



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

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Kate Moore, Alicia Every, Tom Every, Katie Trent, Erin Eaton, Trey Sanders, Shawna Murphy, Brenda Macias, Cindy Heidelberg, Adrienne Ollerenshaw, MC Nachtigal, Heidi Paulson, Paula Clement, Aimee Jones, Christy Markham, Kate Bennett, Lauren Brohawn, Margo Bergman, Jess Andre, Erika Whinihan, Jennifer Jackson, Katy Greenleaf, Michelle Luxmore, Beatrix Every, Helen Every

1. Call meeting to order – Kate Moore

- a. Land Acknowledgment: The Louisa Boren STEM K8 PTA acknowledges that we are on the ancestral 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: Alicia Every acknowledged that we are still coming out of the pandemic, and that we can struggle with feeling like we are not making the mark, but was reminded we need to grant ourselves grace and recognize that we are still coming out of the pandemic and doing the best that we can.

3. Principal's Update – Ben Ostrom

- a. Poem reading: *Numbers* by Mary Cornish
- b. Inclement weather plan: if there is going to be a remote learning school day, parents will receive at least 48 hours' notice that this is possible. Not a notice for certain, but to be prepared for the potential.
 - i. The first time it happens, will be a two-hour late start. Subsequent times, will follow the normal school schedule. Teachers will share a schedule with a link. Specialists will also come to the same link.
 - ii. School district working to provide connectivity where needed, device chargers where needed. Practicing with kids to reduce messiness for when the time comes.
- c. 2023 – 24 Fiscal Crisis coming because of the combination of some reductions in student numbers, inflation, and limitations on revenue. Possibly \$170-\$180M deficit that may require cutting large programs. Specific proposals do not yet exist. Prepared that transportation for option schools may come up.
- d. Communication about safety events at school: Trey Sanders, Alicia Every and Kate Moore asked principal Ostrom to elaborate on protocol for communicating with parents when safety issues arise at school.

- i. Trey Sanders emphasized that parents are less connected to school than pre-pandemic, and urged Principal Ostrom to err on the side of more and not less communication. His third grader had a classmate who had a violent outburst, and parents in the class were never notified by school of the event.
- ii. Alicia and Kate discussed an incident last week when two girls encountered a strange man in the girls' bathroom by the Performing Arts area. A parent of one of the children sent an email to Principal Ostrom and copied Kate and several other parents to ask for more information. Rumors swirled among parents and students and to date the school has not communicated about the incident. Principal Ostrom said the door the man accessed the bathroom with was unlocked due to a great deal of traffic through it, and that is how the man gained access. He has since directed staff and students to access the performing arts area another way so that door can remain locked.
 - 1. With respect to communication, he chose not to raise alarm since the incident ended peacefully, but he recognizes in retrospect that this allowed for an environment where rumors would replace direct communication and should have erred on the side of getting ahead of the message.
 - 2. Alicia Every asked for the timeline to implement the key card system. Principal Ostrom said it is set to be wired in March, and unfortunately cannot be sped up due to supply chain issues. Advocacy work to work with greater urgency would be fruitless due to missing components.
 - 3. The school does not have a dedicated security officer, but shares one with schools in our region. The school does have a safety team that reviews policies and procedures.
- e. Next week the school will have a shelter in place and a lockdown drill.

4. 7:20 - Minutes Approval

- a. Members reviewed the minutes. Kate Moore moved to approve the minutes and the members present and virtually attending approved.

5. Committee Updates

a. Trey Sanders, Treasurer's Report

- i. Mission and Values Review: Enhance STEM learning, Support PBL as a core tenet of curriculum, Enrichment, School/Staff support, Creating a safe space, and Student/Family/Community Building.
- ii. Budget actuals: income raised YTD: \$2,971.15, expenses YTD: \$20,528.75.
- iii. Money is going to: PBL training support, PBL support, classroom item support, membership subsidies and web domain listings.

b. Lauren Brohawn, Fundraising Committee Update

- i. Giving Tree drive is now through December 31 (though later Kate Moore noted that Giving Tree is evergreen, now through 12/31 is focus period)>.

People can donate cash online or leave gift cards that are good for food/gas/similar at front office.

- ii. Ice skating at Downtown Bellevue Park. \$3 of each skater admission will go to STEM; mention Stem at time of purchase.
- iii. MOD Pizza fundraiser is Monday, 12/12 at Westwood Village location.
- iv. Art raffle will be March 15. Need 1-2 volunteers to help plan.
- v. November fundraiser at Paper Boat Booksellers raised about \$750.

c. Cindy Heidelberg, Communications Update

- i. Continuing to push info out via Instagram and Facebook.
- ii. Owl Posts contain PTA information at the bottom. Send content by Friday to be included in the following week's Owl Post.
- iii. Weekly newsletter is returning. Sign up by visiting PTA website; pop up will prompt for newsletter sign up after a few seconds.

d. Jess Andre, Room Liaisons

- i. Keep room liaisons in mind for backup/supplemental communication needs.

6. Open Discussion Items – Kate Moore

- a. BLM shirts. Will solicit design from black students and plan to work with a black-owned screen printer to make shirts for Black History Month. May need some help with distribution.
- b. Staff Appreciation: Next week there will be a treat event in the staff lounge, and all teachers will receive a stainless steel travel mug. Also working to have backup food for when teachers forget lunch.
- c. Shawna Murphy asked if PTA can provide funds for Danielle (school counselor) to attend workshop in TX in Feb. Concerns expressed about inability to approve all such requests. Trey shared that it would have to be a specific budget line item. PTA Board agreed to further discuss.
- d. 8th Grade Overnight: funds raised for overnight trip by 2019 5th grade class will support the now 8th graders to have their trip. An 8th grade parent also applied for a grant for the trip, which will be split among the 8th graders and current 5th graders.
 - i. Alicia Every reminded the group that generally PTA fundraising efforts will be aimed at full-school programs and grade-level needs should be managed by the grade's students and parents.
- e. BLM Shirts fundraised for last year – Alicia Every has design from last year, but want to reach out and see if students want to design. Time to get it moving. May need help with distribution. Midnight Supply Co. in South Park is woman of color owned local print shop.
- f. Display Case in front of school still says "Welcome Back Owls." Needs to be decorated. Can do anything as long as not profane or inappropriate. Michelle Luxmore volunteered to decorate, Erin Eaton happy to help.

- g. Kate shared a concern that the PTA is not bringing in as much money as in prior years. We need to step it up. Mary Ann Lambert will step down as fundraising lead after this year and we need another person to lead.
- h. Jan and Feb school tours for incoming families and open houses. Will have K-5 and middle school. Need enthusiastic volunteers who know the school, school layout and can be on hand to help tour families. Particularly want middle school parents as elementary parents are unfamiliar with the middle school. Tours will happen during school day in the morning.
- i. Katy Greenleaf wants to host a movie fundraiser. Can use school, and the school's movie license.

7. Adjourned by Kate Moore at 8:01 pm