

Leonardo da Vinci PTO Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2024

In attendance (by screen name): Juliana, Kiran, Nikhil Arora, Sowmya V., Jackie Krutz, Becca Tassone, Jeff Pergolski, Hind Gautam, Jennifer Nissen, Margarita Johnson

Principal & Staff: Vicki Leisgang, Sue Soleski

Call to Order/Introductions

President, Hind Gautam, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Hind welcomed everyone, introductions of new officers were made, and the PTO Mission was read.

President's Report – Hind Gautam

The Back-to-School Event was a huge success.

The PTO has a new website – www.davincipto.com. It has the 2024-2025 Teachers' Wish List and 2024-2025 Teachers' Favorite Things. Newsletters can be found on the website, and if you are not already receiving them, you can also sign up to receive them there. The PTO Connect is a private database that is only shared with families that choose to be listed on it. You may sign up for it through our website. Remember that teachers will not share class lists, so this is the best way to connect with your child's classmates and their families. You may also get signed up for PTO Connect through the newsletter link or by emailing us at ldavincipto@gmail.com.

Principal's Report – Vicki Leisgang

Vicki indicated that the staff and students are doing well, and it has been a good transition into the new grades.

There are many positions open on WECAN. This is a WI education website that shows public support vacancies. Some of these positions have not been held in 4 years. LdV has openings for the following:

- Forensics head coach – No one has headed in the last 1-2 years.
- Musical director – This is usually in spring and consists of middle school students.
- Show Choir director – This usually occurs in the winter.
- Talent show assistant director – This show is usually for 4th/5th graders, and it occurs right before Xmas.
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Regarding putting up decals, stickers or posters on students' lockers when they have an event going on, e.g., sporting event, dance recital, etc., Vicki indicated that the school has a spirit team, made up of middle school students, and this is one of their tasks and is limited to events held at da Vinci as it is not possible to keep up with all students' outside activities, and could result in some students being inadvertently left out.

The running club was discussed at length by the group. Vicki indicated that Ms. Hockers and Mr. Dennis will continue to run the club in the spring. Currently there is no teacher interest in overseeing a winter

running club, we therefore will not be having it this year. There are parents interested in a winter running club, but without a staff member involved, there are too many liability issues for it to be school-affiliated. Jackie Krutz had asked if they could still do the club if a parent ran it. She suggested that the PTO could share dates. She also asked if signed waivers would allow the winter club to happen. It was decided that due to several reasons, including liability, a winter running club would only exist without the school and/or PTO participating.

Vicki provided clarification regarding the curriculum:

- The William & Mary Gifted Language Arts Curriculum is still being used at LdV. It is not going away as it keeps us at a high level of learning. With that being said, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has Act 20. Act 20 requires specific criteria regarding the K-3 literacy curriculum. We legally must have this, so it is being added.
- We are looking at adding more curriculum – meshing the old with new. LdV is looking to fill in any gaps at the lower grade levels.
- The Social studies curriculum has been added in. No part of the curriculum has been taken out for the new to be added.
- This year, 6th through 8th graders will be taking a State-mandated health class that will be integrated into their physical education class. Students will have one class a week for a semester. LdV has not done this the last few years, so it will only be this year that 6th through 8th graders need to do this. Beginning next school year, it will just be 6th graders.

Vicki added that any further questions or concerns ahead of our next meeting, may be directed to her or Hind via email or in person and she will be happy to address them before or at the next meeting.

Staff Representation Report – Sue Soleski

Sue thanked the PTO for its support and said that all the staff really appreciate us. She said the teachers enjoyed filling out their Wish Lists and Favorite Things.

Sue runs the school store and mentioned that that some of the raised funds went to the store. The store typically opens in late October, but, this year, they will be opening it on October 3rd. She is hoping the early start-up will help new students understand the importance of Leader Loot.

Harvest Fest – Jackie Krutz

The date for this event will be October 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The school will host this event and set up will begin immediately after the end of the school day. Vicki said that a request for the total number of tables and chairs needed should be sent to both her and Erika, and they will be sure to get that request to Mr. Terry.

The DJ typically arrives first between 3:30 - 3:45 p.m. The cost is \$500-\$600 for the event, but Jackie said they try to offset those costs with the food sales. Parent donations for food items, e.g., baked goods, pizzas, etc., are much appreciated.

There will be a dance party, 3-4 carnival games (i.e., cornhole, ring toss, bowling). Middle school students will have a face painting station. There will be photo opportunities and usually 2 art stations. Middle school volunteers will run most of the games/stations. The event will take place in the gym and extend into the hallway. Jackie is working on the school district permit form with Erika.

General Discussion

It was discussed that we will soon return to Tuesday meetings as they work the best for most. Vicki would like at least some of those meetings to be in-person – at least 1 or 2. The majority will remain as virtual.

Currently, we are only doing online apparel sales, and that window should be opening soon. We discussed bringing back the racks of clothing, so people can see/touch the merchandise. It would be nice to have some available for Harvest Fest. Even if we have no product on hand at that time, we can have samples and order forms. We would need volunteers to staff that station. Becca suggested we offer bumper stickers and magnets too.

New fundraisers will continue to get added to our website. The next restaurant fundraiser will be on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Noodles & Company on Oneida Street. The food is priced normally. 25% of the sales will go to the PTO. You can order in person or online – just be sure to mention the fundraiser, show the flyer or use the code when ordering.

Meeting End

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It is the annual procedural budget meeting, and it will be in-person in the school gym. There will be an option to appear virtually.