

**Louisa Boren STEM K8 PTA General Meeting
January 9, 2020
STEM Library**

Meeting called to order at: 6:31pm - Charles Cutter

Please sign the attendance sheet.

Recycling 101 presentation by City of Seattle - Angela Wallis

Approve December minutes - Charles

Approved, one abstention.

Vice President vote - Margo

Damion Wiltshire nominated for Vice President. Motion to elect; seconded. Damion Wiltshire unanimously elected.

Treasurer's Report - Jess Andre

Motion to approve the 990. 990 form unanimously approved.

Advocacy Committee - Alicia

We have a draft hate speech survey for students and families. Comments are welcome and go to Alicia.

2020-21 School Year Calendar - Shawna Murphy

2020-21 SPS Calendar vote by School Board later this month. There is a proposal to start the week before Labor Day - 9/2 rather than 9/9.

The SEA bargaining agreement does allow leeway regarding school start date. Base language states the first Wednesday in September, but in 2020 and 2021 those Wednesdays fall *before* Labor Day. Ben believes teacher preference will ultimately prevail; parents may want to speak out if they are against it. Contact your District school board member.

Hammering Owl Art Extravaganza - Colleen

Thursday, February 6th. Volunteers are needed to help run art/interactive stations. Look for a Sign-up Genius link.

Open House and School Tours - Christine

Please sign-up for one or both a tour or open house:

Thursday 16th 9a

Friday 24th 9a

Tuesday 28th, 9a

Friday 31st, 9a

Friday 7th, 9a

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Auction - Charles

Please buy tickets! It's an important fundraiser to support the costs of project-based learning, playground needs, etc.

Principal Update and Open Discussion - Ben, all

- PBL night is 1/16 - please join to support our kids.
- Dana Frank, new .5 FTE school counselor joins STEM on 1/23.
- Boys and Girls' middle school basketball begin games this weekend.
- See Ms. Bannister's article: [*School Library as a Safe Harbor for LGBTQ Students and Families*](#)
- STEM will host the state robotics challenge the end of February. Please come out and support.
- Ms. Giza will not return this year due to District requirements about leave. Ben does anticipate that she will return fall 2020.
- Ms. Dominguez will not be the long-term science sub second semester. Beth Mahrt will be her replacement. She's worked as an educator for a long time, and recently got her K-8 teaching certificate. She has a science degree and has experience teaching in higher education. She has previously substituted at STEM for math and language arts. It was hard-fought to find a short-term middle school science teacher mid-year. Science teachers are in high demand.
- It's a tricky year; we have a new science curriculum and there are no waivers from it; Ms. Giza has been out; students have struggled.
- Question: How will families be allowed to support the new teacher/new teachers in general. Ben: Teachers get to say how and when they want help.
- Statement - how will students be able to trust again, catch up on the curriculum, have a chance to not fail the science? The curriculum itself is a concern - it's not hands on enough for our school.
- Parents want a path forward with how to engage with administration and be clearly communicated with.
- Request that new teachers are better prepared.
- Question: what will be done to help repair morale, and support students and families and Ms. Mahrt? Ben: the 6th grade in general needs help and support - it's not just science class. Request from parent to work on a plan now to repair the situation.
- Upset about current teacher staying 3 more weeks. Request to Ben to develop a plan.

Next meeting February 6, 2020, 6:30-8p, STEM Library