

Louisa Boren STEM K-8
PTA Meeting Agenda
June 13, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM
In the school library

Called to order at 6:32

- Ben Ostrom, Principal's report
 - Uniform policy update- STEM has had a uniform policy since we opened.
 - Pros: Uniform is intended to create community and reminds kids why they're here (like a sports uniform would). Intended to create equitable community because of different socio-economic backgrounds of students from different neighborhoods. Intended to be gender neutral.
 - Cons: Introduces forced assimilation. Takes time from middle school classes to correct uniform violations, which are often gender -or race- based. Some kids are more negatively impacted- kids who already have attendance or academic troubles. Inconsistencies in enforcement from teachers and staff. Inconsistencies due to kids who are allowed to "break rules" due to IEP/ 504s.
 - Surveys were offered to staff/ teachers, families, and students. Staff results: close but more oppose uniform policy than support it. Parents' results (approximately 245 respondents): More were in support, by about 2/3rds majority. Ostrom anticipates that student results will be strongly opposed. Not a clear way to make a decision. Families most likely answered with only their child/ren in mind, but staff are more likely to think about the entire class/ grade band/ school.
 - Are there ways we can improve the uniform policy without scrapping it entirely? Add a color, allow hoodies (no hoods up), leggings, etc? Ostrom is concerned that could create new set of complications.
 - SPS is currently considering what conditions would be necessary for a school to be allowed to adopt a uniform policy. One proposed condition would be having 2/3 of the staff vote for it according to SEA voting guidelines. We currently do not have that level of support from staff.
 - BLT will make a recommendation and staff will vote on it. Goal is to communicate update to the school community at the end of the year.
- Executive Committee Reports
 - Melinda Luke-White, President
 - May meeting minutes approved and adopted.
 - PTAvenue site is going away, but Member Planet will be available 7/22. New ways to communicate with PTA members.
 - Buddy Bench will be put in place next Thursday at 5 with a community celebration (snacks, crafts, etc.).
 - The PTA board next year has only a President so far- we need a VP, secretary, and 2 co-treasurers.
 - Margo Bergman, Treasurer
 - Discussed funds still available from this year's budget and how it can be used.
 - Budgets are based on PTA mission/ values statement
 - 48% goes to curriculum support/ enrichment; 23% to teacher school support; 7% to student/ family engagement; 3% to PTA operations; the remainder to fundraising.
 - 50% of our money comes from the auction
 - Proposed budget for 2019-20 discussed line by line.

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- Highlights: PBL Challenge Grant was increased by \$500; Created line item for annual 4th grade trip to Tilikum Village (\$500, which is half of what they need); New line for \$500 for kiln clay; Decreased unallocated funds; Increased first day of school funds because there are two different days (K and everyone else); Took out line for multicultural night and created a \$3,000 line item for Race and Equity committee to plan events and trainings; Created line item to give \$1,000 to SCPTA for them to distribute to another school/s; Literacy Night instead of Book Fair.
- Fundraising change: some schools, in an attempt to increase equity, have removed student art from their auctions. At this year's STEM auction, art raised about \$10,000 of the \$94,000 total. Art will move to a raffle event. Auction will have videos of students discussing their PBL projects, bigger baskets/ packages of outings, goods, etc. Expectation is that the auction will bring in less than it has in the past, but art raffle will also bring in income and be more inclusive of more families.
- Motion made to adopt budget as is, seconded, approved!

- Committee and Coordinator Reports
 - Shawna Murphy, Advocacy events
 - GGLOW Owls Dance Party follow up- raised \$442.03 for the library LGBTQ collection, plus 24 books donated at the dance.
 - SPED @ STEM meeting 6/19 from 6:30-7:30.

- Adjourned at 8:19
- Submitted by Secretary Clere