



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Meeting Agenda
Thursday, January 11, 2024 – 6:30-8 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Christy Markham, Tom Every, Katie Trent, Shawna Murphy, Kate Moore, Aeryn Gray, Connor Lee, Roman Honeycutt, Heidi Paulson, Hannah Tracy, Cindy Heidelberg, Ben Ostrom, Kate Bennett, Erin Mich, Kelly Smith, Paula Clement, Laura Crystal, Mary Ann Lambert, Chirag Amin, Steph F, Adrienne Ollerenshaw, Alicia Every, MC Nachtigal

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
 - i. PTA Board is discussing how to potentially go beyond a statement: make research and focus on action to make more impact with the acknowledgment. To join the discussion, email raceandequity@stemk8pta.org

2. 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 \$26.6K, Expenses \$17.6K. Budget for the year is \$111K, so need to raise more funds
- c. Direct give is ongoing campaign. Goal for 2023 Q4 was \$25K, raised \$20,093 to date
- d. Giving Tree fundraiser raised over \$3K, supported many families in our school community
- e. Money going to: classroom support, e.g. an artist coming to Heidi Paulson's classroom, Giving Tree, Staff Appreciation
- f. A participant asked how spending categories are prioritized. Tom shared that there's not a strong science to the prioritization, but PBL and STEM are tops, staff support and enrichment a close follow, community and safe space would take a smaller percentage

3. Community & Fundraising Events – Christy Markham

- a. January: Mod Pizza Night on 1/19, use "Modgives20" if ordering online or mention at the register
- b. February: game night (community event)
- c. March: STEM month. Pi Day, STEM Pals, Girls Rock Math, other ideas?

- d. April: Open!
 - e. May: Move-a-Thon + Bike/Walk to school
 - f. June: Pride Month + End of School Year
 - g. Breaking into small groups to discuss. Goals are to brainstorm ideas to further flesh out in the meeting on Jan. 16
 - h. Should we bring back the food festival?
4. Open Enrollment – Paula Clement
- a. Tours start 2/1. Folks must register in the month of February to elect school choice
 - b. Need volunteers to help with tours and then take on the role of coordinating tours in the future
5. Ms Sawade Request – starting a vision board with her students. Collecting kid magazines and in dire need of kid-friendly magazines.
6. Ms Bannister Last Day – will be at PBA night (1/25) and would love to chat with families in the library that evening. Not comfortable with a walk out celebration.
7. STEM Garden Club -
8. BST Update – Aeryn Gray
- a. Building Safety Team areas of focus lately:
 - i. Catching up on On The Job injury reports
 - ii. Working on addressing and improving safety on the playgrounds
 - iii. Focused on nature in the outdoors
 - iv. Staffing shortages
 - v. Fencing to be updated , looking at ETA
9. Open Positions
- a. Fundraising Chair open
 - b. Enrichment – paid at \$4K per year. Looking for someone to at least co-lead, but ideally take it over
 - c. Advocacy Chair
 - d. LGBTQIA+ Chair
10. Principal Check-In – Ben Ostrom
- a. Poem: *Football* by Louis Jenkins
 - b. Staffing updates:
 - i. Ms Bannister leaving, Sara Betts returning to STEM in .5 capacity
 - ii. Will likely add a .5 SPED teacher in the near future due to growing enrollment
 - iii. Added a new staff member, Ayanna Omar, as long-term sub in middle-school for the rest of the year
 - iv. Decreased Distinct staff due to changes in the school, so Michael Brown leaving to work at Ingraham High School. Adding a new IA in elementary school, starts on 1/22
 - v. Adding (likely) another middle school Distinct IA in mid-January
 - c. Current student count is slightly over 500 (approx.)

- d. Fencing timeline not yet specified. Levy project; other schools have “significant” fencing problems and will be addressed first, STEM will be in second round
- e. A participant asked how challenging it is to gain enrollment to STEM during school choice
 - i. P Ostrom said it’s tricky to predict because of variability in recent years. Enrollment started lower this year than typical. Predicting higher number of applicants will gain entry than 3-4 years ago. Maybe 60-70% of Kindergarten families would gain a spot, in other grades the instance is lower given fewer spaces. Middle school is easier to gain entry
 - 1. The likelihood is also dependent on whether you're in the geozone or not (and whether you have a sibling already in the school). Students with siblings are essentially guaranteed a spot as well

11. Staff Appreciation – Paula Clement

- a. Turnout and donations have been really great this school year, brings the staff together, the staff are SO appreciative

12. Adjourned by Christy Markham at 8:00 pm