

Leopold PFO Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2012

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
<p>1.General Updates</p>	<p>Box Tops: First Round of the Box Tops contest brought in \$900. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round brought in about \$500. The 3<sup>rd</sup> round is just starting. A new sheet for Box Tops collection will be posted on the LeopoldPFO.org website and sent home in backpacks soon.</p> <p>Fun Fest is Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-3:00pm at Leopold. You should have already received a call from a parent in your child’s class asking you to volunteer. Another ticket order form will be coming home again soon so you can pre-order the tickets for the carnival. Please contact Sarah Petit, Tiffany Sebranek, or Amy Boutelle if you are available to help out at Fun Fest. Most volunteer shifts are for 1 hour. We also need Spanish-speaking volunteers. We are looking for someone to take over organizing all the prizes and food for next year. Please contact Andrea Encell if you are interested in prizes or Kristi Buscemi for food.</p> <p>Melissa Stephenson, our Vista Coordinator, wanted to announce the upcoming “Girls on the Run” event for 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls. This event builds life skills through physical activity and participants eventually run a 5K race. A flier has come home in backpacks for those in grades 3-5.</p>
<p>2. Peter Bergquist (UW-Madison student) is working with Ms. Werlein’s REACH classes</p>	<p>They are discussing storm water concepts and designing a rain garden. Some of the student’s designs are posted in the hallway. A rain garden helps with run-off from parking lots and the roof. The project has included learning about the water cycle, collecting seeds, and designing a garden plan. One goal is to post updates about the rain garden on the PFO website. We will need parent volunteers to help maintain the garden once it is built.</p> <p>Peter also gave an update about the work Melissa Stephenson is doing for the community garden at Leopold. There will be 3 sections of the community garden:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community plots for purchase</li> <li>2. School section for student learning activities</li> <li>3. Plots for food pantry or communal garden</li> </ol> <p>Current budget is \$2500 and Melissa is working on grants to cover funding. The goal is to start in April with the raised beds.</p> <p>Melissa would also like to have a box at Fun Fest to collect garden tools that parents don’t need to use in the Leopold garden. There will be a list of needed items on the PFO website.</p>

<p>3. Angie Crawford from Wright Middle School was here to talk about the transition to middle school and discuss opportunities at Wright.</p>	<p>Wright Middle school is a charter school with about 250 students. Most students come from Leopold and there is a lottery to determine who will attend Wright. Almost half of the students at Wright are Spanish speaking and average class size is 20-22 students. Wright is a late start school (8:15 start) and release is at 3:19pm. Support staff work with the students each year they are at Wright. There are several opportunities for learning including leadership, world language, orchestra, music, band, computers, and art. All students use a planner for their assignments and have their own lockers. Most ride the Madison city bus to school. There are DLI classes at Wright. All West High School feeder elementary schools can apply for the lottery to attend Wright. They accept about 90 students a year.</p> <p>There are several transitions from elementary school to middle school including social, physical, and psychological. There can be issues with relationships and bullying and appropriate use of social networking sites. These behaviors are discussed at Wright and staff try to create a safe atmosphere where students feel safe. They also encourage students to get involved in school and after school activities.</p>
<p>4. Principal Updates</p>	<p>Leopold will be starting an open school house very soon. One night a week, the school will be open in the evening for activities for the community. We received \$15,000 from the city of Madison to start this project. We will start with the gym, library, and computers and expand over time. We are also discussing opportunities with Fitchburg Recreation for events.</p> <p>The recent kindergarten enrollment day went very smoothly. The number of families who had to enroll at the school was significantly less because most are already enrolled in the 4K program. So far, there are 105 kindergarten students enrolled for the fall.</p> <p>Leopold staff are currently looking at allocations for next fall. School allocations may change in May after the board looks at needs. We still have the SAGE program K-3 (teacher to student ratio is 1:17) and will try to add allocations to grades 4 and 5 to keep class sizes down.</p> <p>There will be summer school again at Leopold this summer.</p> <p>We are also working on class placement for the fall. This is a long process where we carefully look at best class placement for each student. The whole process takes 7-8 months.</p>