

**Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2016, 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library

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**I. CALL TO ORDER – GENERAL WELCOME AND UPDATES**

- Meeting called to order at 6:37pm by STEM PTA President, Rebecca Garcia.
- 12 STEM PTA members in attendance

**II. APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES**

- June meeting minutes were not discussed or approved.

**III. PRINCIPAL WELCOME**

- Principal Ben Ostrom discussed the school has 16 new staff members this year.
- There are 500 kids, 5 new programs, 7 new buses, 2 new computer labs, \$400,000 facilities modifications, 6 less portable classrooms.
- Still waiting on new iPads for middle school students. It may be a few weeks. Kids are using them in classrooms but won't have iPads to take home until the new ones come in.
- Ben introduced the new school counselor, Meredith Osborne, who has a .6 (half time) time schedule. She will be at the school 2 full days and two half days per week.
- Meredith announced that October is anti-bullying month. There will be anti-bullying information for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Families will receive information at home.

**IV. UPDATE AND REVIEW STANDING RULES**

- PTA Secretary, Stacey Jacobsen, discussed what Standing Rules are and gave a brief overview of how the PTA is organized, made a call for renewing PTA memberships or joining.
- Call for interested volunteers to work on this year's revised Standing Rules.
- Draft Standing Rules will be posted on the PTA website before the October membership meeting, where they will be voted on.

**V. BUDGET UPDATE AND REVIEW**

- Treasurer, Stephanie Kellner, presented the budget which was approved by members at the end of the 2015-2016 school year and discussed some of the ways the PTA supports the school.
- The bulk of money raised goes directly to supporting school programs, including:
  - \$10,000 for library books this school year
  - \$35,000 for PBL project based learning support in classrooms
  - \$5,000 release time for teachers' professional development
  - \$10,000 for Sarah Waldron, PBL teacher assistance
  - \$20,000 technology support
  - Assemblies, family engagement activities, school potlucks, etc.
  - \$12,000 to pay for all Singapore math books in the school
  - Enrichment activities
  - Paid volunteer coordinator, enrichment coordinator
- Fundraisers:
  - Two biggest fundraisers are Direct Give and auction
  - There are shopping venues Amazon, Thriftway, Amazon (accessed through the PTA website, the school earns 4-10%), PCC scrip, Boxtops for Education, Land's End (the school earns 3%). Fundraising Chair Robin Graham will post information about these sites on the PTA website in the coming weeks.
  - We will try a kid-led fundraiser that was approved by members. We don't know what it will be yet, possibly a walk-a-thon
- Proposed budget revisions were presented. Keisha Scott motioned that the budget with revisions is

approved. Alouise Urness and Robin Graham seconded. The membership approved the budget as presented.

## **VI. FUNDRAISING UPDATE/DIRECT GIVE**

- Fundraising Chair, Robin Graham discussed PTA fundraising efforts. Volunteers are needed. Contact Robin if you have fundraising ideas you can help lead.
- The first fundraiser is Direct Give. Information will be coming out soon.
- There will be many ways to give. If you cannot give money, volunteer time and talents.

## **VII. VOLUNTEERS/ROOM PARENTS**

- Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Hettrick, discussed ways to volunteer.
- There will be an updated Sign-Up Genius available through the PTA website. There will be ongoing opportunities to volunteer throughout the year. Examples of volunteer opportunities:
  - library help
  - room parents including classrooms, library, access
  - parking lot help in mornings and afternoons to help control traffic, etc.
- All volunteers must complete new volunteer packets. You must come in person to show your I.D. and have it photocopied. The volunteer packets will be available on the PTA website or you can access it on the school district website.

## **VIII. ENRICHMENT UPDATE**

- Enrichment Coordinator, Cassandra O'Neal, announced there will be 18 morning classes and 11 afternoon classes will be available this term.
- Registration will be online on the PTA website. There are also paper forms which will be coming home with students. Programs last 10 weeks. Family members who volunteer, the student will get half off the cost of activity tuition.

## **IX. ADVOCACY**

- Advocacy Chair, Shawna Murphy, gave an update on advocacy activities during the last school year and the coming school year:
  - WA State is 47th in the nation in terms of funding student education.
  - This year, a parent group wrote a letter in support of no homework and presented it to Principal Ostrom. It is not too late to sign this letter.
  - There is a student led LGBT group starting at the school with counselor Meredith Osborne as the advisor.
    - Pride potluck of LGBT families and allies will be held Friday, June 2nd in the STEM cafeteria.
    - There will be a fundraiser to raise money for LGBT books for the library.
- There will be a OSPI and Commissioner of Public Lands candidates' forum on Saturday, 10/08 at 10:00am at Garfield High School Quincy Jones performance center.
- A State Superintendents' Candidate forum, presented by presented by The Arc of King County, Provail, and Washington Autism Alliance and Advocacy will be held at Seattle Town Hall 9/28 at 7:00pm.
- Email Shawna at southernstreetkids@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining the committee's efforts.

## **X. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

- PTA board members who did not have a chance to speak were introduced: Vice President, Alison Li, Building Leadership Team (BLT) PTA parent representatives, Alouise Urness, Helen Green and Lisa Waskowitz
- Call for more families to volunteer who represent the faces of our community.
  - Discussion of multi-cultural celebrations at the school. The PTA has a budget and is looking for a Diversity Chairperson to join the board.
  - If you have ideas, or would like to volunteer contact a board member.

## **XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

- Curriculum/Open House 9/29
- Viewing of Screenagers movie – 10/5

## **XII. ADJOURN**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm