



**Louisa Boren STEM K-8 PTA Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, September 21, 2023 – 6:30-8 PM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Kate Moore, Erin Eaton, Erin Mich, Christy Markham, Tom Every, Cindy Heidelberg, Roman Honeycutt, Gina Neuman, Kate Bennett, Hannah Tracy, Ms. Gray, Shawna Murphy, Erika Whinihan, Jennifer Jackson, Kristen Nilsen, Chirag Amin, Ben Ostrom, Alice Morales-Galvez, TB Macias, Adrianna Johnson, Maeve Stephenson, Alicia Every, Jess Andre, Adrienne Ollerenshaw, Heidi Paulson, MC Nachtigal, Corinne McGinnis, Elaine Balseiro, Darcy Cinq-Mars, Bridget Odom, Lauren Hatch, Maeve Stephenson, Laura Crystal, Stephanie Fiano, Sue Costa-Paschke, Dominique Cameron, Whitney Hunt

**1. Call meeting to order – Erin Eaton**

- 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. Principal's Update – Ben Ostrom**

- a. Poem: *Crumbs* by Hal Sirowitz
- b. Restorative practices: framework for building community and belonging, requires foundation of positive discipline, emotional regulation. Will be a large focus through the year.
- c. Q&A
  - i. How is a conflict managed in the room? Do kids go to the office?
    1. Restorative conference is not right for every issue. Teachers are very skilled at managing conflicts.
    2. All classrooms teach self-regulation and have calm down spaces
    3. Sending to the office rarely solves an issue, but each situation is different
  - ii. Are there plans for differentiated learning in the classroom this year?
    1. Yes; there are plans for this every year as there are always ranges of skills in every room.
    2. That said, at the beginning of the year kids come in without the norms of classroom community, trying to assess and engage in whole class activities and instruction.
    3. Differentiated instruction is always and definitely part of the plan. Individual plans will come down to the classroom and teacher, but planning at the school level is also standard

4. Incorporating Universal Design of Learning
- iii. How is the morale in the school
  1. Many factors contributed to a heavy emotional and stress load at end of last year. Now understanding resources, and new year, the mood is lighter and more positive for staff and kids. Across the district not just the school.

### **3. Committee Updates**

#### **a. Tom Every, 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. Budget for the year is \$111K, expenses to date are \$43, income to date is \$0
- iii. Money coming from: Direct Give, Movie Night fundraisers. Can direct donate outside of fundraisers on the website. [Stemk8pta.org](http://Stemk8pta.org)
- iv. Money going to: Bank/membership fees, library
- v. As a PTA, the community we are supporting is the community that will continue. If there are things we want to do, we have to work together to make them happen. Everyone can pitch in.

#### **b. Library Update – read by Erin Eaton from Ms. Bannister**

- i. All classes have been through the library at least once, circulated 1,017 to students and teachers already this year.
- ii. Library can use help with shelving return books from PTA volunteers
- iii. Open lunch/recess library has been popular
- iv. Have been ordering books and they will process in late Oct/early Nov

#### **c. Fundraising – Christy Markham**

- i. Have an open seat for fundraising chair, but also happy to work with folk at the level they're comfortable participating
- ii. Fundraising ideas for Fall/Winter
  1. Direct Give starting Monday, will run 3-4 weeks
  2. Mod Pizza fundraiser is Thursday, 10/19, 20% of sales (mention STEM) comes to the school
  3. Mid-late November fundraiser to feature local business offers to support STEM, or STEM cookbook/calendar
  4. Idea to combine an International food festival with a cookbook opportunity
  5. If you can help, email [vp@stemk8pta.org](mailto:vp@stemk8pta.org). Can help as lead, or co-lead. Taking on a specific event is most helpful, and Mary Ann can help with resources and directions

#### **d. Enrichment, Lauren Brohawn**

- i. Enrichment is a set of extra activities before/after school that kids can sign up for. Normally carry a fee but scholarships are available.

- ii. This Fall will have registration opening on Tuesday, 9/26
  - iii. Email Lauren with questions/suggestions
  - iv. Looking for enrichment co-coordinator
  - v. If you want to volunteer with enrichment or in the school, need to complete a volunteer application. Takes a few weeks; do it now and is good for two years. Every enrichment class has to have a parent volunteer. BUT if you're the parent volunteer, your kid gets to participate for free
- e. Race and Equity Team – Hannah Tracy**
- i. BLT: Building Leadership Team
  - ii. BST: Building Safety Team
  - iii. Looking for help with Race and Equity projects. Space to do more than we are currently, but need assistance. Reach out to [raceandequity@stemk8pta.org](mailto:raceandequity@stemk8pta.org)
- f. Jess Andre – Parent Room Liaison Coordinator**
- i. Room liaisons are volunteer opportunity with each classroom serving as outreach person for the classroom via PTA as well as classroom teacher
  - ii. Can be done outside school hours and is low key
  - iii. Email Jess at [roomliaison@stemk8pta.org](mailto:roomliaison@stemk8pta.org)
- g. Cindy Heidelberg, Communications Update**
- i. Website is best place to get updates on PTA happenings, events, involvement opportunities
  - ii. [Communications@stemk8pta.org](mailto:Communications@stemk8pta.org)
  - iii. Reach out to Cindy if you have communication challenges or messages to spread far and wide
- h. Erin Mich, Staff Appreciation**
- i. To help support STEM staff, the PTA stocks the staff lounge with coffee, tea, cocoa, backup lunches
  - ii. We also coordinate special events where we ask STEM community to help, e.g. beverages, lunches, breakfast items, managed through a signup genius
  - iii. First event is Friday, September 29, sign up genius coming out today via comms channels
  - iv. Playground: lots of ripped balls, sports teams and camps often give out new balls each season, so STEM will happily collect cast-offs
    - 1. Basketballs and soccer balls especially helpful
    - 2. Reach out to Paula with equipment donation info at [fanooof39@yahoo.com](mailto:fanooof39@yahoo.com)

#### **4. PTA Minutes Approval from 6/8/23**

- a. Erin Eaton called a vote to approve the minutes. Tom Every seconded. Those present in the room as well as virtually attending approved.

## 5. Open Discussion

- a. Owl Post – does it get translated into other languages vs English?
  - i. Mr. O: it comes to email users in the language they registered with
- b. School has a survey looking for information from families about needs for support. Went out via Talking Points, hoping to send in other channels like Owl Post
- c. Primary teachers have a high need for support in lunch room. Love help mid-day; it's very easy. Lunch starts at 11:05.
  - i. What helps the most is if there's a regular day someone can do; but show up anytime
  - ii. Erin Mich happy to be POC for K-1<sup>st</sup> grades (vp@stemk8pta.org)
  - iii. Good topic for room liaisons, too
  - iv. May be potential for hourly employment for helping with lunch/recess, too
- d. Building Leadership Team
  - i. Has room for three parent members, one from PTA Equity Team, two open members
- e. Building Safety Team
  - i. Happy to incorporate parents who want to get involved
- f. SPS Volunteering
  - i. If currently a staff member, not sure if have to complete volunteer application, volunteer application might be faster
- g. Any need for supplies outside money and sports balls? A parent has access to a large surplus warehouse
- h. Covid: are there still notifications that go out for exposures, are there rules about quarantining, etc
  - i. SPS just update guidelines, available on seattleschools.org, no longer tracking or sending out notifications (dropped State rule) but protocol is you should test children with symptoms, stay home for 5 days if positive, return with a mask or without once you have a negative test
  - ii. Will send out a link in the next Owl post
- i. Erin shared appreciations
  - i. Alicia and Kate for helping Erin to learn the job
  - ii. Erin M and Christy for making the BBQ a huge success

## 6. Adjourned by Erin Eaton at 7:50 pm