Luther Jackson Middle School PTA

Minutes of January 20, 2010

Principal's report:
LJMS was one of 20 Fairfax county schools which received the Virginia Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award - from DOE website: Seventeen school divisions and 281 schools earned the Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award for having met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and are making progress toward the goals of the governor and the board - Belvedere Elementary, Canterbury Woods Elementary, Centreville Elementary, Centreville High, Columbia Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Herndon High, Jackson Middle, Key Middle, Kings Glen Elementary, Kings Park Elementary, Marshall Road Elementary, Oakton Elementary, Olde Creek Elementary, Pine Spring Elementary, Rolling Valley Elementary, Sleepy Hollow Elementary, Timber Lane Elementary, West Springfield High and Westfield High won.

The turf field and lights project is projected to start mid May; it has been delayed due to the economy.

We then had a long discussion on the 2011 FCPS budget. The impacts on LJMS may include:
- class size will increase to over 30 students
- loss of instructional coach (a math teacher who helped teachers analyze data and learn and use best practices)
- no summer school - even if you fail a class
- no extended contracts for teachers - so teachers won’t get paid for all the extra hours they work – so their pay is effectively less - morale down
- might lose another custodian - so classes may only get cleaned every other day with the heavy use our building gets
- contract lengths for career and tech education teachers will be reduced
- 15% cut in instructional supplies

Some important upcoming dates:
Jan 29/Feb 1: teacher workdays - no school
Feb 2: 3rd quarter begins
Feb 8: report cards mailed home
Feb 10: Touch base with teachers - 2 1/2 hour delayed opening
Feb 11: Valentines Dance - after school (we should check to see if there will be late buses to take the kids home)

Treasurer's report:
We have a little over $8K. We have been able to fund all requests rcvd and are hoping to fully fund planners next year.

Volunteer needs - Teacher appreciation lunch in May - need a coordinator(s).

Reflections:  LJMS had three winners!

During the budget discussion it was suggested that we suggest cuts - cuts have to happen, so where should they be? write, call or email your school board member.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Nalle, LJMS PTA Secretary