



**Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 6:30-8 PM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Kate Moore, Alicia Every, Ben Ostrom, Jess Andre, Aeryn Gray, Chirag Amin, Cindy Heidelberg, Erin Mich, Gregory Goldstein, Hannay Tracy, Heidi Paulson, Lauren Brohawn, Tom Every, Katie Trent, Trey Sanders, Tom Every, Kate Bennett, Paula Clement, Shauna Murphy, Mary Ann Lambert

**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. Community Check In**

- a. Community Check In: what is your favorite mountain in the Olympic or Cascade range and why?

**3. Minutes Approval**

- a. Minutes from 2/16/23 meeting were reviewed and approved by present members.

**4. Principal's Update – Ben Ostrom**

- a. Poem reading: *There is a Light in Me*
- b. School budget review
  - i. Challenges are not unique to us, impacting across the district, and particularly the central office
  - ii. Significant staffing reductions
    1. For next year staffing decrease in middle school by .5 FTE (to 5.5 from 6). Reasonable chance this will be mitigated; otherwise this will be top priority for discretionary funding
    2. PCP (prep-conference-planning time – art/tech, PE and music) staff reduced by from 4.0 to 3.5; had extra funding this year, so back to bare bones for 23-24
    3. Middle school CTE (career and technical education) reduced from 0.2 to 0.1. .1 still supports PCP
    4. Intervention decreased 1.0 (.5 MS and .5 K5)
    5. Counselor decreased from 1.0 to 0.5
    6. Social worker decreased from .9 to .5
    7. Nurse decreased from .5 to .1

- iii. Focused on MS .5 mitigation, predict the cut will be from PE but have to demonstrate that school can meet requirements with 1.5 PE FTE
- c. Other differences in budgeting: cannot use carry forward from 22-23 to 23-24 to distribute budget
- d. Believe that the school district will not take self-help funds
- e. Real discretionary funds are not truly discretionary, as they must be used to purchase supplies.
  - i. By juggling, believe can turn \$52K into \$100K by taking all money that *could* go into self help fund and pay it in baseline, store it in self help so that next year can take funds to pay for things that don't accrue right away
- f. May potentially increase funds a bit in the "Enrichment" arena by cutting release time and professional development and asking PTA to support those arenas fully, leaving more budget for hourly support staff
- g. Also asked for 1.0 Counselor mitigation instead of two part-time, particularly given increasing MS enrollment next year
- h. Trey Sanders asked if budget shift requests of the PTA should be viewed as one-time or ongoing budget requests
  - i. Ben responded that it's difficult to predict; depends on whether we could take the savings and do something that created a substantive increase
  - ii. This year the PTA played for 50% of PlayWorks professional development. This would be hourly supervision request for the ongoing program
  - iii. If PTA could not fund professional development, the school's budget would cover all-staff trainings but no individualized development, release time for attending conferences, etc
- i. .5 FTE of certificated teacher = \$75K. Staff discussing following applications:
  - i. Staff is considering whether to have full-time interventionist to support the school (support struggling students, their teachers, family follow ups, etc). Not 100% clear which grade levels this would support
    - 1. Class size reductions still in place for K-1 grades, which is considered an intervention
  - ii. Increase counseling and social work by .5
  - iii. Increase PCP by .4
    - 1. Creates a .5 interventionist FTE
  - iv. Once decision is made (by Weds 3/15), then determine biggest priority to spend on relative to other considerations, e.g. counseling and social work
- j. What is the best conversation for PTA to have to either support the process or advocate for the school...?
  - i. Ben said, looking at the professional development piece and reserving the \$18K IF that's the kind of expense PTA is willing to support, that would be a good maneuver to support staffing
- k. What services and supports at the district level do you anticipate coming to the school level?

- i. Ben says he does not yet have 100% clarity, but predicts social emotional learning training, math and literacy development people, HR and budget analysts,
- l. Do you anticipate transportation cuts?
  - i. Has not seen any proposals regarding reductions in transportation
- m. When October funding comes (enrollment dependent) will it have any impact up or down?
  - i. Typically start the year under enrolled because of the way the wait list works, but then gain students over time so retain full funding
  - ii. Adjustments typically come from carry forward
- n. More links with information:
  - i. <https://www.seattleschools.org/news/annual-adjustments-to-school-staffing/>
  - ii. [https://seattleschools-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/aegray\\_seattleschools\\_org/EdZvuQpCAA5PvGT\\_1mLIM90BBolcceqlqbh17D7z\\_ziYrg?e=O2FU8X](https://seattleschools-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/aegray_seattleschools_org/EdZvuQpCAA5PvGT_1mLIM90BBolcceqlqbh17D7z_ziYrg?e=O2FU8X)
  - iii. <https://www.seattleschools.org/news/annual-adjustments-to-school-staffing/>
  - iv. Next year 23-24 SY predictions and FTE breakdowns  
<https://mysps.seattleschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/purplebook24.pdf>

## 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. \$31,402.88 raised YTD, \$29,835.55 spent
- iii. Money coming from Move-a-thon, Direct Give donations, Box tops, Mod Pizza fundraiser, charitable grants, movie night fundraiser
- iv. Money going to: Giving Tree (100% specific earmarks), 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trips, PBL for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, staff appreciation, classroom support, CPA fees for tax filing

### b. Mary Ann Lambert, Fundraising Committee Update

- i. Fundraising is more important than ever, though PTA does not fund staff positions, but critical for staff development, PBL supplies, etc
- ii. STEM community Week is 3/13 – 3/17
  - 1. Free events – no tickets or RSVP. For everyone, opportunity to see the school and meet families
  - 2. Partnerships with community organizations
    - a. Mon Wetlands Walk: 4-6
    - b. Tues Pi Day: 4-6
    - c. Weds Science Lab: 4-6
    - d. Thurs Engineering Workshop: 4-6

- e. Fri Hammering Owl Art Extravaganza: 6-8
    - 3. Ways to help are attend, buy raffle tickets, volunteer one of the days. Need 1-2 volunteers every day for events. Sign up on stemk8pta.org website. Would love even middle school students to help.
  - iii. International Food Festival April 29 is last big event for the year
    - 1. Saturday afternoon. Students will be the chefs. Held at school
    - 2. Partnering with Race and Equity team and school
    - 3. Ticketed event , BINGO cards, recipe sharing
  - iv. MOD Pizza dine out day is 3/30, 5/10
  - v. Chipotle is 3/11 (4-8 pm). 20% comes back to STEM. Can also order online.
  - vi. Dream Dinners will sponsor STEM in early May
  - vii. Need 3-4 BECU members to help nominate STEM for a grant
- c. Hannah Tracy - Race and Equity update**
- i. Race and Equity Team has been planning events for the school.
    - 1. One is a Ramadan event to teach kids and staff about the holiday
    - 2. Career day where a large number of particularly BIPOC folks present about their careers in person or over Zoom
    - 3. LGBTQ+ Pride type event in conjunction with GGLOW
  - ii. Professional development team doing ongoing work with student climate survey data and think about what experience students are having and how it breaks down along race and equity lines
- d. Cindy Heidelberg, Communications Update**
- i. Spamming everything out
  - ii. Website is awesome
  - iii. Facebook and IG being regularly updated
- e. Jess Andre, Room Liaison Update**
- i. Now have a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade room liaison for Mr. McGavick's class, so all classes represented
- f. Lauren Brohawn, Enrichment Update**
- i. Few offerings at end of year for enrichment
- g. Paula Clement, Staff Appreciation**
- i. Today was staff appreciation
  - ii. Staff received budget information yesterday, so lots of weighty emotions today. Used some of staff appreciation budget to order pizza
- 6. Open Discussion Items – Kate Moore**
- a. PTA needs help with
    - i. Nominating committee
      - 1. Volunteer so far:
      - 2. Cindy Heidelberg
      - 3.

- ii. Budget committee. Not math intensive. Time commitment is ~5 meetings between March and June to work through the budget, maybe 5 hours over three months
  - 1. Volunteers from chat:
  - 2. Chirag Amin
  - 3. Kate Bennett
  - 4. Aeryn Gray
  - 5. Jess Andre
- iii. Fundraising chair for next year; critical role given budget cuts
- b. West Seattle Public Schools Equity Fund
  - i. Presented to board on Monday; ask is for all elementary and K8 schools to participate in fundraising and fund shifting to schools with lower income and higher under-served populations
  - ii. Board is committed to put some amount into the budget for next year
  - iii. Will dig deeper in next meeting
- c. Gregory spoke with SPD about the speeding cop problem. Precinct head spoke to all officers and said no issue is so urgent it's OK to speed through a school zone and to follow up if observed again
- d. Mary Ann: can we do a rummage sale? What are restrictions on what we can or cannot sell?
  - i. Kate will ask Ben. Also talked with Paula about re-allocating Kindergarten snacks to a classroom repository for snacks for the school
  - ii. District owned curriculum has to go through a special process for getting rid.
  - iii. Also there is a mish mash of teacher storage, needs to be specially managed

**7. Adjourned by Kate Moore at 8:05 pm**