



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 General PTA Meeting Agenda
Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:30-8:00 PM
ZOOM ID: 974 5624 2108

Attending:

Kate Bennett, Don Knutson, Angela Wallis, Shawna Murphy, JoLynn Berge, Clover Codd, Erin Knutson, Jess Andre, Erika Whinihan, Ben Ostrom, Alicia Every, Ellie Robinson, Hannah Tracy, Charles Cutter, Colleen Peterson, Zach Peterson, Margo Bergman, Mindi Caulley, Bray Hayden, Alison Li, Melinda Luke-White, Paula Clement, Marie Clevering.

Call Meeting to Order (Don Knutson) - 5 Minutes

Seattle Public Schools Special Guests - Clover Codd & JoLynn Berge - 45 Minutes

Question: Please address the apparent lack of communication with teachers regarding the District's announcement that Pre-K through 1st grade students would be able to return to in-school learning on 3/1/21.

Response: The typical communication method for bargaining topics is that District leadership emails SEA leadership - then SEA emails teachers. Clover believes that this typical communication strategy isn't working during COVID/around COVID topics. District recognizes they need to improve how they communicate with teachers.

Question: Why did parent communication go out before bargaining was complete with teachers?

Response: The District needs to know the number of students who will learn in person vs. remote learners before negotiations can happen with SEA. It's a parallel track: District decision alongside notice to teachers and bargaining. A negotiated agreement must happen before return to school because working conditions will have to change drastically.

Question: Please address the budget shortfall.

Response: McCleary decision is still not fulfilled - principals, nurses, special education, and more areas remain underfunded. Levy = hard cap of \$3,000/student - revenue growth is stagnant but costs go up yearly. There will be budget cuts - roughly a \$20M shortfall. Some rainy day funds will be used. Class size increase of 1 student for grades 4-12.

Question: Superintendent search

Response: Still waiting for the Board to take action re: interim, timeline, etc.

Question/Statement: Was March 1 date based on vaccine availability?

Response: Vaccines were part of the thinking for 3/1 return to school. District is negotiating actively to ensure educators are vaccinated sooner rather than later.

Question: Anonymous option for reporting abuse?

Response: There is an anonymous ethics number - Ethics Hotline 206-252-0004. Other options are to send emails, but those aren't anonymous.

Question: Why was Teams selected over Zoom?

Response: Teams was chosen for security and translation options.

Question: What is the thinking on bringing back additional grades?

Response: Testing pre-k through Grade 1 first then an expansion may occur, but its not likely due to physical lack of space for all kids in smaller class sizes.

Question: What is the investigation process ? More third-party investigators are necessary.

Response from Ms. Codd: HR has an investigation unit of about 5 staff that manages over 400 cases per year. Capacity needs result in using third-party investigators, which cost \$15-\$20K each. Some cases are handled using purely third-parties.

Principal's Update (Ben Ostrom) - 20 Minutes

- Ben believes it's unlikely that return-to-school will expand beyond 1st grade.
- **Question:** How is Ben being asked to plan for Fall?

Response: No direction to Principals.

- **Question:** How is District/STEM preparing for the possible influx of Kindergarteners in '21-22 from folx that held their kids back this school year?

Response: Ben doesn't have demographic info yet. Will get a response to us soon.

- Question: Will the power outage result in a make-up day?
 - Response: No.
- Ongoing course of Ethnic Studies for STEM educators - 9, 2-hours sessions w/ reading and preparation. Includes study of race and power systems in the United States, and teaching pedagogy - how educators can teach cultural differences.

Question: How can the PTA honor the teachers' effort? **PTA will look into something with Ben.**

- Enrollment: Call for volunteers to join Open Houses/Tours will be sent.

Land Acknowledgement: I would like to acknowledge 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.

Approve Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2020

- Minutes approved via Chat.

Treasurer's Report (Jess Andre) - 5 Minutes

- Still in the black, but we need to start raising money. Our income is well behind budget.
- Income: \$37,243.71; expenses: \$16,195.95
 - Giving Tree netted over \$24,000 but that money goes right back out to our school families in need.
- PTA 990 EZ Form presented. Will be signed and submitted to IRS on time.
 - The form details that we spent money on budget items we said we would, like PBL support, textbooks, library books, community & safety, enrichment, including scholarships.
 - Proposed for vote and approval

Committee Updates - 15 Minutes

Fundraising (Margo Bergman)

- Direct Give in February that ties into the 100th day of school (2/26).
- Dine-out fundraisers
- Calls for volunteers forthcoming.

Nominating (Angela Wallis)

- Margo motioned to approve nominations committee slate
- Colleen seconded.
- Slate approved as presented via Chat vote: Angela Wallis, Zach Peterson, Adrienne Ollerenshaw
 - Jess Andre as alternate.

Advocacy Chair (Open) - Shawna Murphy

- Shawna posted in the chat how to sign up to give testimony.
- ActionNetwork.org = sign up for WSPTA weekly updates.
- Next week is Legislative Advocacy Day.
- SB 5044 could use comments about professional training in cultural competency.

Membership - Alicia Every

- Has an outline of a plan for how to help us increase membership and make it more inclusive.
- One step - we can create a budget line item for Membership Scholarships.
 - Also requires an amendment to our Standing Rules and a written policy.

- Need to establish a Membership Committee - Angela volunteered.

Race & Equity (Open)

In addition to the Land Acknowledgement, we should spend more time on equity education and awareness at PTA General Meetings.

Adjourned at 8:04pm

Next Meeting is February 11, 2021 6:30-8:00 PM

ZOOM ID: Will be sent by MemberPlanet