



Blanche Sims PTO Meeting  
Tuesday, October 2, 2018  
4:15pm

❖ Welcome & Introductions

- In attendance were:
  - Jake Singer
  - Ken Nuss
  - Susan Dandalides
  - Erica Lentz
  - Jennifer DuCharme
  - Teresa Robinson
  - Laura Hasselbach
  - Katie Auffenorde
  - Beth Schwarzenberger
  - Ashley Hensley
  - Kelly Eastman
  - Ami-Lee Brown
  - Nicole Sandstrom
  - Jennifer Nellis
  - Tim Pringle
  - Christine Jean Suchat

❖ Principal's Report

- Thank you PTO for a great Fall Movie Night! Big turnout, was a good night
- Biggest thing going on at Blanche Sims right now is the Fun Run on /
- Biggest thing district-wide is the bond vote
- The best thing people can do is vote
- This bond impacts the entire community as schools are a huge part of the community
- Many people choose to live in Lake Orion not just for the area itself, but for the schools
- Passing bond impacts property values and how people will view Lake Orion in the future

❖ Teacher's Report

- The staff is looking forward to the Fun Run!
- Also, all really hope to get Mr. Nuss to sleep on the roof!

❖ Treasurer's Report

- Budget report was distributed showing activity from 8/20/18 through the present; this was generated using the new software that was approved by a vote at the August meeting
- Our basic checking account is what we use for operating throughout the year; we have a CD also that is next year's seed money, and a high yield money market account to use as a savings for long-term spending
- Current budget will change as the PTO has not yet approved the final budget; the final budget will be approved at the end of October after all teacher's budget requests are submitted and collection of Fun Run donations are complete
- Teacher budget requests must be submitted to the PTO Board by 10/12/18

- There were some unpaid bills from the 2017/2018 school year that were unexpected; PTO is a bit behind on funds than we normally are at this point in the year
- We did receive \$1315 from Kroger rewards which is GREAT!
- There are additional funds that may be unrecorded at this time as well due to Flock-A-Friend payments made online
- Mr. Nuss' goal is for the school to earn as much, if not more than, the Fun Run through Kroger Rewards and Box Tops; make sure everyone is linking their cards to Sims and saving those Box Tops for our upcoming classroom challenge!

#### ❖ Spirit Wear

- The Sale closed on Friday 9/28/18
- M&B Graphics is doing their best to get everything printed; should be ready for distribution the week of 10/8/18

#### ❖ Fun Run

- We are ready!
- 250lbs of color and all the T-shirts are complete
- We will set-up a "bypass lane" for those who do not wish to have color
- Thursday, 10/4/18, a sheet will come home with instructions for preserving the color on the shirts
- We are not using any red or red derivatives to prevent any allergy issues
- HUGE thank you to our sponsors! Couldn't have provided T-shirts to all students and staff without their generosity. These Sponsors are:
  - Gold Level: Lake Orion Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling; The Zale Group; J&B Doors, Inc.
  - Silver Level: A Parts Warehouse; 20 Front Street; Scott Ockerman State Farm; Walton & Becker Eyecare; HealthQuest Physical Therapy and Medical Fitness
  - Parents, friends, and family are welcome to come and cheer!
  - Donations will be accepted through 10/11/18; closing assembly on 10/12/18

#### ❖ Box Tops

- Launching our contest 10/15/18; information will be sent home on Friday 10/12/18
- We will collect until 10/25/18
- Still firming up prizes—there will be a school-wide incentive as well as classroom incentives
- Will be calling on volunteers to help clip and count—sending home on 10/26/18 with volunteers' students and will need back by 10/30/18! Thank you in advance!

#### ❖ Trunk-or-Treat

- Beth Schwarzenberger is chairing the event this year
- The date is 10/26/18; sign-up genius will be going out soon for people sign-up to be "trunkers"
- This year we are adding candy donation to the sign-up as well for those that wish to participate, but can't be a trunker
- We will have donuts and cider at the end of the event
- There will be peanut free trunks

#### ❖ "Flock-a-Friend" Fundraiser

- Huge response this year! So far 24 orders and about \$700 earned!
- This is exciting because it is 100% profit for the PTO (which means the school)
- We now have volunteers helping us with the "flocking"—Thank you so much for flocking with us!!

#### ❖ Serve Our Students Presentation by Jake Singer

- This is an independent organization from the schools; getting out and providing information to the community on why the bond vote is so important

- The state provides money to schools; this money, however, is meant for instruction and operation (energy bills, small repairs, etc.). Because instruction is so expensive and important, often there is nothing left for large improvements
- If the bond does not pass, programs will have to be cut
- Our middle schools offer “team teaching;” this is expensive, but it is the absolute best way to educate middle school students; if the bond doesn’t pass, difficult decisions about programs like this will need to be made
- Lake Orion is consistently in the top 2 and 3 districts for test scores; it’s all about the programming we offer
- With the passing of the bond, no tax rates will go up—it’s merely about passing an extension of what is currently in place
- LOCSbond.org is the official website for learning about the proposal
- Important for PTOs and parents to explain to others in the community, who don’t have an LOCS connection, why passing this bond is so dire
- Looking for volunteers to staff the polling sights on election day and help getting the word out to everyone
- When the district did the big assessment of all buildings and needs, \$300 million was the total that the agency came up with as to what was needed; the district has been able to cut that down to \$160 million so there would be no tax increase for LO residents
- Tax rates will stay the same regardless of the bond passing; taxes won’t go down for a very long time
- If the bond doesn’t pass, could be extreme cuts for students such as loss of transportation to and from schools
- The Sinking Fund can only be used for building operations and repairs; this bond would be a transformation for LO schools for a better future
- If people see nicer buildings in other areas, they won’t buy houses in Lake Orion—property values then plummet
- The bond money will be highly regulated by the state; funds are audited. Absolutely none of the bond money is allowed to go to raises for principals and teachers

❖ Questions and Discussion?

- Specials Teachers Rotation
  - Currently we have 3 special teachers rotating for every subject and this seems highly ineffective
  - The decision to structure the schedule in this manner came from superintendent (not from school board, school staff, etc.)
  - By scheduling specials teachers in this manner, it robs the teacher of having a “home building” and there’s little to no personal connection with the kids which is critical to learning in the classroom
  - An alternate schedule has been created and proposed by staff that would still allow rotation (as we understand that there isn’t money in the budget for full-time specials teachers in each building), but would allow for each teacher to spend the majority of their time in a single school and thus, have a “home” base established. This schedule has not yet been adopted
  - Was suggested that contact be made with Rick Arnett (Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources) to discuss this situation; concerned parents may reach him at [rick.arnett@lok12.org](mailto:rick.arnett@lok12.org).