



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

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Christy Markham, Erin Mich, Kate Moore, Aeryn Gray, Tom Every, Heidi Paulson, Roman McGinnis, Cindy Heidelberg, Ben Ostrom, Hannah Tracy, Alicia Every, Paula Clement, Aaron Semer, Lauren Hatch, MC Nachtogal, Shawna Murphy, Christine Jones, Stephanie Fiano, Heather Persinger, Mary Ann Lambert, Chirag Amin, Lauren Brohawn, Jane

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. President

- a. The STEM K8 PTA Board voted Christy Markham in as PTA President on Nov. 6.

3. Board Introductions

- a. Members of the 2023-24 PTA Board introduced themselves to those present

4. Community Check In –

- a. What is your favorite comfort food?

5. Building Needs

- a. Hearing Check Volunteer
 - i. Nurse Anna looking for one volunteer for the kindergarten hearing tests 11/29-11/30, two-three hours per day (flexible)
- b. School open positions
 - i. Lunch time help, esp 11-11:40
 - ii. Intermittent playground support subs, could work as on-call substitute coverage (paid hourly)
 - iii. Regular hourly playground employee
 1. Teaching students new games in progression
 2. Emotional support and physical safety monitoring
 3. \$19-ish per hour

6. Tom Every and MC Nachtigal, Treasurer's Report

- a. 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
- b. Budget for the year is \$111K, expenses to date are \$10,497, income to date is \$3,298 (thru 10/31/23). Direct Give proceeds not yet brought into the bank account
- c. Money coming from: Direct Give, Movie Night fundraisers, Honk Fest.
 - i. Direct Give goal was \$25K, raised \$17K, net \$16.5K
 1. Historically Direct Give was a minor fundraiser (previously auction was big fundraiser)
 - ii. Be sure to seek employer match if available
- d. Money going to: Bank/membership fees, library \$7K, website & insurance renewal fees

7. Community and District News

- a. New feature of PTA website
- b. Send content to Cindy
- c. <https://stemk8pta.org/more-information/community-engagement>

8. Staff Appreciation

- a. Nov 1 event was very successful; nice treats, high volume, turned staff lounge back into a place that staff gather and commune
- b. 12/13 is next event, hoping to make all teachers feel recognized as individual efforts can create inequitable experiences for teachers

9. Fundraising

- a. Paper Boat Booksellers in Morgan Junction
 - i. 12/5-12/10: 25% of proceeds go to STEM (MUST mention STEM at tie of purchase)
- b. Fair Trade Caravans
 - i. 11/27-12/10

10. Race and Equity Committee

- a. Welcome Lauren Hatch as co-chair of R&E Committee!
- b. Race and Equity Team working on potential social justice curriculum across all grades

11. Room Liaison

- a. 6th grade needs a room liaison. Email president@stemk8pta.org with interest
- b. Special Education Chair – very strong need for someone to facilitate the committee. Reach out to vp@stemk8pta.org with interest

12. Enrichment

- a. Lauren looking for a co-coordinator or else a replacement to take on the Enrichment coordinator role
- b. Also looking for enrichment program content ideas. Reach out to Lauren with options: enrichment@stemk8pta.org

13. Other open positions

- a. Fundraising
- b. LGBTQIA+
- c. Membership
- d. Can meet with folx who worked on these roles in the past and can share best practices

14. Garden Club

- a. Lots of space and need help with leadership
- b. Reach out if interested in helping or leading

15. Principal's Update – Ben Ostrom

- a. Poem: *Mushrooms*, by Sylvia Plath
- b. Staffing: new head custodian starts Monday!
- c. PE teacher just welcomed a new child, will be out for a month or so and has a substitute for the next period
- d. Key card and buzzer system at main doors close to functional. As soon as complete, office will buzz visitors in
 - i. Office staff manage the buzzer
 - ii. Might get hairy at lunch time
- e. School Consolidation is on lots of folks' minds: no particular plan in place at this time, but at next week's board meeting there will be a list of budget savings options for the board to consider.
 - i. Overall picture is that the Board is looking to cut an additional \$100 M, have already made lots of cuts, school consolidation would save about a quarter of it
 - ii. Declining enrollment and smaller school sizes is diminishing the State's interest in supporting Seattle's evolving needs
 - iii. Aeryn Gray shared that "There's also a SPS policy regarding the protocol that the District is required to adhere to in order to consider/close schools:" <https://www.seattleschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/H01.00.pdf>
 - iv. Questions for school board may be submitted: <https://us8.list-manage.com/survey?u=c8a8e7acc7b016bff04376235&id=422622447e&=1f6378a9ed>
- f. Pathfinder Incident
 - i. Specific protocol to follow will depend on the circumstances in the moment.
 - ii. Talking Points update from STEM was great in the moment

1. Talking Points can be configured to come through the app or also as a text
- iii. Next BST meeting will cover this topic (potential safety risk at school)
- iv. Drills in the school are shelter in place, earthquake drill and lockdown drills. Normally advise parents in advance as some kids have high anxiety.
 1. Drills typically occur on the third Thursday of the month.
- v. Question in the room: with the new keycards, with all the doors locked, are kids trapped when they're on the playground unless a staff member is there to let them in?
 1. With the playground understaffed, concern about kids being able to get back into the building with the keycard system
 2. In the case of an emergency, other staff would come to help
- g. Other safety items
 - i. Some staff radios are not functional. PTA received a funding request but that's a school funding issue?
 - ii. Ben: need clarity on what the recommendation is for staff to use, THEN determine cost, then come back to PTA or grants to fund
 - iii. Estimated cost for current model is ~\$7,500. How much school can cover is currently unclear
 - iv. School would benefit from new thermometers that are more accurate

16. PTA Minutes Approval from 10/12/23

- a. Christy Markham called a vote to approve the minutes. Those present in the room as well as virtually attending approved.

17. Adjourned by Christy Markham at 8:02 pm