



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Meeting Agenda
Thursday, October 13, 2022 – 6:30-8PM

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Kate Moore, Alicia Every, Ben Ostrom, Caitlin Simoneaux, Katie Trent, Margo Bergman, Hannah Tracy, Cindy Heidelberg, Trey Sanders, Mary Ann Lambert, Brenda Macias, Catherine Markham, Erika Whinihan, Amy Yun, Chirag Amin, Colleen Stephens, Darcy Picard, Erin Eaton, Jennifer Jackson, Kate Bennett, Paula Clement, Heidi Paulson, Chirag Amin, Christy Markham, Ellie Robinson, Jess Andre, Erin Rich, Shawna Murphy

1. Call meeting to order – Kate Moore

- a. Land Acknowledgment: The Louisa Boren STEM K8 PTA acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe

2. Introductions

- a. Community Check In: favorite thing about this season
- b. Virtual attendees met in breakout rooms

3. Principal's Update – Ben Ostrom

- a. Poem reading: *Autobiographia Literaria* by Frank O'Hara
- b. Starting rollout of PlayWorks
 - i. Program that creates structured play, zones on the playground
 - ii. Students are engaging with the program and it is freeing up space
 - iii. PlayWorks implementation, would not have been possible without PTA support (funding 50%)
 - iv. Tether ball will be re-installed as a game of the week as part of PlayWorks structured play
- c. State In Service Day plan
 - i. \$10K from PTA funds is paying for a facilitator to revisit core fundamentals of Project Based Learning in first half of the day
 - ii. Time for grade level teams to work on PBL plans
 - iii. Middle school will work on planning projects across teachers and disciplines
- d. Elimination of social distancing is, remarkably, not leading to a rise in Covid cases
- e. Pronoun Day was a first-time effort, celebrating the fearless launch and happy to grow from this experience for next year/the future. Parents noted that students came home excited to share what they learned and felt supported by the effort
- f. Seventh grade camp was a success

4. Minutes Approval

- a. Clarified that \$746 raised at a bake sale last year was designated as funds for the 8th grade yearbook, PTA will act as a passthrough
- b. Approved minutes from September meeting by unanimous vote

5. Nominations for PTA Roles

- a. Erin Eaton is presumptive VP
- b. Katie Trent is presumptive Secretary
- c. Tom Every is presumptive Co-Treasurer
- d. Must have a nominating committee review and put them to a vote at the November meeting

6. Standing Rules Review – Kate Moore

- a. Attendees spent several minutes reading through [the rules](#)
- b. Standing rule requires that agenda be sent 10 days in advance of the meeting; Kate acknowledged that date is often missed
 - i. Attendees suggested that the rule be revised to reduce/make ambiguous the advance release of the agenda. Proposed to revise the rule at November meeting after period of review to ensure changing advance notice requirement doesn't impact other rules.
 - ii. Margo suggested that we find a solution or do a better job of complying with the rule to review the monthly financial report
- c. Voted to approve the Standing Rules by unanimous vote

7. Annual Review Update – Jess Andre

- a. To stay in good standing with the WA State PTA, must complete an annual financial review. Completed by Mary Ann, Margo and Jess over the summer. Only deficit is the missing monthly review, which the PTA will endeavor to complete this year.

8. Committee Updates

- a. Trey Sanders, Treasurer's Report
 - i. Mission, Vision, Values:
 - 1. Support PBL learning
 - 2. Enrichment
 - 3. Supporting school, teachers and staff
 - 4. Creating a safe space
 - 5. Supporting the community building
 - ii. Budget review
 - 1. Beginning of fiscal year, so spending is light, with \$820 spent so far (mostly on yearbook)
 - 2. \$250K balance represents safety net. Best practice is to maintain ~3 years' spend as safety net
 - 3. Money outflow right now is primarily supporting membership subsidies. Question about how to pay dues; PTA has ongoing practice of subsidizing all member dues (\$15/member)
 - 4. \$10K spend for PBL facilitator support on Staff Development Day
 - iii. PTA member asked for definition of Project Based Learning: hands-on application of multi-disciplinary learning objectives through strategic

project approaches. A project might incorporate writing, math, science, etc. PBL is a major focus of the school curriculum

- b. **Mary Ann Lambert, Fundraising Committee Update**
 - i. \$93,306 is goal for 2022-23 year
 - ii. PTA is a fundraising organization, in addition to other purposes.
Spending is driven primarily by fundraising efforts
 - 1. Passive efforts: Amazon Smile, BoxTops for Education, Kroger rewards
 - 2. Active efforts:
 - a. Monthly dine-out at Mod Pizza (Westwood Village) with 20% supporting STEM. First effort raised \$257.36. Next is 11/10
 - b. Book fair in November with Paper Boat Booksellers. 20-25% of purchases earmarked for fundraiser will come back to PTA. Info coming soon
 - c. Art raffle in Spring as part of STEM Community Week
- c. **Hannah Tracy - Race and Equity update**
 - i. Racial Equity team working to be more intentional about supporting LGBTQIA+ work within the school
 - ii. Oct. 27-28 will be second annual Culture Day at the school.
 - 1. Topics, e.g., anything from country of origin, family culture about loving baseball, music, broad range.
 - 2. Students set up tables in cafeteria and spend as much or as little time as they wish.
 - 3. Need parent volunteers to support the event (set up, supporting students with presentation, or supporting students in advance with preparation). Contact Hannah if interested/able to volunteer, and must complete SPS Volunteer application
 - iii. Looking for more individuals to serve on Race and Equity Committee.
Reach out to Hannah with interest: raceandequity@stemk8pta.org
- d. **Margo Bergman – LGBTQIA Update**
 - i. Typically do two events per year in addition to supporting general work
 - 1. Speaker or book club around international Transgender Day of Remembrance
 - 2. Party at end of year for Pride Month – G Glow (dance party fundraiser in support of LGBTQIA+ books for the library)
 - 3. Also supported Pronoun Day this month
 - ii. Happy to accept help with the LGBTQIA committee; reach out to Margo: margotanne@gmail.com
- e. **Cindy Heidelberg, Communications Update**
 - i. Places to see what the PTA is doing: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, PTA website
 - ii. Working on improved website
 - iii. Work to update on all ways to support STEM and goings-on at the school

f. Jess Andre, Room Liaison Update

- i. All classrooms covered except 5th grade; will reach out to class lists to drum up interest
- ii. Liaisons help get communications out about school events and happenings, support teachers with needs for the classrooms
- iii. Reach out to Jess at roomliaison@stemk8pta.org if interested

g. Paula Clement, Staff Appreciation Update

- i. Staff expressed desire for more frequent/spread out appreciation events instead of one or a few large events
- ii. September event was overwhelming; so much food!
- iii. Next event on 10/20; snacks for early release training
- iv. Staff appreciation week will only include two food events instead of every day

9. Review of hybrid meeting experience

- a. Feedback from in-person attendees: if in-person attendees have a laptop per table, will make audio better for Zoom attendees
- b. Zoom attendees: appreciated virtual option and ability to attend from home, great energy compared to all-virtual meeting
- c. Look into a meeting Owl, but cost is \$1,000-ish. See if someone has one to lend for monthly meetings

10. PTA laptops

- a. Are old, clunky
- b. Donate?
- c. Laptops were donated to PTA for use by those without access to a laptop

11. Next meeting: November 10, hybrid again

- a. Will be voting to approve new roles

12. Adjourned by Kate Moore at 8 pm