

1. Principal Dr. Donna Gallo

- Get to know Dr. Gallo - She expressed she has been 2 months in the role as LCJSMS's Principal. She is learning the operations of the building and getting to know the teachers. Dr. Gallo expressed that she is feeling more comfortable and very welcomed by the students, parents and teachers. Everyone has been polite and supportive. She is happy to make Summit her home.
- The Board of Education has a goal set for the Culture and Climate of LCJSMS. Through the Youth Empowerment Alliance and the College of Saint Elizabeth a three year program has been established to measure and improve the culture and climate at LCJSMS. The College of Elizabeth is assessing areas of strength and growth and staff are receiving training.

Information found: http://www.unitedwaynnj.org/ourwork/ed_youthempower.php

2. Mr. Ciferni

- Further explained the Youth Empowerment Alliance. Recently a 20 minute survey was given to 102 staff and 947 students concerning the culture and climate of LCJSMS. The College of Saint Elizabeth will take this information and categorize it into groups and will look at the strengths and deficits of the school. In December a committee will be analyzing the survey results. There will be teachers, staff and students involved. From this plans will be made on implementation of the feedback. This is a 3 year project.
- A question was asked concerning the Ryder Challenge and the number of hours required and form obtainment. Mr. Ciferni has created a link that will be embedded in the LCJSMS website about the Ryder Challenge. There is also going to be a history of the program named after Mr. Ryder. The forms will be printable from the website, available on the community service board and are printable from the PTO website. Parent were reminded that 8th grade students are required to complete 20 hours, 10 are allowed over the summer.
- Incident with volunteers for an Arboretum event. The Arboretum had 24 time slots for volunteering that the 8th graders signed up for. The Arboretum verified with the students they were coming. Only 7 of the students showed up and their event was ruined. Mr. Ciferni spoke with all students about this issue at lunch.
- A question was asked about how students and parents know if the Ryder Challenge hours are completed. The homeroom teachers keep track of what is turned in. Students can ask. There is also a mid-year check in December and the teachers will let everyone know where they stand.
- Social media - The staff at LCJSMS are aware that students use social media regularly. There is education and discuss around your digital footprint. The students are educated to never use anyones name in a negative way. Social media is subject to disciplinary action in the school. Most of the disciplinary actions in school are digitally driven.

3. Ms. Subervi

- Professional Development at LCJSMS. There is a new facilitator that runs technology department. For the inservice day the teachers were broken into subgroups and completed training around specific topic areas such as math, LA... The last week the inservice day worked on how to support english language speakers. Teachers learned how to keep them engaged. The ESL teacher in the school taught the teachers about how to support the students and provided strategies to help. The next inservice will be addressing special education and how the staff can support our special ed students. Surveys will be completed to plan for next year.
- Dr. Gallo added that the ESL teachers were the our trainers are our experts in the building. They did a great job.

4. Ms. Karen Doherty, Librarian

- She is new this year from Jefferson.
- Independent Reading Program through Six Flags called Read to Succeed. This is a program for K-6th grade. Ms. Doherty is in charge of the 6th grade students at LCJSMS. The 6th grade students can earn 1 free ticket to Six Flags by reading 6 hours from now until February. There is a reading log that needs to be filled out and signed by a parent and then turned to Ms. Doherty. Ms. Doherty will then send it in by March. She needs at least 8 students to participate to be able have LCJSMS be eligible. A link to the log will be on the website. (also in notes below) There is no penalty for not participating. Some of the elementary schools are also participating. Ms. Doherty will send an email to all of the elementary school making sure they know about the program.

Link to Parent Letter:

<http://static.sixflags.com/readtosucceed/ParentLetter.pdf>

Link to Log:

<http://static.sixflags.com/readtosucceed/StudentReadingLog.pdf>

5. PTO

- Winter Gear Swap - donations today (11/15) and tomorrow (11/16) - On Tues (11/20) any student can go to see if there is anything in their size that they would like.

- Plea For Volunteer Help

Night of Fun - This is when the 5th graders get their first chance to come to the middle school. It's the 2nd biggest fundraiser. Stepping forward now doesn't mean you need to be in charge of anything. Email Meghan or Allie if you think you can help out. It doesn't need to be a large time commitment.

School supplies fundraiser - Not a lot of work. The program needs to be set up now. There is some organizing in the spring. Most of the work is during delivery time, the week before school starts. - Tiffany Jones volunteered at the end of the meeting.

Dinning for Dollars - Looking for people who have a relationship at some of the local restaurants to reach out to them and see if they would be willing to set up a date for Dinning for Dollars.

Directory - Jesse Reyes will be at LCJSMS assisting with the directory for only 1 more year. He is looking for someone who can shadow him and take over the directory when he leaves.

- Budget Discussion - We are currently not bringing in enough money to cover our operating expenses. Please reach out to members of the community and have them support through membership dues. Spread the word. We may need to consider bringing back the magazine sale or grocery script sale. We may also need to start looking at areas to cut.
- Track Project - Ally updated the PTO about the facelift for the track at LCJSMS. It was recently presented at the BOE meeting that this project would be completed. The current track will be replaced with a rubber track similar to what is at the SHS. Drainage issues and fencing will also be addressed. The BOE as approached the PTO requesting information about how much the PTO can contribute. We have money in our account that has been

contributed by people who are no longer at LCJSMS. Some of that money has been earmarked for a project such as this. It is an improvement that will benefit the community.

It was suggested by attendees that maybe an email should go out asking for money specifically for the track project. That would allow less money to need to come out our the PTO account.

- Facebook page - We have received positive feedback about the Facebook page opening and it being a place to share information. The PTO Exec Board is continuing to be more transparent with what it does.

6. General Discussion

- Vaping and Marijuana Use Discussed - Presentation by Michael DeLeon was held at Governor Livingston High School 11/13 addressing this topic. It was well received by people who attended. Dr. Gallo stated that she would speak with Ms. Grimaldi about bringing this presenter to Summit. She currently does not see this is a huge issue in LCJSMS but she stated she is not naive and would continue to watch. Attendees suggested that maybe it would be helpful for LCJSMS to hold the speaker so that the focus was geared toward middle school and having an impact in prevention instead of a high school focus. His website is <https://www.steeredstraight.org>
- Concern about breakfast offerings were discussed. Dr. Gallo stated that there are healthy choices. The offerings are decided by the food service company.
- Lost and Found - Every 30 days lost and found items are donated. Mr. Ciferni explained this to the students at lunch. Things cannot be kept on going due to a space issue. Lost and Found items do remain in the building for an additional month or so in a different location. If your child has lost something they can contact their counselor to check the holding area. It is a valuable item or glassed it is held until the end of the school year.