



PTO General Meeting Minutes September 25, 2024 @ 6:00-7:00 pm

6:00 pm Welcome from PTO President & Vice President (Rebekah & Erica)

- Rebekah LaCasse: President, parent to 3rd Grader & 5th grader at LNFI
 - Works on events, helps support the Board, coordinating with community and school, listening to school's needs and working hard to meet them
 - Supports Intern Committee
 - Reminder: ALL parents are automatically members of PTO
- Erica Ngoue: Vice President, parent to 2nd grader at LNFI
 - Focuses on social and cultural workings in the school, runs BIPOC support group, bringing different ideas to bring us together
 - Ideas: family classes, swaps, etc.
- Other Board Members Present:
 - Secretary: Anita Faltsek
 - Treasurer: Sarah Canfield
 - Intern Chairs: Victoria Nelson & Damien Vadillo
 - Communication Chair: Malia Caruso

6:05 pm Read norms and meeting 'rules' - Anita

General Meeting Norms:

1. **Respect** - Actively listen, speak with courtesy and honesty, acknowledge one another and express gratitude for the contributions we bring to this space. Conversation needs to remain professional and engaged.
2. **Inclusion** - We will be actively mindful of and counter our biases. We will be a safe and brave space for everyone.
3. **Service** - The well being of the students and families is our priority. Seek ways to support students, their families, and the community, as well as improve the school.
4. **Understanding** - We all come from different backgrounds and cultures, and we acknowledge and appreciate that we will have different and equally valid interpretations of topics, issues, and conversations

General Meeting Procedures:

1. We will follow the meeting agenda that was prepared by the board and distributed to the community ahead of the meeting.

2. If time allows, meeting attendees may ask a question or make a comment related to agenda items.
3. Please use the “raise hand” function to indicate that you have something to share with the group.
4. The meeting facilitator will call on you.
5. Comments and questions are limited to one minute. At the one minute mark, a member of the board will give a reminder.

- Vote for approval
 - Results: 14/14 = Yes, 0/14=No

6:10 pm Principal's Update - Sofia Bossard

- Mme Bossard cannot make it tonight
- Check out her Principal Newsletter
- Our school was selected for the Harmony Program – cello and violin lessons. They provide instruments. Meets at school MWF 8-9:15.
- Will have full principal update in October PTO meeting

6:15 pm Communications Committee - Malia

- LNFI PTO Directory App
 - Sign up here: https://lnfipto.membershiptoolkit.com/login-form?r=%2Fmy_account
 - For connecting with families outside of school
 - Will receive monthly newsletter from PTO with events coming up
- October 6-13: French Scholastic Book Order
 - Ordering is done through LNFI PTO [website](#)

6:20 pm Fundraising Committee - Rebekah

- September 30 - October 11: Direct Donation Campaign
 - Cards go home, parents return envelope
 - Kids can win prizes for returning their envelope (regardless of whether or not you donate)
 - Class with most envelopes = Donut Party!
- Corporate Matching - lots of companies will match your donation and give more money to the PTO! Check out if your work has this available.
- Can set up monthly donations on PTO [website](#)
 - under our “donations” tab at the top
- Money goes to support students, events, school beautification, etc.

6:25 pm Social Committee - Rebekah

- October 24 5-8pm: Carnaval des Citrouilles
 - DJ, Mini Donut food truck, face painting, crafts, candy, food
 - If you want to join the planning committee, contact communications@lnfi-pt.org. Meetings are virtual!
- Seeking Chair! If you like event planning, this is the position for you! If you are interested, you can apply on PTO [website](#) or contact communications@lnfi-pt.org

6:30 pm Intern Committee-Victoria and Damien

- 4 interns, not everyone teacher was able to have an intern (yet)
 - Focusing on younger grades K-2
- Program: We ask young Francophone adults with a background in education to spend a year at our school. We try to get interns from France and other French-speaking countries.
- Hosting: Interns stay with host families from our school. They can live with a family for ½ of the year (and then switch to another family) or for the full year.
 - Requirements: Need a room with a window, all meals provided by host families, provide intern with transportation to and from school

6:35 pm Treasurer's Update - Sarah

- We have \$94K in Assets.
- We have \$37K in Savings.
- Last year, total income was \$65K and expenses were \$69K.
- Goal is to break even each year.
- Our PTO's biggest expense is our interns. They are an important aspect of our school.
 - Other big expenses: teacher grants for classrooms, projects, etc.
- If you need reimbursement from PTO, reach out to Sarah at sarah.canfield@lnfi-ptd.org
- All budget documents are posted on PTO [website](#)

6:40 pm BIPOC Group - Erica

- September 26 @ 4:30pm: BIPOC Group
 - BIPOC Group = informational zone for families at start, towards end there will be a "self care" element
 - Anyone can come, we just ask that you come with an open mind
 - Childcare (for potty-trained kids) and food available!

6:45 pm Other Upcoming Events - Rebekah

- October 2: Free Head Checks at Lice Lounge WBL
 - Screens and snacks available for kids
 - 4-8pm for kids and adults
- October 9: October PTO General Meeting
 - Sofia will be there for Principal Update
- October 19: Playground Playdate @ Battle Creek 10-12pm
 - Wear LNFI gear or colors (blue, yellow)

6:50 pm Google Survey Form for Volunteer Interests - Rebekah

- Always looking for help on the PTO committees! Other volunteer opportunities available too!
- Fill out form here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfo605zVp_YJR3ROfSxqn3_ehQQMIQXgNiSY7nbFAK0uGyAyA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

6:55 pm Community Input for October PTO Meeting Topics - Anita

- Before each PTO meeting, a flyer will go home with a section for parents to suggest discussion topics for the upcoming meetings
 - There will be a QR code and a space to write and send flyer back
- Can email suggestions to anita.faltesek@Infi-pto.org or input them here: <https://forms.gle/Wp8PQ3AwWEiwMF7v9>
- Question from Lydia: can time be added for parents to bring up quick questions/topics if they didn't turn it in ahead of time?

Added topic: 5th Grade Visit to France

- Awesome opportunity, but extremely expensive (near \$5K)
- Some parents want to try to do fundraising to make trip more equitable and available to more students
- If you are interested, contact Ann Willhoite at annwillhoite@gmail.com

7:00 pm PTO Meeting Adjournment

Following the PTO General Meeting, there will be a community update from the Intern Committee from 7-7:30pm.