

Washington Middle School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2019, WMS Library, 6-7:30 pm

In attendance: Cliff Meyer, Ya’Vonne Hubbard, Jan Munger, Casey Sommers, Janey Petty, Laura Crain, Claire Hogan, Elaine Harger, David Wasserman, Emily Lieberman

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm
2. Approval of minutes from the May meeting (Elaine moved, Cliff second) with the clarification that the Board is open to paying for staffing (not only staffing related to racial equity)
3. 2018-19 Budget update (Laura)
 - a. No sweeping changes
 - b. No ask from the school for staffing funding
 - c. No option to bring back 7th grade language option; would have required 1.0 FTE
 - d. 27 responses to parent survey (most wanted to bring back language for 7th grade; principal did not support this)
 - e. Lowered fundraising goal by 25k
 - f. Small adjustments to existing budget
 - i. e.g., increased art by 1k because teacher was spending \$ out of her own pocket
 - ii. Special ed & paraprofessionals (requests from OTs)
 - g. Biggest new item: “enrichment grant” for racial equity programming
 - h. Kept opportunity grants at 20k, some may be available for new principal
 - i. New budget line item for reflections art contest, Jen Ellis will run the program at WMS
4. 2019-20 Budget discussion and approval (Laura)
 - a. Reserve is around 300k; this budget anticipates spending down this reserve by about \$22k
 - b. Discussion: should we be spending down more of our reserves or donating to another school with fewer resources?
 - i. There are lots of inequities between schools, and there are also inequities between the kids at our school.
 - ii. The budget committee didn’t discuss giving money to another school. In terms of spending at WMS, we need a partnership with the principal/school. We have been seeing that reserve as possibly funding HOST in the future if that funding goes away.
 - iii. Decision: put this topic into conversation for the coming year, make clear to donors in advance if a percentage will go to another school
 - c. Unusual situation this year, need to remind membership that changes may be recommended when the new principal comes in
 - d. Motion to approve 2019-20 budget (Casey moved, YaVonne seconded, unanimously approved)
5. 2019-20 Officer & Board Nominations (Emily L. & Ya’Vonne)—officers & other board members were approved two motions, both moved by Emily & seconded by Elaine:
 - a. FIRST: executive committee for approval by general membership

- b. SECOND: additional board members for 2019-20 (these don't need to be approved by general membership)
6. June 10 General Meeting update (YaVonne)
- a. LaKesha: what do we want for coming year, group and/or small group discussions and sharing—present information to incoming principal
 - b. Talked to Bakari about reaching more of the school community—he will invite people at the HOST dance this week, may be able to help with translations
 - c. Will have dinner
 - d. Casey: every year at TM they ask “what do you want to see next year?” This year got great feedback in written responses to that one question
 - e. Event is about communicating, finding common threads, building community, also promoting involvement and volunteering
 - f. Translations: LaKesha may have connections to college student translators; Sophie has shared information about interpreters. Greg Wong’s dad & Ivetia translated into Chinese & Spanish. IA Mr. Ahmed, Luul is a parent here & IA elsewhere but we want her to be able to participate in the meeting as a parent. HOST may be able to help.
 - g. Languages
 - i. We will seek translators for Vietnamese (Casey), Spanish (Ivetia), Chinese (Janey), and Somali (Mr. Ahmed)
 - h. Childcare
 - i. Ask Tania
7. Upcoming needs
- a. 8th Grade Promotion Speaker Ideas
 - b. Lots of jobs for PTSA for 8th grade promotion, Casey is recruiting volunteers
 - c. Honoring departing PTSA volunteers/supporters (Perry Lee, Melissa Pailthorp, Brindy Bundesmann). Cliff will get gift & certificate for each of them
8. Summer Actions (Retreat, Goal-setting/refining, Advocacy, more)
- a. Cliff will send a Doodle to find a July date
9. Other Business
- a. Jan: strongly feels that WMS needs an intervention specialist (there has been a lot of controversy about discipline, suspension—hard for teachers who don't have options for discipline)—need problem solving & support for kids who are having a hard time being in class. Prevent increasing negative experiences in the classroom. Elaine says staff really wants this. Jan will continue to investigate & we will discuss again.
 - b. Janey needs Annual Fund ambassadors; Casey, Jan, Cliff & Emily volunteered
 - c. Cliff: DeeDee Berry is new director of Advanced Learning, do we want her to come now or in the fall? Cliff will see what dates she has available in June.
 - d. Cliff: SPS Board going to consider changing feeder school path
 - e. Elaine: rumor that Technology Access Foundation is coming to Washington (they take over public schools & change how they operate) in 2020-21
10. Principal’s Report—NONE

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm