

**K-5 STEM at Boren PTA**  
Meeting Agenda  
June 10, 2014, 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library

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**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:38pm with 26 attendees**

**II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Many thanks to Robin Graham and Lily Pierson for their service to our PTA over the past two years. Your time and dedication has had a huge impact on the success of our school!**

- a. President (Robin Graham)
  - See Q&A with incoming principal Ben Ostrom (below)
- b. Vice President (Wendy Warborg)
  - 2014-15 officers:
    - President: Wendy Warborg
    - Vice President: Rebecca Garcia (2015-16 President)
    - Treasurer: Anne Higuera
    - Vice Treasurer: Debbie Sarsidi Ross (2015-16 Treasurer)
    - Secretary: Lisa Dawson
    - BLT: Kathleen Voss (1 year)
    - BLT: Mercedes Diggs (2 years)
- c. Treasurer (Anne Higuera)
  - 2014-15 budget unanimously approved, with addition of a line item for Advocacy
- d. Secretary (Lisa Dawson)
  - Reminder: PTA membership needs to be renewed annually. 2014-15 membership drive will begin in July.
- e. BLT (Kathleen Voss, Lily Pierson)
  - See Q&A with Ben Ostrom

**III. COMMITTEE & COORDINATOR REPORTS**

- a. Development / Fundraising (Heidi Alessi, Chair)
  - Corporate Sponsorship committee openings
- b. Library (Helen Green, Coordinator)
  - Library space will be shared with Arbor Heights. In the process of
- c. Uniform Closet (Debbie Sarsidi Ross & Mercedes Diggs, Coordinators)
  - Please look at the Lost & Found! Many uniform items, coats, lunchboxes need to be claimed
  - Keep donating! Need boy's sizes 7 and up
- d. Advocacy (Grace Bennett)
  - Need someone to fill next year's advocacy role.
- e. Before & After School Enrichment (Christa Howsmon)
  - Working on Fall schedule
  - Still need a coordinator for next year!

**IV. NEW BUSINESS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS**

Incoming principal Ben Ostrom attended the meeting and answered the following questions:

**Q: What is your philosophy on discipline?**

Ben: Three-prongs that impact discipline in a school: 1) Quality of instruction and engagement; 2) Approach to behavioral issues: Why is this child behaving this way? What can we learn about each other in this moment? How do we let the child know how this behavior will be handled? and 3)

Procedures: How do we do things to minimize issues?

**Q: Is this (discipline) the biggest issue you've heard about here?**

Ben: It is not the biggest question, but it is a consistent concern from parents and staff.

**Q: How will you communicate and meet with parents?**

Ben: Informal meetings (likely 1x a month) or whatever the community wants, PTA meeting attendance (note: PTA will accommodate his schedule), and regular newsletter articles. He also keeps half of Wednesday and all day Friday open to meet with parents.

**Q: How often do you interact with kids on the playground, lunchroom and classroom?**

Ben: Daily. The first month that is basically all I intend to focus on: getting to know the kids and our community.

**Q: Thoughts on uniforms?**

Ben: Up to staff and community input.

**Q: Thoughts on lunchroom management?**

Ben & Ro Gluck: We will address new procedures next year.

**Q: Update on roll-up to K-8?**

Ben: Good news: SPS is very aware of STEM needs and wishes. He met with Michael Tolley, Flip Herndon, Israel Vela and they all want to support the middle school roll-up. A design team will be formed this summer. The challenge is that there are a lot of unknown factors at this time related to building usage and making sure parents understand of what a roll-up entails, especially for the first group of sixth graders.

The bad news is that there is no set date on the roll-up. We will have a better idea of the feasibility of this in late-October or early November. The design team must develop a plan and parents must support the plan.

**Q: Only two Kindergartens next year?**

Ben: Yes. This is a direct result of the district boundary changes and overall uncertainty in the district. All kids on a STEM wait list are actually enrolled at another school. Can't have three K's here if that means dropping another school's kindergarten classes.

**Q: Before & After School program transportation update?**

Ben: Bus transportation will continue to all programs for STEM kids.

**A: What are your thoughts on assemblies? We'd like to have more of them.**

Ben: Yes, totally believe in regular assemblies. Monday morning is a good time to kick them off. They help build community between kids.

**Q: We are boy heavy as a population. How can we attract more girls to STEM?**

Ro Gluck: We are looking at it from a marketing perspective, in conjunction to how it relates to all of our different forms of diversity.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Spirit Wear Day: June 19

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Dawson, PTA Secretary