



Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Meeting Agenda
Thursday, May 11, 2023 – 6:30-8 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Kate Moore, Alicia Every, Ben Ostrom, Cindy Heidelberg, Hannah Tracy, Heidi Paulson, Kate Bennett, Corinne McGinnis, Parker Smith, Paula Clement, Erin Eaton, Angela Wallis, Lauren Brohawn, Jess Andre, Brenda Macias, Tom Every, Trey Saunders, Chirag Amin, Jenne Patrick, Helen Every, Shawna Murphy, Roman Honeycutt, Kelly Smith, Christy Markham, MC Nachtigal, Erin Mich, Aeryn Grey, Trey Sanderson, Katie Trent, Zach Ward, 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 traditional land of the Coast Salish people, the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe

2. Principal's Update – Ben Ostrom

- a. Poem: *How it Happens* by WS Merwin
- b. Hiring update: District making placements, STEM still has openings
 - i. 1.0 and 0.5 PE positions
 - ii. 1.0 Access position in MS
- c. Many questions about guest teachers
 - i. Process for handling a guest teacher whose behavior raises concerns.
 1. Wherever a concern arises, admins will follow up to find out as much information as possible from people who were present. On occasion may follow up with a parent
 2. Conclusion will result in any of a number of outcomes, including sub will not return to the school, or an agreement about expectations for future positions at the school. If concern continues, would then be prohibited from returning to the school. HR investigations may follow, depending on circumstances.
 - ii. A guest teacher in 3rd grade prompted a concern raised in the Fall, the teacher returned recently. Ben missed the message when originally raised. If that occurs, please ping, as the school is very busy and occasionally something slips through the cracks.
 - iii. Ben states that for recent concern that was raised, context is critical. The concern about the kid's experience in this situation was different from the context.

1. Several parents voiced concerns about specific instances reported by their children, including mis-gendering or using incorrect pronouns, dismissing a student's accommodation advisory, using a loud voice
 - a. Ben responded that the teacher in that situation did not have the management skills to handle the class. They were frustrated and angry about things happening in the class and their resulting anger was misunderstood by the kids. Response is to counsel and coach on management skills
2. A present attendee asked whether HR decisions would be subject to FOIA requests. May be a vehicle for concerned families to learn about the outcome of a particular investigation.
- iv. The teacher returned but in a very different context, with a smaller group and on request of other individuals present
 1. That said, Ben advised that he did follow up with the guest teacher about the concerns that were raised.
- v. Ben stated that should the guest teacher return, it would be in the context that there were no concerns about the teacher's ability to manage the classroom, and that there were no concerns about past issues with the students in the prospective classroom, have to also go through a specific process to remove the guest teacher from the school for the future.

3. **PTA Board Election**

Alicia Every stated that the Nominating Committee would proceed with the election of the officers.

Jess Andre, chair of nominating committee, read aloud the report of the committee and announced that all candidates meet the requirements of the WSPTA Uniform Bylaws:

President – Erin Eaton

Co-Vice president – Erin Rizzo Mich and Christy Markham

Secretary – Katie Trent

Treasurer – Tom Every

Co-Treasurer – no current nominee for this position

The signed report was handed to President Alicia Every and the committee was thanked for its work. President Every re-read the proposed slate of officers. President Every asked for nominations from the floor for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and co-treasurer, in turn. MC Nachtigal was nominated for the position of co-treasurer. They accepted the nomination. President Every verified that MC Nachtigal met the requirements of the WSPTA Uniform Bylaws. With no further nominees, the president declared the nominations closed.. Nominees were elected by

voice vote and vote by Zoom Chat in accordance with WSPTA Bylaws Article 5 Section 6B.

Yes Voters: Zach Ward, Jene Hsien Patrick, Kate Bennett, Paula Clement, Lauren Brohawn, Chirag Amin, Mary Ann Lambert, Angela Wallis, Tom Every, Hannah Tracy, Kate Moore, Cindy Heidelberg, Aeryn Grey, Mary Ann Lambert, Trey Sanders, Kelly Smith, Alicia Every, Erin Eaton, MC Nachtigal, Shawna Murphy, Erin Mich, Christy Markham, Kate Bennett, Brenda Macias,

4. Pride Month Updates – Shawna Murphy and Hannah Tracy

- a. Youngstown has a celebration which is a great option, PRIDE March on 6/18
 - i. Budget for swag is \$75
- b. Participate in the PRIDE parade (6/25) with Seattle Public Schools. Ride in the bus, they have SWAG, throw candy out of the school bus
- c. LGBTQ Kids group will hand out candy and fun things during lunch on Thursday, 6/15. Wear PRIDE gear on the 15th

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. Funds raised to date \$58,755.08, Expenses \$32,871.41
 1. Money coming from Move-a-thon, Art Extravaganza, Movie Night (earmarked for 5th/8th Grade field trips), Direct Give, Amazon Smile
 2. Money going to Giving Tree support, classroom support, safety patrol support, PBL, Hammering Owl supplies. Many individuals will reach out for reimbursement this month as the year wraps up
- iii. 2023-24 Proposed budget review
 1. Some PBL at grade-level line items was shifted to Ben's budget for PBL professional development
 2. Question whether Thriftway receipt fundraising is still happening. A parent is submitting receipts regularly
 3. Looking for support for fundraising next year
 4. Tom moved that we vote to ratify the budget for next year and another individual present seconded.
 - a. Budget approved by voice vote: Angela Wallis, Chirag Amin, Tom Every, Kate Bennett, Paula Clement, Aeryn Grey, Kate Moore, Cindy Heidelberg, Mary Ann Lambert, Lauren Brohawn

6. Aeryn Grey made an appeal for parents to become involved with Building Leadership Team (BLT) next year

- a. Great way to understand how decisions are made in the school and understand the ins and outs of the school

7. Minutes Approval

- a. Minutes from 5/11/23 meeting were reviewed and approved by present members.

b. Mary Ann Lambert, Fundraising Committee Update

- i. Direct Give was last fundraising push of the year. \$22K raised to date. Calling it done at this point as other groups now have fundraising efforts underway. Next year Direct Give will take place earlier on the recommendation of the PTA
- ii. Will look to divvy things up next year, happy to oversee one event but not all. Angela Wallis will step up for Hammering Owl.
 - 1. Maybe try pre-schedule movie nights once per month next year and allow groups/class levels to claim it and work to support it

c. Cindy Heidelberg, Communications Update

- i. Working on a volunteer form for the website to allow one-off sign ups for opportunities next year

d. Lauren Brohawn, Enrichment Update

- i. Dropping a form in the chat to solicit ideas for Enrichment for next school year
- ii. PTA will send the form out to the membership

e. Paula Clement, Staff Appreciation

- i. Some kids are having a tough time this PRIDE month. Shared some stickers to show support in the school
- ii. One last snack push this month as the school year wraps up

8. After business was complete, some of those present continued the discussion regarding the guest teacher

9. Adjourned by Kate Moore at 8:15 pm

Minutes recorded by:



Katie Trent, STEM K-8 PTA Secretary
June 8, 2023