. This is hard to do with one teacher to 22 students, so all staff needs to participate in this whenever possible. (Such as simple positive comments like, "hey, I like your pink shirt!") Lots of reframing is needed. It's hard even for Stefanie to remember not to say "No running!!", but to reframe to "We walk in the hall." She will try to keep everyone in the loop. Stefanie is willing to talk to anyone with questions about this! "Give your best effort." Stefanie is "oddly excited" to discuss these things!

You get \$10 off the Benefit for attending this meeting!

Meeting Adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Minutes taken by Leisl Bonakdarpour-Jaberg, Secretary