

Friends of Syracuse Latin General Board Meeting  
September 19, 2017

## **Agenda**

### Welcome and Introductions - Brea Allers (5-min)

- Welcome to all families, old and new. It's great to see administrators, teachers, families, elected officials.
- We are so happy to grow and collaborate together.
- The biggest vote we will propose is the budget. Margaret has worked really hard to make the appropriate changes.
- Introductions of the PTO team

### Treasure's Report - Margaret Chajka (5-7 min)

#### Proposal of the 2017-2018 budget

- Treasure's Report: We are responsible for both Hughes (\$2,679) and Syracuse Latin (\$7,980)
- The budget seen on your sheets is for this year only.
- Vendor event goes directly back to students, school and PTO events.
- Read-A-Thon is our big fundraiser. Make a change with how we use this money. We would allocate this money by grade level. The money would travel with them as they move up the grade levels. The money would go directly to the students who raise it and travel with them throughout the years. We would charge each grade level a fee if we run out by the class picnic.
- An idea for the \$7,000 would be to go back and give the grade levels their money they have raised in the past. It would take about \$5,000.
- Anything outside of the proposed budget would have to be brought up and approved.
- The past treasure's were very good at keeping records of the past money.
- We are voting on starting a grade leve fund for the school.

-Principal Manard- there is a difference in the class sizes and it needs to be noted.

-We will not allow any grade level to suffer from lack of participation. We thought it would be easier for parents to get behind the fundraisers so the parents would know where their money is being used.

-Concern: parents would feel horrible because they can't participate in the fundraiser and their child is going to suffer because of their economic disadvantage. It should be a community program and coming to together as a school.

-We still plan on having a family involvement meeting date each month so families can get together and meet without money involved.

-We could take all the money and split it between all the grades equally.

-There was recognition for reading the most minutes last year as well. The kids were recognized for minutes read rather than money earned.

-Divide the total money proportionally by number of students so it's more equal.

-Should we put this on a trial basis for the year and revisit in April/May?  
After we have documented the money.

-Principal Manard: It gives the grade levels a place to put their money that they are raising for a specific trips or activities.

-VP Hunter: we put the emphasis on the reading part. We encouraged the kids to read the amount of minutes as a lifelong skill. We never tied money when we talked about the fundraiser with the kids in the cafeteria or on the announcements.

-We just looked at the biggest fundraiser and were trying to come up with a plan to help everyone do trips. It was never meant to be punitive.

-We can split the entire money by pupil per grade level so it's distributed evenly.

-Proposed to split the total money by pupil, by grade level.

Principal's School Review - Mrs. Manard (10 min)

-VP Hunter is here and Chris Chirinos (3rd) and Michelle Frost (K) are teachers that will be joining us this year as well.

- Our phone lines are now combined with Hughes
- We expect afternoon traffic to go way down at Hughes Place once the after school program begins in October. Thank you for your flexibility.
- Kids grab their breakfast on their way to their classrooms, no more delivery to the classrooms anymore. The kids have adapted well to this process.
- Please fill out your form for free and reduced lunch even if you don't think you qualify. Snacks are from Wegmans on Wed-Friday. Individual classrooms are making decisions for snacks on Monday and Tuesday.
- Non-Food Birthday policy: We want to keep everyone safe. There is a list of non food activities, if needed.
- Classroom volunteers are always needed.
- Attendance is very important. Call the main office if absent.
- Homework is expected each night. Including a weekly reading log. Scholar dollars are rewarded for the students completing their homework.
- Enrichment clusters will begin in October. K-1 paper options, 2-4 online options
- Spanish is getting moved to a special area and will be 45 minutes.
- Library Media Specialist (Ms. Maine) will be pushing in to complete activities and support in other ways. Students will continue to be able to check out books each week.
- Reach out to your child's teacher if you have classroom questions. There is a 24 hour turnaround policy. Class Dojo is also an option to ask questions.
- Principal email on Friday's will continue. The website has a detailed calendar to plan for future events.

Parent University Director - Andrea Bernard (10 min)

- Three workshops in the city of Syracuse we provide childcare, bus vouchers and refreshments.
- 10/14 Family Fall Conference at PSLA at Fowler
- Information will be mailed to you about monthly events

- Luberta Crouch is the Family Engagement Facilitator for Latin, get in touch with me if you want to have a family event at Latin, in the building weekly
- PEN Parent Engagement Notebook, it's a guide with information about each grade level, it's a pilot and we are asking families to attend at least 2 pen pal meeting. We will try to tie it into activities at school. K-2 at this point.
- Thank you for providing child care to all our PTO meetings

#### 21st Century YMCA Program Liaison - Miriam Swanson (10 min)

- Maryam Swason running the program.
- 4 day a week program, have to commit to all four days, no part time options
- 3-5pm, there is transportation or pick up option
- 2 days a week they will do enrichment and 2 days will be academic
- Averages around 16-17 students in each class, grade levels are split up for academics but some enrichment classes are combined grade levels
- Dance, art, music, soccer and much more are offered
- Kids get to choose their academic projects and enrichment programs
- Oct 16- May 10 on the days we are at school
- Applications online

#### Brief open discussion of PTO related events only (10 min)

- Pres. Brea: friendly reminder of keeping the Facebook page positive and for appropriate questions. Email teachers or office staff for specific questions about personal issues.
- We will eliminate room parents this year. The teachers will have sign ups to get involved.
- PTO website is under construction. We would like a link to the Syracuse Latin school web page to all information is consistent and available in one spot.
- We will have school spirit wear sale ready to go next month

Adjourn 7pm

Next Meeting October 17, 2017