

**Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2015, 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library

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- I. **Rebecca Garcia opened the meeting at 6:30pm with 39 attendees.**
- II. **Introduction of 2015-16 PTA Executive Team.**
- III. **SCHOOL VISION DOCUMENT GROUP DISCUSSION**
  - Led by Principal Ostrom
  - Principal Ostrom began with a poem, *The Real Work* by Wendell Berry
  - Principal and attendees read and discussed Emerging School Vision Document.
  - “Critical thinking”, “life-long learners,” “problem-solving skills,” and “collaboration” (teaching students to work together in groups) were brought up as essential points attendees liked.
  - An environment that supports girls and students with a diverse background also stood out as essential to the School Vision.
  - “The whole child” is an important statement. All kids are different. Important to give each student individual time.
  - Important to give kids a voice in the classroom – make decisions in conjunction with kids.
- IV. **PRINCIPAL UPDATE**
  - School makeup days – 10/9 is now a school day.
  - Middle School iPad program – lease program with hefty cost. Scholarships available (pay what you can afford) funded by PTA and school.
  - Concern raised about the new electronic back to school packet – some parents did not catch the email and suggest communication via “kid mail” notifying parents that back to school packet is now online.
- V. **PBL RESOURCE AND FUNDING DISCUSSION**
  - Rebecca Garcia handed out 2015-16 Proposed Budget. Attendees were encouraged to take Proposed Budget home and make suggestions at the next PTA meeting.
  - Principal talked about possibility of hiring part-time PBL teacher Sarah Waldren.
  - STEM K-8 is teaching Singapore Math in all grades. Middle School has received a waiver to teach Singapore Math. Elementary school has not received one yet. Schmitz Park donated some Singapore Math materials to STEM. PTA and school budget will cover the rest.
- VI. **BLT REPORT**
  - School would like to open the field up for students at recess. Volunteers are being sought to supervise playground during recess so employees can supervise students in the field.
- VII. **OPEN PTA POSITIONS**
  - a. Room Parents needed for: Mebane, Sweeney, Nur, Newton, Gluck, Martin.
  - b. Chairs. (Community Events Chair, Fundraising Development Chair).

**VIII. COMMITTEES FORMING**

- a. Advocacy (Shawna Murphy) – Focus on ensuring our schools are fully-funded.
- b. Campus Beautification (Jen Greene) – work party every Friday (weeding, pick up trash).
- c. Diversity. Need a chair for Diversity Committee.

**IX. DIRECT GIVE UPDATE**

- Call for organizers.
- Starts October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**X. ENRICHMENT UPDATE**

- Linnea Siedelmann, Enrichment Coordinator
- Able to offer more affordable options this fall. 10 classes at \$25.
- Attendees suggested foreign languages. Linnea explained we had Mandarin in the past but it hadn't generated much interest.

**XI. PTA UPDATES**

- Social, everyone invited. 10/2, 6:30-9:30 at TAF.
- Volunteer need to complete a volunteer form every year.
- Make sure your email is correct.
- Attendee suggested a poll to find the best time for PTA meeting.
- The STEM auction is 3/ 26, 2016.

**XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm**

Respectfully submitted by Helen Green, PTA Secretary