

K-5 STEM at Boren PTA
Meeting Agenda
September 10, 2013, 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library

President Robin Graham called the meeting to order at 6:40pm with 75 people in attendance, including SPS Executive Director of Schools - West Seattle Israel Vela.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Thank you to the 2012-13 Executive Committee for their service to our school: Heidi Alessi, Robin Graham, Mandy Lefebvre, Christy Monge, Lily Pearson, Kathleen Voss. Robin noted that the PTA focus for last year was getting our school started. This year the focus is on strengthening the school – volunteers are critical to making that happen.

Introduction of Executive Director of Schools - West Seattle Region Israel Vela. Mr. Vela shared his background and experience ([here's a link to his SPS bio](#)). He mentioned his support of STEM K-8 and looks forward to sharing his experiences in developing similar pathways. He would like to attend future PTA and Executive Committee meetings to ensure he's being transparent with us. His priorities are to build relationships with the 17 schools in his region (has visited each school two or more times), then begin to review and analyze achievements and trend data for schools and programs, considering national data impact to our schools. A parent raised a concern about changing timelines for making a decision on our permanent location. He promised to keep us posted on decisions regarding timelines, with Arbor Heights as well.

Introduction of teacher representative Sunny Graves.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES – unanimously approved

III. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SLATE – unanimously approved

- President (1 year): Robin Graham
- Vice President (2 years, becomes President in second year): Wendy Warborg
- Treasurer (1 year): Anne Higuera
- Secretary (1 year): Lisa Dawson

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **President:** Permanent location proposal update: Members have been meeting with Board and district staff, including a meeting with Jose Banda scheduled for 9/11. We should know if the recommendation to move to Schmitz Park has changed by the 9/17 Growth Boundaries work session.
- b. **VP:** Wendy is also room parent coordinator: Many open spots. 75-80% of time will be spent supporting the individual room teachers, the remainder will be teacher appreciation and other special events.
- c. **Treasurer:** (provided by outgoing Treasurer Christy Monge) \$29,500 account balance
- d. **Secretary:** Goal is to have 100% PTA membership, voting or non-voting membership. Committee reports will be sent ahead of meetings so we can free up time for discussion.

- e. **Building Leadership Team (BLT):** Planning coffee chats with parents every six weeks, with the first one in mid-October (location and times will rotate).

V. COMMITTEE & COORDINATOR REPORTS

- a. **Development / Fundraising** (Heidi Alessi, Chair): Reminder that PTA is a legal entity responsibility for fundraising for the school. We have lots of requests for funding: textbooks, teacher training/relief time for project based learning, etc., so we need to be strategic in how we fundraise and where we spend money. Rather than do candy or giftwrap sales, we've decided to focus on three fundraisers (see below). Reminder to use amazon.com link on the PTA website – we raised a couple of thousand dollars through the program last year.

Framework for Fundraising Coordination:

1. BLT develops teacher/staff priorities for PTA funding on a school-wide basis.
 2. Room parents develop class specific priorities.
 3. Fundraising will be general with funds being spent based on the priorities identified through 1 and 2 and the member approved budget. The lesson learned last year and the preference from the community was that we not constantly hit parents up with donation requests. As a result we have three fundraisers in the works:
 - a. Fall direct give in October. We are developing the concept of an annual Ecosystem Campaign. The idea being that everything is interconnected and every contribution is valuable. \$5 gets us a box of crayons, \$10 gets us paint, \$100 gets ____, \$500 gets _____. Ideas welcome!
 - b. Chinook books in November
 - c. Auction around March (if we have enough bodies to pull it off). Kid art will be what makes this a success and we will surely need art supplies and teacher buy-in (though the lesson from my prior school is that this has to be parent lead because not all teachers want to or can lead art projects).
- b. **Community Events** (Melissa Edwards, Chair) – These events connect families with the school community an each other.
- Curriculum Night / Open House: October 10th (Lily Pierson & Melissa Edwards) – would like feedback on what would make this successful.
 - Potluck: October 3rd 5:30-8:00pm (Carla Gawthorp)
 - Pumpkin Chuckin' on November 2nd (Kathleen Voss)
- c. **Before & After School** (Christa Howsmon, Chair) – Legos sessions are full; Open spots in jump rope, Chinese, chess, unicycle/stilts, Science on Wheels (grades 3-5). Christa will send out confirmations to everyone who signed up.
- d. **Advocacy – Federal/State/Legal Policy** (Grace Bennett, Chair)

Grace's report: As Advocacy Chair/Legislative Liaison for K-5 STEM, I am hoping to keep our community abreast on what's going on in Olympia with our legislatures that directly affects our children's education.

"Advocacy Program - Advocacy has been an integral piece of PTA since we formed over 100 years ago. And it will remain that way well into the future. What makes PTA different from all other child advocacy organizations across our state and the nation is that you, our grassroots members, drive our work. Members decide what PTA will advocate for each and every year. Members know best what is needed in their communities and WSPTA listens to those needs through our legislative process. Over the years that process has manifested differently in response to what our members need.

At the state level we will build legislative issue support teams. Each team will have a leader who will organize his or her team, communicate to members, engage key legislators, and represent PTA in Olympia on that specific issue.

PTA leaders are representing you at child and education stakeholder meetings to reestablish parent connections to these statewide groups. The feedback we have received is very positive – the parent connection is crucial to all groups and this wider representation opens doors to new opportunities for our involvement on many levels. For example, we have been asked to be the parent voice for a new Childhood Obesity group being formed by Governor Inslee that includes representatives from the Department of Health, OSPI, and the Department of Early Learning." <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-State-PTA-Region-6/111935762227259>

The WASTATEPTA page is very informative about our top issues, both long term and short term. Here's a link to the site <http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>. The more you all understand this page, the more you will understand what the PTA is doing for our kids in Olympia.

Here is another very important link to a blog set up to help you navigate around the submitted issues. <http://wsptalegassembly.blogspot.com/>

- e. **Advocacy – Local** (Robin gave the update on SPS)
- f. **Volunteers** (Chris Southam, Coordinator) – **Volunteers must stop by the office to fill out the background check form in the office – you must do this EVERY YEAR.**
 - Volunteer sign-ups are available, for both ongoing needs and special events.
 - We need volunteers of all kinds, during the school day and not, in the building and not.
 - Building a 'brain bank' - if you have skills, we might need you! Even if it's not specifically requested, please list it. You never know what projects the teachers want to take on! We want to build a database of skill resources for the future.
 - All volunteers must see Cindy in the office for a background check! Volunteers have to show state-issued ID before being allowed to work with the kids.
- g. **Uniform Closet** (Debbie Sarsidi Ross & Mercedes Diggs, Coordinators) – Uniform closet is up and running. If anyone needs help with obtaining uniform items, there is a request form in the office and we will try to fulfill it as best we can (based on what is available at the time.) We are always accepting donations of gently used clothing to fill the closet. We are especially in need of girl's pants and shirts, all sizes. Stay tuned for a future uniform swap.
- h. **Arts Committee** (Alison Li & Audrey Querns, Coordinators) – 3 areas: 1) Bring more art into the classroom – low cost activities, parent resources, add art walks to our school events – need volunteers; 2) provide art resources and supplies to teachers - want recycled materials to use in projects, resource lists for teachers (what can parents offer, community resources); ideas for field trips that integrate art and STEM; 3) researching and applying for grants; using the arts as a tool for fundraising (auction art projects). Will contact volunteers to determine best date to meet.
- i. **Lost & Found** (Mercedes Diggs, Coordinator) – Lost and found is moving to the area between the gym and cafeteria. Will remind teachers to have kids look for their stuff, have reminder signs at events and PTA meetings

- j. **Diversity** (Cessa Heard-Johnson, Coordinator) – This is a new committee. We want to have a broad definition of diversity that encompass more than race and ethnicity (language spoken at home, family structure, gender, socio-economic status). Will schedule time at a future PTA meeting for Cessa lead a session on diversity.
- k. **Marketing** (Heidi Baughman, Coordinator) – Please check with the PTA before using the logo
- l. **Communications** (Susie Jarrett, Coordinator) – Need someone take over the newsletter

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PTA memberships (\$15 voting)
- Scarves for \$20 suggested donation
- Committee sign-ups
- Next meeting: October 8, 2013 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Dawson, PTA Secretary