Leal PTA Minutes 11/14/16

6:00 – 6:30 – Family-style dinner from Siam Terrace (please join us!)

6:30 – Call to order (Childcare provided by PTA)

            Welcome / Opening remarks

6:35 – Old Business

1. Minutes from the October meeting presented for approval (Jen Straub, secretary)

6:40 – New Business

1. Presentation of supplemental mini-grant awards for approval (Kathy Adams, treasurer)

 All of the teachers who applied received grants.

1. Martin, Clarke, Headtke, Helm, Klousnitzer- Hutchens: $250 for Spelling City subscription
2. McCune: $350 for Fitness Finders
3. Kassem, Poblano, McGinty: $180 for Sensory Items
4. McGinty: $306 for a Reading/Writing Center
5. Nardie: $70 for Headphones
6. Zimmerman: $181 for Making Gardening Fun
7. Beck: $70 for a 3-D pen
8. Accessible Playground
	1. Robert Nagel presented the idea of creating an updated and more accessible playground at Leal.
		1. A committee will be formed.
		2. To be part of this committee, please contact Robert at robertn84@gmail.com
9. Overview of Housing Authority of Champaign County’s proposal to link housing assistance to school attendance (Robert Nagal)
	1. The Housing Authority attended the Urbana School District #116 Board of Education’s October meeting. It was suggested that the board of education share student attendance records with the Housing Authority.
	2. Parents at our Leal PTA meeting were concerned that this type of information sharing could unfairly penalize families who are already in difficult situations.
	3. It was suggested that we, as a PTA, draft a statement and that a delegation of PTA members present the statement at the November 15 meeting of the Urbana School District Board of Education meeting.
		1. The Statement Presented was:

“The Leal School PTA would like to express its condemnation of the proposal for collaboration between the Urbana School Board and the Housing Authority of Champaign County. As a community, we believe that it singles out vulnerable families and punishes them unequally for a problem that transcends economic class.  It places undue stress and responsibility on children and has the potential to exacerbate housing insecurity and homelessness within this community. The school district has a duty to protect and encourage trust between families and the schools. This has the potential to damage that trust irreparably. The PTA is supportive of incentives for students to come to school, but unequal punitive measures are antithetical to the values of our community.”

1. Affirmation of Leal Pledge
	1. Several Leal Parents and staff members spoke about their families’ experiences of discrimination in our community. (It should be noted that this was a very heartfelt and emotional part of our meeting.)
	2. We discussed the launch of our Leal Community Pledge, which is result of the work of a group of concerned parents and staff members over the past year. This group is called Iguales. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Ricardo Diaz at xpenn.diaz@gmail.com
	3. The pledge will be presented to our students on Friday, December 2. Excepts of the pledge are already on the back of the most recent Leal t-shirts.
	4. This is the pledge:

**At Leal School. . .**

**We believe in the dignity of everyone and the right to equality of opportunity.**

**We are committed to dismantling inequitable practices so success is not predictable by student identity and all students can reach personal greatness.**

**We value the strengths that come with difference and treasure the positive contributions each unique individual brings to our community.**

**En la Escuela Leal. . .**

**Creemos en la dignidad de todas las personas y el derecho a la igualdad de oportunidades.**

**Estamos comprometidos a desmantelar las prácticas desiguales de modo que el éxito no sea predecible por la identidad del estudiante y todos los estudiantes pueden alcanzar grandeza personal.**

**Valoramos la fuerza que viene con las diferencias y atesoramos la contribucion positiva que cada individuo único aporta a nuestra comunidad.**

1. Principal’s Report
	1. No report.
2. Staff Report
	1. Thanks for everything.
3. Additional Business
	1. None.