



Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary PTO
653 Poinsettia Ave., Vista, CA 92081
Tax ID# 94-3434482

Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary ELAC/PTO Meeting - Thursday November 18, 2021 in the Conference Room

Officers in attendance: President Estela Diaz, Vice-President Celestina Baez, Treasurer Erika Duran Gomez, and Secretary Suzanne Whitman

Administration: Linda Heinrich, Ammi Bozonelos

Parents in attendance: Lupita Alejo, Taline Arthur, Monica H., Susana Montero, Mary Narez.

1. Call to Order

8:54 a.m. Meeting called to order by Principal Linda Heinrich.

2. Approval of Minutes

Secretary Suzanne Whitman reviewed the October PTO Minutes. Estela made a motion to approve, seconded by Principal Heinrich. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ELAC Report

No updates to report. We will continue to combine the PTO and ELAC meetings since there is an overlap of information shared and parents who attend.

4. President's Report

President Estela Diaz will add Treasurer Erika Duran to the PTO bank account. There were no other updates.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Erika Duran gave her report.

- a. October Balance: \$11,129.11
 - i. Spooktacular Revenue: \$3,373.23
 - ii. Expenses (Spooktacular, Spiritwear, Turkey Grams): \$3,584.76
- b. Current Balance (as of 11/18/21): \$13,331.01
 - i. Pending Deposits: \$18,500 (grant funds) + Spiritwear Sales
 - ii. Pending Expenses: \$1,035.43 (books for library)

6. Principal's Report

Principal Heinrich gave her report:

- a. Interviews for the Assistant Principal begin on 11/30/21. After the initial interview, the candidates meet with Superintendent Andy Johnsen, and then need to be approved by the School Board. The new Assistant Principal will most likely begin after Winter Break.
- b. Students will bring their chromebooks home during the Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break, as well as library books. They will get a reading and math activity card during Winter Break, and the class who has the most participation will receive a Read Aloud or Number Talk with the Principal.
- c. We are ordering more playground equipment for the students
- d. Teachers are doing lessons in their classes each week to enhance students' social skills. Mrs. Heinrich has seen improvement in students' behavior since the beginning of the school year.

A parent asked about the process to select a new Assistant Principal:

Mrs. Heinrich responded that first candidates must meet the criteria from the job posting and apply. Mrs. Heinrich and district staff review the applications and set interviews. One specific criteria for our site is that the candidate has experience with English Language Learners. Mrs. Heinrich, office staff, a teacher representative, and district staff attend the initial interviews. 2-3 candidates will typically advance to meet with Superintendent Johnsen, and he makes the final decision. The potential Assistant Principal will speak more with the Principal, rather than spend time observing the school.

7. New Business

President Estela Diaz brought forth new business.

- a. The PTO is selling Turkey Grams for \$2.00 before and after school 11/15 - 11/19
- b. The PTO is participating in the Boon Supply Fundraiser between Nov. 8 - 22. Ms. de la Torre is in charge of this year's campaign, which is entirely virtual. The PTO will receive 40% from each purchase. Teachers have sent the website information through ClassTag and Class Dojo, and students brought home a catalog.
- c. The Holiday Concert will be on Dec. 8 from 5-7 p.m. Secretary Suzanne Whitman stated that the PTO is in charge of reserving the space and custodial needs, and will be selling drinks and snacks. They are looking into getting food trucks as well. The PTO will probably not have craft stations for the students during the event, and is not planning on the Santa's Workshop during lunch. The Community Room is being used by the nurse, and it's still tricky getting parent volunteers on campus with Covid protocols.

8. Announcements

- a. The PTO has received a grant for \$18,500.00 from the City of San Marcos Covid-19 Nonprofit Community Grant Program. Taline Arthur submitted the application and will be distributing the financial guidelines to the PTO.
 - i. Mrs. Heinrich stated that bringing field trips and/or assemblies to campus is less expensive than traveling to sites. In the past the Safari Park brought a program to the school that was very popular. Mrs. Heinrich and Mrs. Bozonelos stated that companies and organizations are beginning to contact teachers with program options.

9. PAC Update

- a. Taline Arthur is Joli Ann's PAC representative and gave an update. At the Nov. 17 meeting they let schools know about new vaccine requirements for vendors that work with PTOs on campus. Suzanne received an email about this, and will make sure that the PTO has the latest information on any recent changes.
- b. All volunteers need to be fully vaccinated. Treasurer Erika Duran stated that all ROTC students (who volunteered at the Spooktacular) are vaccinated. One parent expressed frustration that there were not bilingual instructions at the bingo game at the Spooktacular, which created some confusion. Erika stated that ROTC students are required to complete community service, but are not necessarily required to be bilingual. Mrs. Heinrich stated that we can ask volunteers if they are bilingual and try to place them strategically throughout events.
 - i. How are volunteers solicited? The PTO and school asks for volunteers on the weekly phone/email messages, and creates online sign-up sheets that are posted on the school's social media pages (Facebook & Instagram) as needed. Not every parent checks their messages, so perhaps the school can add more signs around campus to increase visibility. There are some challenges with Covid protocols, but we are working to open up volunteer opportunities. The school is also getting the front marquee fixed, and we can update messages there.
- c. The PAC meeting discussed a survey that looked at the best ways to communicate with families. Results showed that phone or email was the most popular methods.
- d. The PAC meeting stated that the district will have a budget deficit for the next three years due to lower student enrollment and higher absenteeism rates. If students are absent for 3 or more days (not including for Covid symptoms), parents need to fill out an Independent Study form to consider their child enrolled. When students are out for Covid symptoms, their attendance is counted when they check into the Google Classroom site every day while at home.
- e. The district wants schools to ask their families and community what appeals most to motivate student enrollment? For many it is full-day Kindergarten programs and dual immersion programs. We know that transportation is often a hurdle for Joli Ann students. The district recently connected with the North County Transit Department to combat transportation issues, but is primarily focused on middle and high school students.
- f. Mrs. Heinrich noted that Joli Ann lost 40 students during the pandemic, but we are now back to pre-pandemic enrollment levels. The biggest hurdles at our school are transportation and chronic absences. Based on the absence team investigations, there are many Kinder/1st grade students who don't come because they dismiss the importance of those grades. Kindergarten is not mandatory in California (only attending school once they are 6 years old). It is better now that it is a full-day program.
 - i. One parent commented that attendance rewards may be helpful. Mrs. Heinrich noted that it is a little complicated to implement that with our Covid protocols (having to be out for 10 days when showing symptoms). She held a workshop at

the beginning of the year with Kinder/1st grade families to stress the importance of attendance. Teachers also have treasure boxes and award Leaders of the Month, which can help motivate attendance.

10. LEAP Update (San Marcos Promise - Learning Enrichment to Achieve Promise)

- a. Taline Arthur reported that the San Marcos Promise would like to have LEAP programs on our campus. These after school programs are taught by teachers who are passionate about specific subjects, and students pay for participation. Mrs. Heinrich has a staff meeting in December where a LEAP representative will present more information. She noted that Joli Ann has not had these programs on campus before, as the school has focused more on intervention rather than enrichment.

9. Miscellaneous

- a. One parent asked about JAG A.M. and the after-school Boys & Girls Club programs that are on campus. The Boys & Girls Club has lower enrollment spots due to Covid, and priority was given to students who participated in the past, or have parents that are first responders. As a parent in the district for the first time, it has been very difficult to enroll in these programs. Mrs. Heinrich stated she would see if the Boys & Girls Club can expand their program at all.
- b. After-School Intervention program
 - i. The school was given funds to pay for two teachers and 30 students per grade to work on math and reading skills. The students invited to participate were those most in need of extra help. For parents who feel that their students are still having trouble, Mrs. Heinrich and Mrs. Bozonelos suggested that the parent reach out to the teacher to come up with a plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Whitman