

Washington Middle School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes November 9th, 2020 via Zoom

Present: (Board) Jen Drain, Keyonna Saloy, Brenda Price, Brynne Veitengruber, Katrina Hunt, Cliff Meyer, Chris Robertson, (Guests) Krishna Richardson-Daniels (TAF Director), Carol Podney Wartman, Charlotte Schubert, Ginger Culver.

Meeting called to order at 6:32 by Jen Drain.

Approval Minutes from PTSA Board Meeting October 12th 2020: Deferred until next meeting.

New Business:

Jen Drain made a motion to appoint Ginger Culver as BLT parent/guardian representative to 2020-2021, seconded by Brenda Price, approved unanimously by the WMS Board.

Jen Drain made a motion to for the Executive Committee to appoint Carol Podney Wartman and Charlotte Schubert as WMS PTSA Legislative Advocacy Chairs, approved by the Executive Committee unanimously.

Co-Presidents' Report: Jen Drain

Thanksgiving Brigade upcoming event.

Teacher appreciation: Sunshine committee organizing teacher appreciation Wednesday November 19th. PTSA will cater the lunch. Plan is ongoing monthly events.

Ideas: Get a sign and cards together. Mr. Cohrs can update the reader board.

Welcome packets went out in the mail, Saturday November 7th.

Reflections art competition: 2 entries so far- extension Friday, November 13th.

PTSA hosted a New family Welcome (15 attended). Families want virtual social events and in person meet ups.

TAF Director's Report: Krishna Richardson-Daniels

SPS Director DeWolf meeting: [Details here.](#)

Discussed ongoing goals for the school year, opportunities for better implementation, successes, and activities.

Parent advisory group working on challenges and how to get connected during this transition and develop skills to navigate middle school.

Krishna encourages and questions for feedback: Krricharson@seattleschools.org

TAF working with PTSA and counseling team and family support (Mr. Melonson) to provide Thanksgiving Brigade to support families during the holidays. Families identified, support needed, ongoing resources. Turkey and \$50 gift cards to be given 11/19 and 11/23 Ms. Mckinney/PTSA will provide gift cards during winter.

Teacher Liaison Report: Chris Robertson.

First quarter completed. There is not a lot of check in from the teachers. Staff is figuring out the best way to support teachers. Challenges with engagement, attendance. No supply needs, or questions from teachers.

Jen will send out opportunity grant email.

Library is not open at this time, librarian is new, ongoing discussions on coordinating books to students and PTSA grant use.

Ideas for appreciation: Fuzzy Socks- purple and gold huskies, other ideas needed.

Professional development: Recently they were approved to do remote learning education as well as usual professional development.

BLT (Building Leadership Team) Liaison Report: Ginger Culver [Detailed report here.](#)

November 4th Meeting:

Main topic: Parent/teacher conferences: Scheduled for November 24th. 605 students.

6th grade house students divided between 3 teachers.

7/8- Will focus on level 1 and 2 conferences with wellness checks.

Student centered, not student led.

Parents can always request a meeting with specific teachers.

Wednesdays, if parents have schedule issues/concerns the Principal would like families having trouble to reach out directly to her, so she can gather more information.

PTSA possibly facilitate or partner w/ HOST during lunch to provide social time – Principal Hunt reports teachers can't support this, but parents/HOST can.

Communications Update: Cliff Meyer/Jen Drain

Purple Press sent w/ Fall campaign Saturday, November 7th.

PTSA is looking for someone to do the communications work.

District texting: Principal Hunt will look into how this works/access.

PTSA should receive an email list w/ district contact information, including people who did not opt out.

In person meet-ups:

Covid waiver if formal meet ups.

Ideas: 6th grade meet up by house discussed, meet to run: Wear purple @ Seward or Judkins, small groups, impromptu when the weather is good, virtual gingerbread house or cookie decorating.

School has made a commitment to outreach to families, but not working with PTSA.

Advocacy / Legislative Update: Carol Podney Wartman & Charlotte Schubert.

Questions that need answers: How do we return to learning in the classroom? How to advocate for our students at district and state level?

Ideas: Advocacy day. Letter writing campaigns

Key Issues to engage WMS community: Funding/budget at state level. Communication with legislative and policy updates.

Looking ahead, possible changes: HC Pathway, new elementary feeder schools, transition into 6-12 school.

What does the community want the school to be like? How to help the community have a voice as it transitions.

Advocacy is sending out something in December.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Price.

We haven't spent much or made much.

Google drive: [Report here](#).

We need to recruit another Treasurer.

Open Positions: Jen Drain.

Priorities: Treasurer, communications.

Increase diversity in the Board.

Fundraising: Cliff Meyer/Jen Drain.

PTSA to update Facebook page/app with Thanksgiving update: Let people know what is going on and how to contribute to annual fund. Ask

Principal Hunt to include it with her Friday newsletter. Ms. McKinney- to mention more information to be found on PTSA website

PTSA Priorities: Gift cards, other financial support for families.

Ongoing business: Consider removing principal as a PTSA Board member and move principal and TAF director transition to non-voting, ex-officio members. Add this proposal to the agenda for December.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22 PM