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
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. Dominquez 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.