

MINUTES

Luther Jackson Middle School PTA Minutes January 15, 2009

Principal's report

Ms. Porter announced several upcoming events at the school. Touch Base with Teachers will be on February 12th. The Rising 7th grade parents orientation is on February 24th. The SOL writing test will be held on March 3rd and 4th and SOL testing will begin May 18th and end on June 5th. All tests will be conducted online this year.

She updated the group on the following news from the school:

The LJMS team in the American Mathematic Competition scored in the top 5% in the country and among the top 15 middle schools in Virginia. This is the first year we participated in the competition.

Ms. Porter updated the PTA on the proposed change to the Bell Schedule. This change could possibly become effective in the next academic year. Parents are encouraged to become informed on this important issue and if they have comments or concerns, they should contact their School Board Members.

Teacher Liaison Report

Ms. Costa asked for help for various upcoming activities. She needs volunteers to provide desserts for the Jackson Showcase (formerly the International Festival) and parents to sell carnations and tickets to the Valentine Day Dance. She also needs parent chaperones for the dance.

Treasurer's Report/Budget

Ms. Teitelbaum distributed the monthly Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2008.

Secretary's Report

There was no Secretary's Report.

President's Report

Mr. Kendall reported that the PTA By-Laws and audit were going to be in order by the end of the academic year.

He also reported on the Budget Meeting held January 14, 2009. Dr. Dale is supporting the Tier 2 proposal which would include a salary freeze and an increase in enrollment. Ms. Porter reported on that the affects to LJMS under the Tier 2 proposal. They include 2 to 3 less teachers next year, fewer electives being offered to students and losing clerical, custodian and counselor positions.

Mr. Kendall discussed the Fair Grade report that is being voted on by the School Board. Parents are encouraged to become informed on this issue and voice any comments and concerns to their School Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Report

Ms. Dombroski reported that membership has increased over the prior academic year.

Communications Report

There was a discussion amongst the group of attendees on how to improve communication between the parents and the school. It was suggested to send information out to parents via email or through Blackboard. It was also suggested that modifications should be made to improve the web site.

Ways and Means Report

Mr. Kendall reported that the PTA earned a little more than the cost incurred for Spirit Wear. It was recommended to order extra of everything to sell during upcoming events such as the Jackson Showcase.

Volunteers are needed to operate the PTA store. It was suggested that spirit pack items should have tattoos, water bottles, wrist bracelets, etc. be sold at the store.

Social Events Report

Planning will begin soon on the 8th grade dance. Ms. Costa will assist the parents in planning this event.

Next Meeting

February 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school library