

**Washington Middle School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2019, 6:00 pm**  
**Washington Middle School Library**

**In Attendance:** Cliff Meyer, Sophie Dube, Laura Crain, Tania Westby, Melissa Pailthorp, Emily Lieberman, Kathleen Carson, Emily Butler-Ginolfi, Casey Sommers, Janey Petty, Devin Murphy, Elaine Harger, Bridget Backschie, Clare Hogan **Minutes taken by Emily Lieberman**

**I. Call to Order and Announcements**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The November and December minutes were unanimously approved together following a motion by Tania, seconded by Janey.

**III. Principal's Report**

The Principal reported on current events at WMS, SPS matters, and future levy funding. Principal Butler Ginolfi and Mr. Murphy left the meeting following the principal's report.

**IV. SPS Levy Campaign**

Presentation by Melissa Pailthorp regarding two levies on the upcoming ballot, capital and EP&O (Education Programs & Operations). The WMS PTSA board voted unanimously to "endorse, as a board, the 2 upcoming levies, Prop 1 and Prop 2, and to recommend that our general membership endorse them as well." The motion was made by Cliff and seconded by Emily.

**V. Advocacy/Legislative Team Report**

Jan and Kathleen, our advocacy representatives, attended the SEA legislative event. We will work this year to have a bigger presence in Olympia. They are connecting with other Central Area schools to engage parents in advocacy in person in Olympia, as well as by writing letters, etc. The PTA focus day in Olympia is February 11 this year. Kathleen will ask the school to remind families to vote.

**VI. PTSA Goals**

The goals team (Tania, Kathleen, and Elaine) shared a working document outlining the top goals identified by the Board at our last meeting and refined by the committee. Please use the google document to share how you can support strategies to achieve these goals. The listed goals are:

- 1) Work toward changing the culture and the work of the PTSA so that it becomes more welcoming, supportive, and inclusive of community at Washington Middle School. An

important part of this goal is to elevate underrepresented voices and intentionally support the engagement of families representing the diversity of our school community.

- 2) Work together with the school to develop a shared understanding of racism, and use a racial equity lens for our PTSA decision-making.
- 3) Participate in education advocacy beyond the walls of our school as it relates to the success of children both at WMS and in our city.
- 4) (Added at the meeting) Support educational enrichment activities for our students.
- 5) Raise money to support the above goals.

#### **VII. Financials**

Everything is on track. The annual fund is ahead of schedule compared to last year. We are not going to focus on a membership drive so as not to detract from the annual fund. There is still a lot of grant money available for teachers to request.

#### **VIII. Racial Equity Team Report**

The Racial Equity Team recommends exploring changing name of school so it's not named after a former slave owner. SPS policy makes it pretty easy. The RET seeks to launch a conversation about this. Elaine was asked to convey to the RET that the PTSA supports the RET in its efforts regarding this exploration. The RET is in the process of establishing a student equity team.

#### **IX. BLT Representative Nomination**

The PTSA received only one nomination for the open position as a PTSA BLT parent representative. Christine Shigaki was unanimously approved for this position, effective immediately. (Motion by Cliff, Janey seconded.)

#### **X. Staff Appreciation**

Casey will create and advertise a Sign Up Genius page to encourage families to bring treats and cards to staff on Valentines Day.

#### **XI. Nominating and Budget Committees**

We will need to establish both of these committees at an upcoming meeting.

#### **XII. Upcoming General Meetings**

January's meeting will focus on legislative advocacy, including a budget presentation from Principal Butler Ginolfi. March's meeting will focus on an equity discussion or movie. Cliff will invite Superintendent Juneau to the May meeting.

#### **XIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.