

Academie Lafayette PTSO General Meeting

Sept 26th, 2018

Introduction of new board members.

There will be a change in bylaws. A vote to make voting allowable online, will happen tonight.

Thank you for your service to those existing members that are stepping down

-Meghan Flavin

-Jennifer McGreal

-Antonia Acorn

-Jesse Kidwell

-Bridget MacNevein Pfeiffer

By-laws Discussion

Mission and objectives-change is community, support, learners

By-laws

All changes are highlighted in orange. These changes will be sent out via email to vote on if vote tonight to be able to vote online passes.

Proposing to vote online from now on. Typically there are only 20-30 people that come to the PTSO meetings where a vote takes place. This would allow more voices to be heard. The 1st online vote had 280 votes! Amazing!

Proposing to change PTSO to a PTO. Students have never joined any PTSO meeting even though there was an invite.

There is a PTA organization but it requires a fee from each individual to be a part of it.

To elect board members, parents and teachers will raise their hand to take a seat and then all parents vote for the parent positions and the teachers vote on the teacher position.

A parent asked if there should be a teacher at every campus? Leslie said that most likely teachers don't want to take the time to join in, they are tired and do not want to add to their already full plate.

Leslie said if teachers want to volunteer to be on the board then we'll talk about it when that time comes.

In lieu of old structure, every parent has a vote now, instead of one vote per household. a few years ago the parent organization at AL changed the name to PTSO, at that time the students were asked by the ptso to join meetings, but no students have ever joined the ptso community.

A parent asked if changing the name to PTO would be silencing the students if they don't have the option to vote. Another parent pointed out that maybe once we have a high school with older and more mature students then we can revisit having a PTSO and include the students.

A parent suggested having two positions per campus instead of 4, agreement with all, leslie will change wording to reflect this. If a seat is vacated mid year, then a new person will take that seat for the remainder of the year. This would be a special election.

Parent asked how do we know who we are voting for? Are they worthy of the position? How can we vote when we do not know who these people are?

Leslie stated that there will be a meeting where parents will be able to meet the people who are running for a board seat. There will also be communication that is sent to all parents with bio's of each person running for a position on the board.

Parent asked how will the PTSO ensure that info is getting to all parents. Leslie- We use multiple ways to communicate. PTSO FB page, newsletter, al website.

Parents asked why voting online took place before there was a vote held for online voting. Leslie said that because of how the by-laws were written. Action needed to be taken so that a proposed budget could be sent to the head of school. Wirth no money, the PTSO cannot continue to run.

Discussion ensued about last year's PTSO. Talk about Meghan continuing to hold the president position.

There is a motion on the floor to make all voting happen on line.

All yay

no nay

Voting passed for online voting from here on out.

BUDGET

The proposed budget got approved by Head of School

Now it will be sent via email for a vote

Fun events-money added to these. They don't make us money, we are spending it on our school, teachers and students.

examples of these will include parent info nights and Pick me up gifts for teachers.

Evening In Paris Discussion

Laura Flinn is taking the lead on this event.

This event is trending down. The amount we are bringing in is going down It seems EIP hit a cliff in 2016 and numbers have not been good since then.

We need to change something within EIP, says Laura.

Currently PTSO runs EIP completely alone with no school involvement.

The school has offered/asked to fully run EIP. There are strengths with the school taking EIP, but Laura doesn't think that PTSO should completely step down. Even if the school owned the event there would still be tons of hours of parent volunteer time so it seems that the PTSO should stay involved.

Laura says that an option where the PTSO and AL work together is the most logical solution. It would split revenue and cost between both organizations. There are lots of opportunities to save money if AL were to be included in the EIP.

Parent stated- should we be including the neighborhood community instead of just having parents.

This conversation made another parent state that they feel we should vote on whether we should just keep EIP a parent-only event or have the community involved.

Parent asked Has the school agreed on sharing the EIP event?

M spoke- The school is growing, this event should be held professionally. When the event makes less money than anticipated it makes an impact on the school.

He stated that he is open to a partnership with the PTSO on this event.

He emphasised that there should be more structure and professionalism.

A parent asked-What is Chris' input on whether the school should take it or share it... Laura says Chris would love to have control of the event. A shared stake in the event with PTSO and AL is good. The resources are there between the two organizations so why not take advantage of them?

A parent stated that 50/50 makes the most sense. There would be very good support.

EIP works with events director previously.

Parent-says that EIP will be held accountable. Why can't the school pick their own event. Why does the school want it? This event gives PTSO a voice.

Parent- community should be involved,

Parent-likes the idea of collaboration, the school has previously done nothing to help EIP including info to help set it up. It would be nice if the school was at least in the know.

Parent-Chris wants to hire an events coordinator, but it seems the school could be spending money on numerous other things rather than paying for an events coordinator. We should include our parents and make sure that our parents are buying tickets.

Discussion ensued further about EIP and the possibility of it shifting hands or sharing responsibility.

Musketeer fund would stay with PTSO,

Parent-what about basketballs, cheer, robotics? How will we know where the money goes and how they are allocated?

Laura-instead of writing them a check, we owned each activity and we wrote a check specifically for each thing, now there is a question to how will we ensure the money will still be allocated accordingly.

Parent-when school was small, everyone wanted to be a part of it, we need to build community, parental relationships. We all want to spend time together. How do we accomplish this?

Laura-having closer knit communities help sell tickets. This amount of people are the most people at a PTSO meeting in years. Online voting is one way that ptso is trying to include. Parent-do we want this event to be a fundraiser or a get together? I think it should be a fundraiser. I don't think it is a fundraiser unless you include the community. We need to offer an experience at this event.

M-this is a larger school now, we cannot have ptso running afterschool. I know specific things that we need. It should be 'what is best for the school and the kids'. I don't like this you versus us stance. It is time that we think of ourselves as a team.

The meeting in May talks about after school activities for next year.

Parent-I feel like I cannot make any vote/decision. We need more information all around. Collaboration is a partnership. We need to be able to have open conversations.

Laura-we need to figure out where money will go and decide where the money comes from.

Parent-this year eip will be the 20th year. The principle is also celebrating her 20th year as principal. I love this school, my daughter when here and my granddaughter is here.

Parent-I think that the PTSO should become a separate entity. We need to think about where the school is going, we should be thinking about the school and not the people that are running it.

Event sharing of EIP would not happen until 2019 school year. This year everything stays the same.

Laura-a few volunteers are needed for EIP. Who wants to Volunteer??

Development committee may look into whether or not EIP will change hands or share hands.

Parent-boo bayou Oct 20th. We increased the amount of money. We want to have three campuses. It is impossible to have this event at only one campus. Halloween dance will happen at armour. Haunted hallway money will go to musketeer march, not 6th grade France trip.

Parent-where will the raffle drawing be? It will be in the newsletter M said. Amy stated that we can record it and put online.

M-locker situation is being worked on, 8th grade Math is going to be offered for 7th graders once enough books are available. M apologized if he offended any parents he is only passionate about the school and simply wants what is best for the students.

Meeting adjourned