



MINUTES

LWE PTO General Meeting

Date: 11/02/2023 Time: 8:05 am

Current Board: Samantha Bloomquist | Brittany Barnette | Ann Mitchell | Jennifer Suehs | Mei Dragoo | Carmen Beck | Cassie Reynolds | Kristin Murphy | Heather Davis

Opening - Samantha B.

Updates:

- 400 people to pumpkin party - very successful
- Book fair next week
- Ultimate recess next Friday as reward to students for Apex
- Pie day coming up - GC for teachers
- Birthday lunches this year again, have generous sponsors, and PTO has taken over the adopted staff program. GC for all adopted staff from PTO
- Holiday lunch in December
- 1/26 Father/daughter dance
- Sign up for Konstella! All communications and signups through this app/website
- Apex Numbers update - \$78,342 raised
 - Money will go to pay for:
 - Hotels for training in SA next week
 - Mad science assembly in January
 - PE equipment
 - Teacher lounge stocked
 - much more
 - Teacher 10% back - \$235 back, handed out today

Principle Report – Sam Hicks

- Could have retired 4 years ago but wanted to get us back to normal after Covid
- Have been preaching on the weekends during this time, to senior centers, etc
- Felt a call to make the move; going to seminary full time starting in January
- Going to change careers to be a Methodist preacher
- Feel good about being back to “normal” at LWE
- Biggest strength in LWE is PTO
 - Covered playscapes because of PTO
 - Things will be different with new principal and board, new traditions and changes
 - Mighty mustangs program is new tradition

Guest Speaker – Dr. Norton: Bond Presentation

- Increase of 3300 students in next 10 years; this will be a 6-7 year bond
- Still working on athletic piece, glad others passed in last bond election
- Many major projects in the works
 - Technology, guard houses, new parking lot, video wall at PAC, security on various campuses
 - Design of HS #2, ES #8
 - New road for HS #2 to HW71 and emergency egress to Hamilton Pool
- Long range planning for HS #2
- No athletic facilities except for gym in new school
- Safety/security concerns
- New bond called in June 2023
- 40% athletics, 30% other performance based extracurricular activities
- Challenges without this:
 - Overcrowding
 - scheduling/practice limits
 - Student travel/bussing
 - safety/security
 - Where to store equipment, instruments, etc
 - Property was purchased to take traffic off 620...if bussing back that doesn't work
 - Bussing students for athletics, etc will take away from drivers for regular transport
 - Increased sharing of weight rooms/training
- HS #2 - open fall 2027; \$143 million
- Football, baseball, softball, tennis, track, grass practice fields, locker rooms, multi-use activity centers
- Need equitable facilities at all schools
- LTHS has been added onto 7 times already - we have efficiencies and designs to maximize space and build from scratch
- Artificial turf on baseball/softball better for long term - can be used year round and rented out for other things
- Baseball fields almost 40 years old - need updates
- Renovations to cavalier stadium for things like graduation - want to be able to open it to more people; 7400 seats right now - want to get to 12000 (we have one of smallest stadiums)
- Women's field house addition and renovation plus adding for lacrosse, which is coming
- Golf amenities, mens field house, lighting, fencing, more seating at track stadium
- Replace turf and track at middle schools; HB even more locker room, fields, sound etc
- Added in replacement of turf to BCMS and LTHS now so we don't have to have another bond before it needs replacement
- New HS has capacity of about 2000; 3500 at LTHS - 2 different sizes so they aren't competing against each other.
- Facilities at HS#2 will be less/smaller
- Lowest tax rate in LTISD ever
- We are a recapture district and send alot of money back to state; bond does not go into the recapture, all stays in the district
- No tax rate increase
- LTISD homeowners get 20% reduction in appraised value through homestead exemption
- All school proposition bonds must say "this is a property tax increase"
- Early voting until 11/3; election day 11/7
- Only 4600 people have voted up until 10/31

- Presentation on the school website
- GO VOTE!

Questions:

- No name yet for new HS
- Campus will open with 9th/10th grades to start
- Why not Property tax increase? Making sure that expenses and debt balance out

Closing - Samantha B.

- Housekeeping items: September Minutes Approval
 - 1st – Jennifer S.
 - 2nd – Heather D.
 - APPROVED
- Mr Hicks' last general meeting - PTO wanted to give a gift and thank you for everything
- Big reveal for Mr. Hicks - Texas Texas Yeehaw sign

Meeting adjourned 8:50am