



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Meeting Agenda
Thursday, April 18, 2024 – 6:30-8 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Christy Markham, Paula Clement, Sara Betts, Stephanie __, Caitlin Simoneaux, Erin Mich, Ben Ostrom, Aeryn Gray, MC Nachtigal, Lauren Brohawn, Jess Andre, Margo Bergman, Laura Crystal, Kate Bennett, Tom Every, Hannah Tracy, Dominique __, Alicia Every

1. Call to Order – Christy Markham

- a. Land Acknowledgment: The Louisa Boren STEM K8 PTA acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish Duwamish people, including the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe

2. Minutes Approval

- a. Minutes from the March 7 general meeting were reviewed and approved by the members present.

3. Teacher Recognition, etc – Paula Clement

- a. Playground needs: soccer balls, parachutes, playground equipment,
- b. Staff lounge needs: plates, bowls, silverware (need reusable items)
 - i. Email pjclement@seattleschools.org with what you have to donate
- c. Staff Appreciation Week: May 6 – 10
 - i. Monday: wellness/stress relief items in staff lounge
 - ii. Tuesday: breakfast themed event
 - iii. Wednesday: beverage day, e.g. la croix, coffee drinks, etc
 - iv. Thursday: lunch
 - v. Friday: write notes to teachers/staff
 - vi. For equity reasons, ask that individual classrooms don't gift teachers but try to recognize the entire school staff and not see teachers being celebrated differently from one another
 - vii. Sign up genius coming soon!

4. Glow Owls Party -

- a. Kick off to Pride month
- b. May 31: on the playground. Music, food trucks,

- c. To support, GGLOW kids will be selling appreciation grants. More info coming soon

5. Spring Enrichment – Laura Crystal

- a. Enrichment is open! Afternoon and morning activities
 - i. Some need parent volunteers (and you get a free student sign up!)
- b. Questions about enrichment, email enrichment@stemk8pta.org

6. Move-a-Thon – Laura Crystal

- a. May 9-10
- b. Big Spring Fundraiser, last year raised >\$20K. Goal this year is \$30K+
- c. Money raised helps fund library books, staff appreciation, PBL and much more
- d. Student personalized fundraising pages will go live April 24.
- e. This year will have prizes based on fundraising and also given at random to promote equity
- f. Need two volunteers on 5/9-5/10 to help! It's fun!!
- g. Key is how do we get the word out beyond our community to enhance fundraising? Websites per kid make it easier to crowd source beyond the STEM community. Lots of incentives to motivate kids to be excited about promoting this
- h. Questions? Email president@stemk8pta.org or look out for more information coming soon

7. Treasurer's Report – Tom Every

- a. Mission/Values: Enhance STEM Learning, Support PBL, Enrichment, School/Staff Support, Create a safe space, student/family/community building
- b. Budget actuals: Income to date \$40K, Expenses \$30K. Budget for the year is \$111K, so looking to raise more funds
 - i. Money coming from direct give, Box Tops, Movie Night, Game Night (\$715), Pi Night (\$450)
 - ii. Money going to: PBL project support, grade band level needs,
- c. A parent asked where the money goes
 - i. Library new books, etc (lump sum at the beginning of the year)
 - ii. Classrooms each get \$200 for the year
 - iii. Grade bands get \$750 for field trips or special guests, etc
 - iv. PBL specific funding requests
 - v. Events: back to school bash, community events, scholarships for events
 - vi. Staff appreciation
 - vii. Playground support
 - viii. Professional development, specifically around PBL
 - ix. Enrichment, but mostly funded by participants
 - x. Direct Give: supporting the community
- d. Budget process for 2024-25 kicks off now-ish
 - i. Looking to be more specific for the coming year

- ii. Budget process normally involves stakeholder input, though not a thoroughly formal process
- iii. No limit to budget committee participant count
- iv. Email treasurer@stemk8pta.org to help!

8. Library Update – Sara Betts

- a. March was very busy month with kids coming for lunch recess, 201 total in March! Going down to 2x/week
- b. Last tranche of books came in this month, have a little extra budget to spend through the year
- c. Introducing slowly, as every time a new book is introduced demand is really high
- d. Checked out almost 3K books in Feb, started new buddy reading systems
- e. Good times!

9. PTA Open Positions for 2024-25 school year

- a. Many open positions! Have been running very slim this year and would love more support next year!
- b. Great way to influence and support the school!
- c. Flexible on time needed
- d. Open Positions:
 - i. Secretary
 - ii. Co-VP (with Erin Mich)
 - iii. Committee Chairs
 - 1. Advocacy
 - 2. Communications
 - 3. Events Coordinator
 - 4. Fundraising
 - a. Ideally 2-3 people will work on this
 - 5. LGBTQIA+
 - 6. Membership: recruiting, connecting folx, watching PTA sign ups and adding them to PTA system. Easy!
 - 7. Race & Equity Co-Chair to work with Hannah Tracy
 - 8. Special Education Coordinator: represent SPED needs within the PTA and create connections/community within SPED student families
 - 9. Room Parent Coordinator: rallies classroom liaisons to get info out to families
 - 10. Tech: works with comms person to maintain website, and similar needs. Website skills needed!
- e. Email president@stemk8pta.org if you have any interest in learning more or volunteering
- f. Co-chair or co-positions is a great way to onboard

10. Building Safety Team – Aeryn Gray

- a. Recent updates:
 - i. Getting pipes replaced, water has been cold
 - ii. New locks on unused lockers
 - iii. New lock on girls locker room
 - iv. Nurse Anna sent info out on Narcan locations and how to use
 - v. CPR/First Aid training happening
 - vi. Last three drills upcoming: lockdown, fire and earthquake
- b. Need help at upcoming assemblies, opportunity to highlight safety with the student population, topics could include, safety, anti-bullying, etc

11. Garden Club –

- a. More to come! Thanks to all who helped on the two work parties

12. Movie Night update

- a. May: will support band, movie TBD
- b. June: will support GGLOW, movie TBD

13. Principal Check-In – Ben Ostrom

- a. *Returning from the Enemy* by Joy Harjo
- b. Hiring for two positions this Spring (future moves not yet known): SPED IA and Assistant Secretary
 - i. Parents can participate in hiring committees. Must take one-hour training (good for three years). See Owl Post for links and more info.
- c. Strong finish to the budget cycle
 - i. Addition of .5 and .1 mitigation of FTE for middle school teachers allowed for very little disruption to MS experience next year
 - ii. One big caveat: in primary school, will have only enough funds to supplement teacher at one grade level between K and 1st grade. Decided to keep the supplement at 1st grade
 - iii. Multi-lingual teacher taking a year off, her role will allow support in other roles
 - iv. Heidi Paulson will continue to teach language arts in MS and also .5 multi-lingual support for MS students
- d. Enrollment: people are getting assignments now, but will have waitlists at all grade levels for next year
- e. School Consolidation: On May 8, the School Board is expected to share the next phase of school consolidation planning for the following year. Unlikely to see concrete proposals, but likely a timeline for decision making
- f. Declining enrollment is a pervasive issue for the District, creating the budget realities we're looking at
- g. Jump start no longer funded by the District – will look to other strategies to create a prepared community
- h. Parent question about phone usage at school: do we have an official policy about kids with phones, and what should parents know?

- i. Official slogan is: phone away during the school day. Parents can make it clear support by reminding their kids to not use phones at school
- ii. Phone out once: confiscated, phone twice: have to meet with principal, third time: meeting with parents to create a plan.
 - 1. Would be helpful to communicate more broadly to the school community
 - 2. Parent volunteers do not need to tackle the issue. Focus on creating a positive environment, also select students have exceptions based on individual needs, e.g. anxiety
- i. Students with vapes in the middle school bathroom – what is the plan???
 - i. Staff spend a great deal of time supervising bathrooms, checking hall passes, and seeking to address the issues with kids and families. Not just an issue at our MS but every school, but has pervasive health impacts for young people
 - ii. Seeking to be proactive, present and address through education. Do not have the capacity to staff the bathrooms at all times, but will lock certain bathrooms during the day as a deterrent when they can't be monitored
 - iii. Has primarily occurred, when known, in MS restrooms, but there was an instance when an incident occurred in a shared restroom
 - iv. Explore presentation from Recovery High School students (they come with a social worker)
 - v. Also need more in-building education around what is safe, what is not safe, how to react when you come into contact with something that is unsafe

14. Adjourned by Christy Markham at 8:12 pm