

Washington Middle School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2020, Zoom video conferencing, 6-7:30 p.m.

Attendees: (members) Laura Crain, Claire Hogan, Cliff Meyer, Chun Ng, Casey Sommers, David Wasserman; (guests), Sharon Khosla, Janey Petty, Jared Hopkins, Christine Sparker

- 1.) **Call to order:** After some technology adjustments casual discussion and introductions, the meeting was called to order at about 6:10 pm.
- 2.) **Approval of Minutes:** The Board deferred approving the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 3.) **Renovation Projects:** Presentation by parents Christina Sparker and Sharon Khosla reflecting the work of a small group of parents who have looked at possible improvements on the WMS campus. They have focused mostly on the outdoor courtyard off library, working with WMS leadership as well as the District's "Self Help" office, which must approve such projects.

The group will apply for help from the local chapter of NAIOP, the national commercial real estate professionals association. This chapter supports one major project each year, with some 400 volunteers who on one day in September can paint, build, etc. (estimated \$150k in donated materials and \$80k in donated labor). The courtyard project envisions another doorway, greenery screens (so courtyard users won't distract classrooms) and more. The budget (including donations) is likely to be under \$250k, the level at which School Board approval would be required.

Ms. Hunt is involved now; TAF staff not yet available to work on this. PTSA asked to be sponsor of: SPS "Self Help" agreement; NAIOP application; possibly a contract for services with a landscape architect who has already performed some pro bono work.

Resolved: The PTSA Board endorses the work of the Washington Middle School Improvements Team, which will be submitting plans to SPS Self Help and to NAIOP with PTSA sponsorship. Unanimously approved.

- 4.) **Nominating Committee:** Cliff asked for volunteers to be elected in the near future to the Nominating Committee (which recruits Officer candidates to be elected in the spring). Janey Petty agrees! We will seek two more members for the Committee.
- 5.) **Budget Committee:** Treasurer Laura Crain reported that Brenda Price and Jen Drain will join her on this committee, which will prepare a 2020-21 budget proposal for spring vote by the membership. Principal Hunt will provide a "wish list" of items suggested by staff. Laura said all staffing is covered for next year, so asks of the PTSA will be non-staff.

- 6.) **Opportunity Grants:** Chair Claire Hogan reviewed recently funded Oppty Grants. Laura points out that there is still a significant unspent amount in the allocation for the Principal's use.
- 7.) **Fundraising:** Annual Fund Chair Janey Petty noted it is tough to raise money for the "fill-in" types of purposes that we currently fund. The staff wish list could help. Questions were raised about whether PTSA might wish to support non-certificated staffing.
- 8.) **WMS issues:** Discussion ensued on personnel issues, the now-resolved copier paper "shortage" and how the school is operating.
- 9.) **PTSA outreach and diversity:** It was suggested that the PTSA create a survey to help gauge how well the PTSA reaches the full breadth of families in our community, and seek ideas for improvement. Communications Chair David Wasserman will work on that.
- 10.) **Cellphone Policy:** Sharon reported on efforts to bring together parents to work on a new cellphone policy. No immediate action is expected.
- 11.) **Events:** A brief discussion on possible events didn't result in any decisions.
- 12.) Meeting adjourned at about 7:40 pm. Minutes taken by Cliff Meyer.