

Washington Middle School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

Nov. 18, 2019 • WMS Library, 6-7:30 pm

In attendance: Liz Gillespie, Sumathi Raghavan, KL Shannon, David Wasserman, Elaine Harger, Laura Crain, Joanna Cullen, Chun Ng, Janey Petty, Claire Hogan, Casey Sommers, Cliff Meyer, Emily Lieberman

1. 6:05 Call to Order & Introductions; set a timekeeper

2. Approval of minutes from 9/9 and 10/14 Board meetings and 9/21 Board retreat: motion to approve all three sets of minutes made by Laura, David second, unanimously approved

3. Events

- Reports on PTSA coffee hour and upcoming staff appreciation events
 - Coffee hour attended by about a dozen people; seeking volunteers to have “coffee hours” or maybe other events at different times of day (maybe by affinity groups?)
- Next General Meeting ideas:
 - Continue community conversations that we started with LaKesha Kimbrough last year
 - TAF/next year (could be just PTSA; could involve school board members; could bring in moderator; could be a joint effort with feeder school PTAs) – could do the next general meeting before the end of January. Our PTA could reach out to the TAF PTA, could hold a meeting involving all the feeder schools; need a way to make sure everyone is heard and HCC voices don't dominate.

4. Annual Fund planning with Janey Petty

- Fundraising ability has varied year to year
- Will launch in Dec. after citrus sale (brochure & letter)
- May mailing & push to get us to our goal
- Each mailing is about \$600
- Last year goal was \$125,000 and we made a little over \$100,000; budget this year is \$100k
- How can people help Janey?
- David will help with digital communications, Liz Gillespie will help with appeal letter, Emily will help stuff envelopes, Chun can translate into Somali, Spanish, and possibly Vietnamese and/or Chinese (Liz may be able to help with this too)

5. Volunteer Recruitment –Casey

- Seeking volunteers for staff appreciation breakfast
- Directory Volunteer
- Open Board Positions: events coordinator, membership chair
- Nominating Committee for 2020-21: need at least three people not including co-presidents

6. TAF Discussion: see above in Events section regarding a potential upcoming meeting for our school community about TAF

- Decision-making timeline: School Board will consider district proposal and make a decision before open enrollment
- What do we know? If approved, what happens with grades 7&8 schedule, the music program, etc.? Not a lot of information is available yet.
- Community meeting/discussion? The board generally felt that some community discussion should be held, but that it needs to happen in a way that is inclusive for all. The executive committee will continue this discussion.

7. Financial Report – Laura

- A few income & expense items have come through; some opportunity grant applications have been submitted and Mr. Gerrity's 8th grade LA classes got new books via an opportunity grant.

- \$7,900 addition to the opportunity grants budget was approved by the general membership at the last general meeting
- Budget Q for next year: add funding to teach kids to use digital planner?

8. Racial Equity Team update – Elaine

- The RET is looking to bring in speakers to speak to all the students in their social studies classes, Elaine will keep us posted.
- Student RET looking for new 6th grade members.
- RET will have a community outreach meeting at some point. RET meeting schedule changed; plan is for one community meeting per quarter.
- RET will also be responsible for some PD sessions in the spring.

9. Disciplinary Policies – KL

- KL observed and reported a situation with a sixth grade female student being restrained by staff
- Brandon Hersey is holding a community meeting about the district's restraint policy on Jan. 14. This will be a public community meeting to talk about restraint policy and de-escalation tactics.
- Can PTSA offer to pay for intervention & de-escalation PD for staff?
- **Board resolution** (moved by Elaine, seconded by KL, unanimously approved): An incident was brought to the PTSA Board involving the discipline of a 6th grade female student; a school board member is setting up a community meeting regarding this incident. The PTSA board strongly supports inquiry into both this situation and SPS restraint policies, and offers to fund training for WMS staff regarding intervention and de-escalation.

9. Communications & Outreach – David

- upcoming Purple Press, Directory
- Translations
- 12/14 outreach event at Meany – can post info on facebook & get info into newsletter

10. Other Business

- Cell phone policy? Paired with PTSA-funded lunchtime &/or classroom non-phone activities—a parent group is forming to consider options and we will invite them to present to us at a future board meeting
- December 8: next board meeting
Ongoing bike rack of additional topics
 - Unfilled key roles: Events, Membership, Fundraising, Advocacy, BLT (1 position?)
 - Retreat followup

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm