

Louisa Boren STEM K8 Membership Meeting
June 11 2020
Zoom

Attendees

Board Members:

Charles Cutter, Angela Wallis, Don Knutson, Erika Whinihan, Robin Graham, Margo Bergman, Jess Andre, Alicia Every, Colleen Peterson, Michelle Johnson, MC Nachtigal, Shawna Murphy, Brynn Chadwick.

Members and Staff:

Leann Wagele, Kate Bennett, Cynthia Moon, Ben Ostrom, Erin Knutson, Danielle Blechert, Melinda Luke-White, Paula Clement, Zachary Peterson, Mindy Caulley, Mary Bannister, Adrienne Ollerenshaw.

Presidents Report - Charles

Electronic Voting

- Motion to permit the PTA Board to conduct electronic voting and provide alternate means of voting for those unable or unwilling to use electronic voting methods.
- **Motion seconded.** Approved. 15 Yea 0 Nea. No abstentions. **Motion passes.**

This change must be added to our standing rules.

Principal's Update - Ben Ostrom

- Poem reading
- OSPI guidance for 2020-21 was released today. A primary goal is physical distancing. How and whether classrooms and schools are able to comply is to be determined for every school and classroom. Some kind of physical education is very likely. There is no indication of more money from the State to accommodate these huge changes and challenges.

Ben says must do's are:

- Establish and provide a consistent weekly learning schedule for kids and parents
- Regular parent/teacher meetings (classroom, individual)

Questions: Is the District supplying masks? How will they be washed?

- District will **not** provide masks
- PTA can support by providing input to the school from parents.
 - Suggestion to meet with Ben over the summer to discuss ideas and a path forward.
 - Concerns about kids' social-emotional learning and connection.

Budget report and vote on 2020-2021 budget - Don

- We are positive \$26,000 for the fiscal year.
- Still have a few teacher reimbursements to come in and process
- Still trying to figure out math consumables

2020-2021 Budget

- Budget is proposed at **\$167K**- \$19K less than we would have planned.
- This will be a fluid budget due to uncertainties next year. We request flexibility from everyone in our expectations and abilities.
- We will add back to categories we had to reduce if we end up with more income than budgeted.
- Income changes due to COVID-19:
 - Reduced Auction income by \$9K
 - Reduce Direct Give income by \$5K
 - Reduced Art event income by \$4K
 - Did not touch enrichment
- Expenses reduced due to COVID-19:
 - Reduced Art Extravaganza to \$2K (cut \$3K)
 - Reduced classroom support to \$100/classroom (overall reduction of \$2K)
 - We do need to encourage teachers generally to use this money fully.
 - Reduced enrichment coordinator to \$5K from \$8K
 - Reduce library support to \$8K from \$11K
 - We did not change expenditures on project-based learning activities and supplies.
 - **Request that we budget money to support equity teaching in classrooms through PBL grant request line item. Can PBL projects be looked at through the lens of equity? Or, can we broaden the grants to include Equity challenge grants - related or unrelated to PBL? We need to connect with the Equity team and the teachers who are already working on equity to ask how they'd like to see this line item implemented.**
 - Motion to change the PBL Challenge Grants line item to "PBL & Equity Challenge Grants". Seconded. Motion passes.
- **Vote on 2020-21 PTA Budget**
 - Motion to adopt the budget as amended. Seconded. Motion passed.

Nomination committee - Angela

Review and vote on 2020-21 Slate

- **PTA will make a specific request for a Race & Equity chair through teachers, staff, and school equity team - PTA Race & Equity chairperson would also ideally be on the school committee. Ben, teachers can help us find a volunteer.**
- **Danielle to ask Tia and Marissa to see if they can take this on.**

Motion to adopt the slate as proposed. Seconded. Motion passed.

Advocacy - Alicia

Anti-racist Statement in Honor of Black Lives:

Louisa Boren STEM PTA is an anti-racist organization. Our PTA is engaged in anti-racist work and will continue to listen, learn, and speak out against racism and violence. We seek to center the voices of the Black community and communities of color at STEM, and look to them for guidance and leadership in achieving our mission and staying true to our values.

In the coming 2020-21 school year, we will explore concrete actions to identify systemic racism and the ways it affects families of color. The PTA will review all policies and procedures, including stating this position on our member enrollment form, prioritizing engaging with anti-racist vendors, and educating our students and families on racism. We will review resources, including statements by Superintendent Juneau, the district and school board, national and state PTAs, the Academy of African American Male Achievement, and other respected sources, to inform our decisions.

We strive to remove all forms of racism--structural, institutional, and individual--at STEM. This work will never finish, but will be ongoing.

- Alicia would like an advocacy co-chair who has a race & equity focus and skills.
- Danielle would like a job description for the race & equity board position to push out to families
- Erika shared the statement in the chat and Alicia read it to the meeting participants to vote on; the statement in these minutes has been further updated (need to get full text from Alicia)
- **Motion to approve the statement is approved (after proposed/seconded)**

GGLOW update - Shawna

- Shawna had to leave but she put this in the chat: GGLOW owls report made about \$750 for LGBTQ+ ebooks. Adopted a flag in the West Seattle business district-will be raised the last weekend of June. It says, "We see you, Owls". The business district will send us a tiny flag for us to keep in the main office.

Back to School Bash, Auction - Robin

- B2S Bash: Our State is unlikely to be in COVID-19 recovery PHase 4 in time for the B2B / Auction so we are looking for ways to hold the events online, possibly an online Bingo event.
- Auction: a live auction could proceed; Robin to contact vendors about items that might expire in 2020.
- We need to make over \$57K at the auction to keep the budget as-is.
- 8th grade Graduation: will be on Thursday, June 18th and will be a Zoom call, details to come.

Robin thanked Charles for all his hard work as PTA President and meeting was adjourned at 8:19PM