

K-5 STEM at Boren PTA
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2014, 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library

- I. Wendy Warborg PTA President called the meeting to order.
- II. Cessa Heard Johnson moderated an icebreaker, multicultural bingo
- III. Principal Ben Ostrom was introduced with a poem read by Wendy Warborg.
 - a. Mr. O as the students call him gave a summary of some of his priorities and took questions from the community.
 - b. He reviewed 3 areas of focus as follows:
 - i. How we teach – getting the staff and school on the same page
 - ii. What we do – PBI-S/Positive Discipline, making sure there is consistency in the expectations for kids, how to behave in our school.
 - iii. Curriculum alignment
 1. What we teach
 2. How we know what has been learned
 3. Shared practice in project based learning
 - c. Teachers have all been in Positive discipline(PD) training
 - d. No more be bucks and remind receipts which are not consistent with PD. Now have 'Hoot Outs' and a program called 'All in for STEM'
 - e. Working on the amount of time kids have to eat at lunch. Time is 20 minutes, but working on efficiencies in getting in and out of the lunch room to make sure students have the full 20 minutes for their lunch.
 - f. No birthday celebrations with sweet treats, trying to eliminate the sugar in the classroom. Teachers and grade bands can choose alternative ways to celebrate.
 - g. Q&A
 - i. How can we bring PD home and be sure we are acting consistent with classroom norms.
 1. Buy books, go online and look for upcoming PD workshops or talks that the PTA will sponsor for families.
 - ii. Will there be walk to math?
 1. Not right now, teachers need to get more familiar with the new Math in focus textbooks and then will decide if walk to math is appropriate in the coming months.
 - iii. What do we do when a sub does not show?
 1. Working on this issue, it is a district wide issue and West Seattle seems to suffer disproportionately, perhaps because it is harder to get to. We are looking to create appositive guest teacher environment and have a list of go to subs.
 - h. Principal Ostrom noted that he has really enjoyed getting to know the community and the kids. "It is a really great group of kids and teachers committed to thinking and doing things differently, we have had a wonderful start."
- IV. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. Coffee Chats with Principal Ostrom to be held third Friday of the month. First one will be on Sept. 19.
 - b. Vice President Rebecca Garcia reviewed need for Reviews, open posts for Room Parents and roles on the executive committee. Contact her with interest at vp@k5stempta.org
 - c. Treasurer Anne Higuera reviewed two PTA spends outside of the approved budget.
 - i. Playground equipment
 - ii. Need to hire a CPA to help with 990EZ filing
 - iii. Both were voted on and approved

- d. Kalthleen Voss gave a BLT update and explained the role of the Building Leadership Team.
- V. Committee and Coordinator Reports
 - a. Heidi Alessi reviewed major fundraising efforts for the year.
 - i. Direct Give in October, theme Feathering the Nest.
 - ii. Spring Auction
 - b. Helen Green, Library – need volunteers, Book fair coming up
 - c. Debbit Atkinson, Website – not just a PTA site but a news blog, you can follow from the site and get email updates.
 - d. Linnea, Enrichment – sign-ups started Sept. 12, scholarship program
 - e. Robin Graham, Playground clean – up 9/20.
- VI. Announcements
 - a. STEM Social 10/11
- VII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by PTA Vice President Rebecca Garcia.