

Hall PTA Board Meeting

Larkspur Rec Center
240 Doherty Drive
Larkspur, CA 94939
October 3, 2023

- A. Call to Order - President Jessica Edelen
 - 1. Regular Hall PTA board meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.
 - 2. Time for sharing gratitude, rumors, etc. included discussion about the recent hiring of an 8th-grade language arts teacher, a move that replaces the previous plan to provide a virtual curriculum. Board members expressed concern about the way the school and district handled communication surrounding the situation. Jessica encouraged any concerned parents to contact Dr. Brown directly.
 - 3. The board discussed the inquiry into SPARK's finances.
- B. 8th-Grade Rep Update (Liz Koch)
 - 1. Sweatshirts have been ordered.
 - 2. Dr. Brown confirming graduation dates. Once determined, buses will be reserved for the class trip to Discovery Kingdom in June.
- C. President's Updates
 - 1. Reminder to PTA board members to sign up and attend LCMSD and/or SPARK meetings. Jessica attended the October LCMSD trustee meeting and reported back on a successful summer school effort at Neil Cummins.
 - 2. Social media needs a boost at Hall, especially to promote events like the upcoming walk-a-thon. Mr. Beach is paid a stipend to handle social media. Board members discussed ways to increase social media presence and connect with Mr. Beach to increase frequency.
- D. Treasurer's Report (Lara)
 - 1. Explanation of PTA reimbursement form, which was sent out to board members via TeamSnap. Lara's preference is for hard-copy submissions. Following last meeting's discussion about teacher expenses/stipends, it was determined that we'll go back to teachers individually submitting receipts for their expenses.
 - 2. Lara noted Dr. Brown's discretionary fund, which amounts to \$15,000. She said this fund should be broken down into wide buckets of expenses for more specific accounting purposes.
- E. Spirit Wear Update (Sharlyn)
 - 1. Spirit wear sales have doubled this fall, with over 100 items sold, compared to last spring.
 - 2. A board member suggested putting items in a display case to help with sales. Another suggested announcing spirit wear on social media.
- F. Talent Show
 - 1. PTA will fund a talent show next year at Hall. April 2 date set, with rehearsals in March.
 - 2. Marina, one of two Hall parents leading the effort, is working with the student council. But the talent show will also rely on parent volunteers.

3. Kids will be alerted about the opportunity after Thanksgiving break.
 4. The idea is to treat this as a “guinea pig” year and see how it goes.
- G. Walk-a-Thon 10/6/23 (Sarah Esslinger)
1. Raised \$42,000 so far; goal is \$50,000. One more email to be sent from class reps to boost donations.
 2. Full slate of volunteers
 3. Kids will arrive on the field at 1:15 p.m., take pictures with their homeroom and begin the walk-a-thon.
- H. Principal's Updates (Toni Brown not in attendance but updates relayed via Jessica).
1. Fall sports are going well.
 2. Science teacher Rebecca Newburn is looking for PTA funding (\$1,500 stipend) for the school garden. The board discussed the request and decided more information is needed (For example, is the \$1,500 for start-up costs, or inclusive of ongoing needs?). Lara mentioned that PTA pays taxes of 22 percent on stipends. Jessica said she would talk to Toni for further clarification.
- I. LCMSD Trustee Update (Natalie Medved)
1. The next meeting is 10/11/23 at 6 p.m. and will include discussion among board members about the parent (Matt Kirk, Neil Cummins parent) inquiry into SPARK's financials. Kirk is being given time to speak. The board plans to take a position on the issue.
- J. Parliamentarian (Betsy)
1. Betsy is getting up to speed on bylaws (clarifying questions about national PTA dues) and addressing whether/when PTA needs to do an update.
- K. Additional President Update
1. Need for a teacher rep on the PTA board. Jessica plans to look into this.
- L. Membership (Rana Lozani)
1. Membership has been changed to “PTA support.”
 2. Campaign has been quiet for the last few weeks to help prioritize SPARK fun run on 10/15. PTA support communications will ramp up after this time.
- M. Hospitality (Erin Alvarez not present so updates relayed via Jessica)
1. Teacher lunch slated for 10/13. 8th-grade reps are helping. Other grade level reps will help in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters.
- N. Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.