

K-5 STEM at Boren PTA
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2013, 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library

Robin Graham called the meeting to order at 6:36pm with 45 in attendance.

I. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES – unanimously approved

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. President (Robin Graham)
 - Spirit Wear – Last Friday of the month. Robin will get clarification from Dr. McKinney on guidelines and what happens if there is no school on the last Friday.
- b. VP (Wendy Warborg)
 - Room parents met last week. Room parents will not be collecting money from parents this year – want to have kids do non-monetary projects/gifts for teachers. Will need volunteers to help with classroom art projects for the auction. L'Nayim Austin and Kari Scheff are working on a field trip database (locations, scholarships, etc) for use by teachers and parents.
- c. Treasurer (Anne Higuera)
 - 2013-14 proposed budget: Started the year with \$23K, would like to keep (and hopefully grow) our reserve. We are entering our second year with little historical data to draw from, so budget was prepared based on information we have and assumptions we're making regarding fundraising (Direct Give and auction) and expenses. These numbers are goals, once the direct give campaign is over, we will have a better understanding of and will revisit the budget if necessary.
 - After discussion, a line item for \$300 for advocacy (Washington State Legislative PTA) was added. Recommendation for future budgets to have a line item for each committee.
 - Budget was unanimously approved.
- d. Secretary (Lisa Dawson)
 - Membership: Please fill out a form for voting and non-voting memberships. We need email addresses for all PTA members, and it's been a challenge getting them from the school.
- e. Building Leadership Team (BLT) (Kathleen Voss, Lily Pierson)
 - Parents **must** sign in when entering the building, even for short visits. Staff requests that parents wait for kids outside after school.
 - PTA, BLT, Staff roles: Who do you go to with different questions? (Note: this will be posted on school and PTA website).
 - PTA is an advocacy and fundraising organization, and can answer questions about the school community and after school programs;
 - Staff should be asked questions regarding classroom issues (room parents can handle smaller classroom issues);
 - Major classroom or behavioral concerns should go to Dr. McKinney;
 - BLT reps talk to staff on a regular basis (safety policies, professional development, budget) – great resource for parents who have questions or ideas about what's going on with the school, vision for the school. BLT coffee chat will be scheduled for week of 10/14. Contact the BLT at blt@k5stempta.org.

III. COMMITTEE & COORDINATOR REPORTS

- a. Development / Fundraising (Heidi Alessi, Chair)
 - Direct Give is Oct. 10 – Nov. 1: Kickoff at Curriculum Night. Flyer is available on the website, will go home with kids this week. Will be communicated through all available channels (kid

mail, PTA website, school website, Facebook, newsletter, etc.), updates throughout the campaign.

- Auction update: Work has started on a Spring auction, need lots of volunteers, looking at locations right now, will also need class art projects.
- b. Community Events (Melissa Edwards, Chair)
 - Curriculum Night Oct. 10: Opportunity for parents to hear what teachers have planned for the year.
 - Pumpkin Chuckin' Nov 2: Kids will build different things to destroy pumpkins. We will compost. Need help from parents – contact Kathleen Voss if you can help!
- c. Before & After School (Christa Howsmon, Chair)
 - In store for Winter: Scratch computer programming, Lego Robotics, Play-Well Lego, Chess, Sing Out Seattle
- d. Advocacy – Federal/State/Legal Policy (Grace Bennett, Chair) – attending legislative assembly on 10/18-19 – possibility for another parent to attend (contact Grace)
- e. Advocacy – Local (L'Nayin Austin, Charles Anselm, Chairs)
 - Growth Boundaries recommendations (K-8 STEM): No longer recommending we move to Schmitz Park, now recommending we expand to K-8 and stay at Boren. Growth boundaries working meeting on 10/17; additional Growth Boundaries community session scheduled.
 - 5th grade (Lisa Dawson) – Rolling up next year is not off the table per Tracy Libros. Israel Vela will advocate for this year's 5th graders, but we need to understand what that group of parents wants to do next year. Please return the 5th grade parent survey by Oct. 10.
- f. Volunteers (Chris Southam, Coordinator)
 - Chris has compiled a list of volunteers and interests. Send requests for volunteers should go to volunteers@k5stempta.org
- g. Uniform Closet (Debbie Sarsidi Ross & Mercedes Diggs, Coordinators)
 - Uniform swap at Curriculum Night
 - Check the lost and found! Racks are overflowing.
- h. Arts Committee (Alison Li & Audrey Querns, Coordinators)
 - Working on first school art project – hexagonal self-portraits will be up by Curriculum Night
- i. Diversity (Cessa Heard-Johnson, Coordinator)
 - Committee met on 9/30 - plan to work with teachers and other committees to offer ideas on incorporating diversity into school and classroom activities.
 - Mission: We are an advisory group to parents, teachers, administrators, the overall PTA and other committees to provide advice and oversight into the school's efforts around diversity. Our definition of diversity includes but is not limited to race, ethnicity and nationality; gender and gender identity; socioeconomic; age; ability; religion; and familial structures.
- j. Communications (Susie Jarrett, Coordinator)
 - Working on a communication plan that will relate to roles matrix (who does what), policies and procedures (drop off, pick up, etc)
 - Not all families have email, if you know of families that don't please consider periodically checking in with them to make sure they are getting information from the school and PTA

IV. NEW BUSINESS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PTA annual memberships (\$15 voting)
- Scarves for \$20 suggested donation
- Next meeting: November 12, 2013 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Dawson, PTA Secretary