

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board Meeting

March 19, 2025

In attendance:

Council - Andrea Malenfant, Mandy Gerstenbrand, Kellie Dummer, Debbie Pline, Nicole Dant, Megan Moore, Mike Testa, Andrea Oquist, Theresea O'Brien, Stacy Jenkins

Guests - Laura Zeigler, Christine Broome, Erica Cording, Christina Engler, Bruce Rivera, Sarah Benbe, Janet Staebler, Alle Sanchez

In attendance via Zoom: Holly Kerkhof

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mandy Gerstenbrand.

Approval of the January 15, 2025 meeting motion by Megan M., 2nd by Nicole D. Minutes, unanimously approved.

District Report – DEIB Update – Theresea O'Brien

- They gave an overview of the DEI committee, which added a B for Belonging in 2023
- In 18/19, LPS created a committee of staff throughout the district to determine if people felt welcomed and valued. It was a volunteer group.
- In 19/20, LPS held trainings and hired a part-time facilitator who traveled around the district. Unfortunately, she left LPS for a job with Wayne RESA. Common definitions for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion were created along with school climate and culture goals.
- In the Spring of 2023, the committee focused on “How do we make this part of every school?” and created a definition for Belonging.
- In 24/25, LPS circled back to each school's goals to find out what is working and what needs to be changed. These goals are part of the school improvement team. This school year is also focused on getting answers to grow and shape the progress that the district has made.
- Council can have one point person for DEIB information. That person will share information with the school PTA groups.

Livonia 75 Committee – Stacy Jenkins

- Presentation of the Livonia 75 Time capsule project. Stacy created a flyer to explain the idea. Council will share with all the PTAs and ask them to participate if they want. Stacy will create a Google form for the PTAs to fill out so the district can keep track of where all the time capsules are located and when they will be dug up.
- Kellie is hoping to do a video/photo History of the PTA in Livonia. She would like to get interviews from older PTA Presidents and current PTA Officers. There are lots of photos and older information at Cass in storage.
- Stacy is also working on a project with up to 20 LPS high school students who would like to do an oral history interview. More details to come.

Respectfully submitted by Kellie Dummer

Superintendent Report – Andrea Oquist

- Happy Belated Birthday to Laura U.
- Governor Whitmer visited the new LECC to promote early pre-school with the chairperson of the MI Leap Program
- March is Reading Month is going great. The themes around the district are always so creative. Admin and school board members have been reading at various schools around the district.
- The Fine Arts Festival starts April 4th at the Civic Center Library and art is displayed all month.
- Day of Music was a success! All 6th graders get a chance to learn about all the middle school music options before they choose classes.
- The Chamber of Commerce Leadership Awards were held and LPS received a Community Enhancement Award for LECC. Student Hayden H. won a youth award for his Share Kindness Project. The TOY and support staff of the year were recognized as well.
- The Livonia Warriors took 1st place at the Kettering district event. Their next event is at CHS on March 28/29
- Local road construction is causing lots of transportation issues with buses. Please be thoughtful and patient with transportation department employees.

Elementary Report – Christine Broome, Hayes principal

- Thank you to all the community members who have been guest readers.
- Elementary report cards are live on Parent Connect.
- Staff met on PD day with their groups to go over data.
- Kindergarten registration is now open.
- M-Step tests will start after spring break.
- World Down Syndrome Day is 3/21. Wear your craziest socks!

Secondary Report – Bruce Rivera, Emerson MS principal

- Winter sports have ended. SHS hockey went to the State Championship and only lost by 1 point in OT.
- Spring sports have started at the high schools and will start soon at the middle schools.
- All the high school drama/CAPA musicals have been excellent.
- CHS Unified basketball got to play at Little Caesars Arena.
- All high school bands have gotten high scores at MSBOA.
- The marking period is ending this week, and CSAs are going on.
- Secondary PSAT and SATs will be held after spring break. M-Step will begin after that.
- Honors Nights and Proms will be held in May.
- At Emerson, student improvement has been improving. Every student will be getting a free book in the library as a PBIS reward.
- Middle School preview nights will also be held soon.

Respectfully submitted by Kellie Dummer

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations Committee – Mandy G.

- 2025/26 Executive Board
 - o President – Mandy Gerstenbrand
 - o 1st VP – Keadin Parish
 - o 2nd VP – Andrea Malenfant
 - o Treasurer – Nicole Dant
 - o Corresponding Secretary – Megan Moore
 - o Recording Secretary – Laura Ulaszek
- There are no nominations from the floor. Voting will take place in April. Thank you to the committee.

Reflections – Megan M.

- The ceremony will be on March 20 at Franklin HS
 - o 6:30 pm gallery viewing, 7 pm ceremony

Transportation, Warehouse, and Maintenance Appreciation Event – Mandy G.

- We are assembling the bags tonight. They will be distributed tomorrow morning along with donuts.

OLD BUSINESS

Chili Cook Off – Kellie D.

- Everything went well. Profit was around \$1400
- Council received an email from past president Jerilyn Petersmark, who would like to give Council a long-standing donation. After some discussion with the board, we have decided this donation will create a prize at the Chili Cook Off in honor of the late Mike Ulaszek - “Mike Ulaszek – Most Unique Chili” Prize

Founders’ Day – Andrea M.

- Went well. 50/50 was a big hit. Profit was around \$1800

OFFICER’S REPORTS

Treasurer – Nicole D. - See printed report.

Corresponding Secretary – Debbie P. - No report

Recording Secretary – Laura U. – No report

2nd Vice President – Andrea M. – No report

1st Vice President – Kellie D. – No report

President – Mandy G.

Respectfully submitted by Kellie Dummer

- Officer Training will be on May 21st. Frost volunteered to host. Mandy will get that set up. Tonya, from MI PTA, has offered to do a group session on PTA culture.
- MI PTA Convention sign-up is going on. They are asking councils to create a centerpiece. Mandy will find out who from council is going. Council can reimburse members up to our budget limit.
- Spree Tickets – Kayleigh has contacted Mandy to let her know they are getting the online links ready for the PTAs to use. More info to come.
- Reminder to only share verified PTA information on your school PTA's social media pages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy – Mike Testa - No report

Bylaws – Andrea M.

- National PTA released a toolkit for the dues increase, but it is only available to MI PTA officers. Mandy is working to get that information. We will share it with the units. If they are going to increase their dues to cover the expenses, they will need to do a bylaws change.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging - OPEN (Mandy)

ELVs & Math APS – Keadin P. – no report

Founders' Day – Andrea M. - Report above

Membership - Nicole D

- 2,471 members

Newsletter – Laura (written report)

- Articles for the next newsletter will be due March 27
 - o Remember to write for the future
 - o Put text in email, attach pictures

PEP – Keadin P. – No report

Reflections – Megan M. – report above

STEM – Patty N. – No report

Student Engagement – Andrea M. – No report

Website – Laura U. (written report)

- Check your pages on the website and send any changes to Laura.

YMAD - Debbie P.

- 1860 participants at all schools, except Niji Iro

Respectfully submitted by Kellie Dummer

- We might have to switch to the comp gym at CHS because the PAC only holds 950 people.

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Other Business

none

Motion to Adjourn at 7:37 p.m. by Christina Engler.