**Lincoln/SOTAII/CMAP PTO Notes**

**Sept. 7thth, 2021 at 5:30pm**

*Indigenous Land Recognition Statement*

*We recognize that the School District of La Crosse occupies the land of the Ho-Chunk people. Please take a moment to celebrate and honor this ancestral Ho-Chunk land, and the sacred lands of all indigenous peoples.*

Present : Eric Johnson, Barbara Jo Wolff, Susan McParker, Julie Fogel, Neal Meier, Melissa Murray, Phil Addis, Heather, Tammy Wills

Meeting was called to order at 5:35

Secretary Report (Susan McParker) Reviewed notes from June. Eric moved to approve and Neal seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report (Eric Johnson) Account balance is $2516 which is comparable to previous years at this point. There is still money to get out of the PayPal account from the Cougar Dinner last year, about $800. This does not account for parent contributions from the beginning of this school year.

Principal Report (Melissa Murray)   
It is only the 4th day of school but Breakfast on the Turf this morning went well. It is a new event and it might be tried again in the spring.

There is a Walk your Child to School day coming up in early October.

*Staffing*: There are 9 new staff members. The PTO typically gives some start up money to each of the new teachers. New Teachers: Stephanie Baumgartner - 6th special ed, Ruth Ann Bent – Spanish, Clinton Grabhorn - Art (shared with Logan MS), Melissa Hanson - SOTA II, Zach Mayer – Orchestra, Courtney Mickschl - Charter special ed, Maile Parker - 7th Sci/Soc St, Ty Washington - 6th Math/Sci. There is also a

new TA - Othelia Fair, and a new Social Worker we will share with Longfellow, Walfsty Pierre.  In the process of hiring a new cultural and family connections coordinator.

There is a half-time music position that has not been filled yet. The school is looking at how to support CMAP because the program has 29 students with one teacher.

*Safety Protocols*: The ‘lunchroom’ has been split into 2 locations to accommodate lunches. Efforts are being made to observe 3’ spacing between students. Masking has been going well. Quarantine protocols have changed slightly with a return to school being possible earlier if there is a negative test within a specific range of days after exposure. If a student is quarantining, classes will be made available via Zoom.

iPad handout is Thursday, Sept. 9th. This follows lots of coordination with IT.

Josh Wolcott is the new Student Success Coach who helps identify interventions that might be helpful for individual students following the past 1.5 years largely away from in-person school. There is also a new school social worker, Walfsty Pierre who we share with Longfellow MS.

Mrs. Murray is starting up Parent Round Tables again. Watch for quarterly Round Tables with the first one in mid- to late- October.

Districtwide Parent Group Report (coming next month)

Old Business

Apparel: Can be ordered until next Friday, Sept. 17th. Barbara Jo will pick up the orders from school. There was discussion of putting down written directions to the apparel process for future years.

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser: Oct. 11th from 4-8 pm. Be sure to tell them you are with Lincoln PTO when ordering. Barbara Jo will check with Kimberly about the flyer for the event.

Teacher Requests: None this month

Fundraising: Annual fundraisers include apparel sales (once- twice per year), Kwik Trip cards, and the new (last year) Cougar Dinner. We have done fundraisers at restaurants such as Texas Roadhouse, Culver’s or DQ in past years. Julie will look into Culver’s as a possible fundraiser for Jan/Feb of this year (2022) or next year.

New Business

Elections: President: Barbara Jo Wolff; Vice President: Phil Addis; Treasurer: Neal Meier; Secretary: Susan McParker

Bylaw Review: Our bylaws are old, and many things have changed, such as dues. Phil is going to send a template of common PTO bylaws. It was asked if we could change our official name, but that would require getting a new tax-exempt status ($, time). It was also clarified that only incorporated entities can be not-for-profits.

Teacher Representative: There was discussion about a desire for there to be teacher representation on the PTO, and if that should be added to bylaws if they are rewritten.

Next meeting: October 5th at 5:30 pm, same set-up (in-person and Zoom options) assuming there is no change in school structure (hybrid, at-home).

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Susan McParker.