**Parents Association of Lacamas Students (PALS)**



**Lacamas PALS Monthly Meeting Minutes – *December 12, 2018***

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. by President Therasa Cheng.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Board Members & Chairs:** Therasa Cheng, Michelle Poloni, Tina Swenson, Tara Backus, Jennifer McCullough, Lisa Bullard (CEF Liason)

**Lacamas Staff & CSD Staff:** Julie Mueller, Renee Fadis, Jennifer Clary

**Guest:** Catherine Epstein (VTS Representative, Dorothy Fox)

**GUEST SPEAKER: Catherine Epstein, Dorothy Fox**

* **VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies)**
  + Julie Mueller introduced the concept of Visual Thinking Strategies. She also introduced guest Catherine Epstein from Dorothy Fox.
  + Upper Left Projects is a modified training version of VTS that is available to Lacamas Lake Elementary at a reduced cost.
  + VTS uses art to facilitate discussion among students where all viewpoints are accepted and encouraged; allowing students to dive deeper in their understanding and learning to support viewpoints with evidence.
  + Julie expressed that a benefit of VTS is how well it aligns with curriculum standards. She read positive comments from students expressing an appreciation for the way in which VTS facilitates learning to listen, taking time to slow down, learning to pay attention to detail, expressing their opinions, revising their thinking based on the thinking of others, etc.
  + The training uses art images but extends into other academic areas.
  + Julie is asking 8 teachers to commit to the training and to train their peer teams.
  + Legacy Funds has $18,000 plus in unallocated funds.
  + Lisa Bullard motions to allocate $4500 from Legacy Funds to purchase Year 1 of VTS training. Jennifer McCullough seconds. All in favor. Motion approved.

**BOARD REPORTS**

* **Secretary’s Report: Tina Swenson**
  + November meeting minutes submitted. Tina moves to approve minutes. Jennifer seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
* **Treasurer’s Report: Michelle Poloni**
  + Reconciliations for November budgets were submitted without discrepancies. The Legacy Funds account was also reconciled. Michelle moves to approve both reconciliations. Lisa seconds. All in favor. Budgets approved.
  + The Legacy Fund balance is $18,997.04 ($4500 of which was allocated to VTS).
  + We have outstanding income from CEF for reimbursement of the worm bins.
* **Volunteer Report: Tara Backus**
  + Jennifer McCullough was named as Volunteer of the Month for November.
  + The budget for volunteer gifts for the year is $150.
  + Tara submitted an invoice for volunteer gifts to cover expenses for the year.
* **Literacy Report: Jennifer McCullough**
  + We have $4054 in Scholastic Funds that needs to be spent.
  + Julie suggested using some of the money to buy books for the 20/20 awards and for the specialists ($500). Jennifer suggested giving each of the 18 teachers $100 each for their personal classroom libraries ($1800).
  + Jennifer McCullough motions to allocate $2300 of Scholastic Funds for 20/20 award and teacher gifts as outlined above. Michelle seconds. All in favor. Motion approved.
  + Jennifer will need to step down from her chair position next year and would like to have an assistant shadow her during the second book fair of the year (June) prior to assuming the role.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

* **World Class Martial Arts Fundraiser – Therasa Cheng for Adrianne King**
  + We are confirmed for 1/15, 1/17, and 1/18 at 2:50 with class running from 3:00 to 4:00. They will do a demonstration on January 7th during lunch and will pass out fliers that day as well. Therasa will make sure a flier is put together for Peach Jar distribution.
* **Dine Out Fundraiser**
  + Michelle reported that we will need to push the Dine Out until January. The tentative date is January 22nd. The dine out will include purchases from both MOD Pizza and Menchies.
* **Book Worm Bazaar** will be December 20th. 
  + Kids will have the option to use points for IPAD screen time and a treat during recess or defer use of their points to a later date.
* **CEF Mini Grant Brainstorming**
  + Deadline is January 31st.
  + Therasa proposed submitting a grant proposal for years 2 and 3 of the VTS training and a subsequent year 1.
  + Julie suggested asking for funds to stock kiln supplies.
* **CEF Gala Donations**
  + Julie suggested using the kiln to create heart tiles that would be donated to the Gala. Existing Art Funds ($1200) would be used to hire an artist to assist in the process and purchase supplies.
  + A suggestion was also made to donate an adventure with the Principal.
  + Parents can also suggest donations for the auction based on their trade or interests (such as SAT tutoring, etc.).
* **June Author Visit**
  + McKenzie Snell is excited about the possibility of being this year’s June author but is concerned about the event overlapping with finals. Therasa will coordinate with McKenzie regarding an alternate date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Storage Bunker**
  + The bunker at Lacamas Heights must be cleaned out by Spring Break. Files will need to be professionally shredded. Emergency supplies will be brought to the new campus. Julie is going to look into the possibility of putting a storage shed on the new property (in lieu of renting a long-term storage space). Legacy Funds would be used to purchase a permanent PALS storage space. Therasa will find a Saturday to take trash from the bunker to the dump and coordinate with Julie for delivery of the ER supplies to LLE. Michelle will store the files until we can figure out how to have them shredded.
* **All School Sing Along** 
  + The All School Sing Along is Friday the 21st at 2:00. PALS will donate candy canes.
* **Family Game Night**
  + Date is TBD.

Meeting adjourned by Therasa at 7:43 p.m.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m.**