

Louisa Boren STEM K8 PTA
Membership Meeting
November 14, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

President's Comments - Charles Cutter, Jr.

Next Membership meeting is 12/12, 6pm, STEM library

Will review a possible change to the spending plan and vote to approve both October and November meeting minutes.

Principal's Update - Ben Ostrom

Asked if students are speaking about PlayWorks at recess.

Ben observes that more students are engaged and recess and getting to do things they want to do. He'll be looking at how the PlayWorks principles can be extended to afternoon recess. It's a challenge because 5th graders are student PlayWorks leaders, and don't have the same recess time as younger grades.

Ben is actively working on a solution for a long-term teacher for middle school band.

Thank you to Robin for Direct Give success.

Building out a K8 school really takes 10 years - not just a few years. The Middle School schedule and staffing change annually as a result of the build out, and he recognizes the low outcomes for some students. He's trying to find additional staff resources from the District. Option schools enable transportation for students who have struggled at other schools, and that requires that STEM have extra resources. One positive outgrowth of this challenge is that it requires teachers to differentiate and be more inclusive of all students, and challenges them to grow in their profession.

Budget Report - Don Knutson

\$48K Direct Give with matching (\$43K w/o matching).

Barnes and Noble earned us \$243.10 for the library.

Library already has \$11K budget this year - \$10K invoiced so far. The books are already in use. Library check-outs total about 5,000/mo.

PTA will discuss the idea of a School Store at December meeting. PTA and parent support would be required. The store might sell STEM SWAG such as clothing, pencils, etc. Starting and running a School Store is complicated regarding taxes, reporting, and other legal requirements.

School Rewards Programs: Fred Meyer rewards applied for, but no official account. PCC still being worked on.

Art Extravaganza - Melinda

Call for volunteers - deadline is 11/15 - need 9 more volunteers to lead classroom projects (9 classes are covered).

Holiday gift cards - Robin

Lunch sacks go home on weekends with students in need through the Backpack partnership with the West Seattle Food Bank. We seek to cover school breaks, too, by providing grocery store gift cards to families in need. We partner with Alliance for Education for additional funding to purchase gift cards. Gift card donations can be given to Robin, Alicia, and Colleen. Include amounts on the gift cards. Smaller amounts are best - \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25.

47 students are currently participating, and there are more families that could use the support. Grocery stores on bus lines are preferred - Safeway, QFC.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 for guest speaker - Schuyler Bailar.