

# **La Liaison General Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, August 21st 2018

Patton Street Campus

## **I. Social Reception**

## **II. Welcome and Introduction to La Liaison** (Richard Peters)

The PTO is a conduit between the parents, students, teachers and school administration. It's not the official voice for each of these groups, but acts as a liaison to bring together and integrate the needs of each group. It provides a forum to bring everyone together, to have discussion and collaborate.

Boxes are set up to collect questions for the school administration in regards to bus transportation and general areas.

## **III. Introducing our new board & financial update** (PTO Board, Alex Plaisance)

Richard Peters (President)  
Kristy Saunders (Vice President)  
Marieke Franz (Secretary)  
Alexandra Plaisance (Treasurer)

General Directors:  
Lisa Soto  
Shannon Faulstick  
Nina Quinn  
Sonia Alvarez  
Gustavo Oliveira  
Elishia McAllister  
Janeen Holley  
Brittany Bloom-Peters

Teachers:  
French teacher representative: Gwladys Dal-Toe  
English teacher representative: Ben Bruhnke

The 2017-2018 PTO raised about \$35,000.00. Thank you everyone who assisted with this, including all the families who participated, volunteered and donated.

The money was distributed as follows, based on teacher requests and board vote:

\$8,400: Priestley facilities fund  
\$5,400: Write Source (English teachers)

\$3,500: Stem Labs  
\$6,000: iPad/gift cards for Patton  
\$9,000: Front Row/Freckles upgrade  
\$2,700: Johnson facilities fund

The 1<sup>st</sup> Day School Supplies box sales generated \$1,200.00 in donation funds. \$3 for each box sold goes back to the school.

**IV. Introducing our new administration** (Marina Schoen, Danielle Dufauchard, Chana Benenson)

Our CEO and principals for each campus welcome and tell a little bit about themselves (refer to [www.lfno.org](http://www.lfno.org) to read about them). All three are excited about the school year, now having 950 students and 130 full time staff and grades PK through 8th. Much focus will be on grant writing, fund raising for Priestley and the high school curriculum. The principals for each campus will be focusing on specific needs for each of their campuses. Any ideas for fundraising or grants to apply for can be emailed to Marina, [mschoen@lfno.org](mailto:mschoen@lfno.org). Questions about a specific campus can be addressed to Danielle for the Patton campus ([ddufauchard@lfno.org](mailto:ddufauchard@lfno.org)) and Chana for the Johnson campus ([cbenenson@lfno.org](mailto:cbenenson@lfno.org)).

**V. Engaging our new neighborhood** (Mary Butler, Julianna Padget, Betty DiMarco)

Mary Butler is one of our parents who reached out to the Riverbend-Carrollton Neighborhood Association, which is the neighborhood where the Johnson campus is located. Marina, Mary, Richard Peters, the Riverbend-Carrollton president Julianna Padget and the Carrollton United Chair Betty DiMarco have met. Everyone's goal is to build trust, brainstorm and work together with churches and community centers. Julianna has extended an invitation for a school representative to join their board. Carrollton United represents every group in the neighborhood. The neighborhood is considered a fast changing neighborhood and both organizations work together to assure the needs of all residents are met. Tammy is one of the residents and organizes a block party each year. It will be taking place on October 16, on Green and Monroe. Starts at 6 PM and everyone is welcome. Bring a dish/beverage, police district, fire station and mayor's office usually have representatives there, Night Out Against Crime. Everyone is invited to come. Info will be posted on PTO Facebook page closer to the date. There is also a new restaurant near the Johnson campus, C&L on Hickory. Will be great to develop a relationship with as well as with the Community Center on Leonidas and Spruce Street. Louis Fenton mentions that a fundraiser will also be organized for the Project NOLA crime cameras that have been installed in the neighborhood. Anyone who has experience with grant writing, brochure design or has skills that may assist with the

relationship and development of the neighborhood is welcome to reach out to the association and the PTO.

## **VI. PTO Committee Introductions & Information**

- a. *Ambassador Program* (Lisa Soto): parents & mentors  
Currently working on putting together families who have requested to be matched with an ambassador. Sonia Alvarez also offers to be a liaison for the Spanish speaking families. The Ambassador program assist incoming families to connect with existing families, so that they have a point person to ask questions and get acclimated.

- b. *Communications* (Marieke Franz): Student Directory, Facebook, Etre a la Page, Email  
The Student Directory will be worked on in the next few weeks. We will use a new service, Join Our Class. You will have the opportunity to opt out.

La Liaison has several methods of communication : facebook page, room parent emails, Etre a la Page, flyers in back packs. The school also communicates through the LFNO facebook page, email, text messages, phone system and teacher emails.

Reminder, the La Liaison Facebook page is a forum to get information, discuss issues, get questions answered, share information. There are many members, including school staff and everyone should be respectful when expressing themselves on the page.

- c. *Community Engagement* (Elisha McCallister): Uniforms, Meals, General Assistance  
Community Cares reaches out to the Lycee community when there is a request from a family in need. Can be assistance with meals, uniforms, transportation etc. Email [pto@lfno.org](mailto:pto@lfno.org) if you need assistance or know of a family in need.

The school has engaged an agency to assist with diversity training. Michael Kincaid will be assisting with his program called “overcoming racism”.

- d. *Fundraising* (Kristy Saunders, Alex Plaisance & Brittany Peters):  
Restaurants, Activities, Box Tops

Reginelli’s Restaurant Day on August 28. Skate Night, Lasertag Night, Marche, all will be coming up. All PTO events are listed on the Save the Date flyer.

There will be more assistance and focus on the box tops program this year. Darren Beltz has always made an effort to collect the box tops and raised \$500 last year. There will be an initiative to collect 1,500 box tops in each class with collection dates in November and April. There will be prizes for the class to reach this goal and also for the class that collects the most. If each class brings in 1,500 box tops, we can raise \$6,000. Box tops are found on many grocery items. Get more info on the box tops website, [www.btfe.org](http://www.btfe.org). Each class will have a collection point in their classroom to keep track of their boxtops. Be on the lookout for more info through your classroom.

- e. *Teacher/Staff Appreciation* (Brittany Peters): Concierge, Events  
Teachers can only be gifted a max of \$75 throughout the school year (per student). This includes teacher appreciation, end of the year gifts, birthdays etc. The school administration has a concierge program. Anyone who has experiences or items they wish to donate, can forward these items to the school (office manager for each campus) and the items will be raffled off between the teachers. Other appreciation events that take place are typically a back to school breakfast (PTO organized in August), pot luck type Thanksgiving meal, Teacher appreciation week in May.
- f. *Social Engagement* (Janeen Holley): Picnic, Participation, Polls  
The Fall Picnic will take place October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Patton campus. This event is for all Lycee families and “picnic” style, bring your own food and beverage and chairs.

The Adult Social Mixer will take place November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Community Center on Spruce and Leonidas, close to the Johnson campus. This is an adult only event for parents/guardians and school staff.

PTO will also we doing some polls to find out interest for events in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year.

- g. *Room Parent* (Nina Hansen Quinn): Involvement, Coordination  
Nina Hansen Quinn, Shannon Faulstick and Lisa Soto are coordinating the room parent program. They are in the process of assigning room parents and communicating to the teachers. For 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up, student coordinators will be recruited to manage their own classroom parties and activities. Any communication directed to your child’s class can go through the assigned room parents/coordinators. They will assist with sending any news and messages from the teacher, PTO, school admin and will communicate any needs the teacher may have for the classroom, as well as call for volunteers for field trips and class parties, etc.

- h. *Marche d' Hiver* (Richard Peters): Introduction, Involvement  
Traditionally always on the first Saturday in December, this year will be on December 1, 10 AM – 4 PM, Will take place at the Priestley campus site. French winter market style, the largest fund raiser and an all hands on deck event. Planning and coordination will start soon with lots of volunteer opportunities available.

**VII. Introducing the Dad's Club** (Sam Ledgerwood, Corey Nunez)

The Dad's Club is a great way to get involved with the school community and get to know other dads to share experiences and socialize. They not only do social events together, but have fund raising events for various school projects and organize work days at the campuses. Some of the improvements we have thanks to the Dad's Club are the sound boards in the Patton cafeteria, the offices on the 2nd floor at the Patton campus and lockers for 6th grade and up at the Johnson campus. You do not have to be handy to join them, just willing to lend a hand and make new friends.

There is a work day this Saturday at the Johnson campus. Contact them at [fnodadsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fnodadsclub@gmail.com) or Facebook LFNO Dads Club.

**VIII. Giveaways**

Raffle took place for one piece of merchandise, an entry for Skate night and an entry for Laster Tag night.

**IX. Adjournment**

**PTO RELATED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS COLLECTED DURING THE MEETING**

**Q** - Where is Community Cares?

**A** - Community Cares is one of the committees and was briefly discussed, exists as always. We have already received requests for assistance with uniforms and transportation and have handled accordingly. Anyone who has a need, could be assistance with meals, getting kids to and from school, if you know of a family going through a hard time, or your family is, reach out to [pto@lfno.org](mailto:pto@lfno.org). PTO will get the word out through the Facebook page and use resources to connect the community to assist.

**Q** - I think the PTO board should have representation for each of the school age groups: elementary, middle, high school. Obviously we only need the first two now, but it should be implemented before we have our high school.

**A** - The PTO represents all grades Pk4 through high school at Lycee Francais. As grades are being added, the goal is to have parent representation on the board from each section, elementary, middle and high school. The PTO is one organization as is the school, and will be intentional to distinguish between upper and lower grades in the

planning of activities, events etc. As the school evolves and grows, so will the PTO representation and activities to meet each age group and grade's needs. For example, this year, the room parent program is working on having student coordinators for 6th grade and up and asking the older students for feedback on the type of activities they want for their grades. The student coordinators will be in charge of organizing their classroom activities with the guidance/assistance of volunteer parents/their teacher. If you wish to be a part of the PTO board to assist with the planning and activities for the high school, it will be great to have you on the 2019-2020 PTO board. Elections will take place at the end of this school year. Suggestions for activities can always be sent to [pto@lfno.org](mailto:pto@lfno.org).

**Q** - Is there another means of communicating with parents besides Facebook.

**A** - As mentioned during the meeting there are many ways of communication:

La Liaison Facebook page

Room parent and teacher communication via email

Flyers and printed papers in kid's backpacks

Etre a la Page

Pto email [pto@lfno.org](mailto:pto@lfno.org)

LFNO Facebook page

School message system, via email, text and voice calls

In person: each campus has an office manager Natalie Lullier (Johnson) and Katie Bolin (Patton). Any question can be addressed to them and they will get it to the right person for answers

**Q** - Crawfete. An event that was done in the early years. Can we do it again?

**A** - PTO is definitely open to receiving any suggestions/ideas for fundraisers and social events for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year. We are planning on putting out some polls to collect ideas, so we can add some new events after the winter break and spring. This will include ideas from the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up to find out what they would like to see in the future. We will include Crawfete to consider. Please email [pto@lfno.org](mailto:pto@lfno.org) with details of your ideas.

**ALL YOUR QUESTIONS THAT WERE RELATED TO THE BUS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY OR SPECIFIC CAMPUS RELATED QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN SHARED WITH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.** Once we get the information back, it will be posted on the La Liaison Facebook page.