

Washington Middle School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes February 8th, 2021 6:30 PM via Zoom

Present: (Board) Jen Drain, Keyonna Saloy, Katrina Hunt, Cliff Meyer, Kat Barr, Brynne Veitengruber, Carol Podney-Wartman. (Guests) Devin Murphy, Ginger Culver, Jessie Adala, Sharon Khosla, Barb Trosper, Evin Shinn, Lona Teh, Thy Pham.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Jen Drain

Introductions/Group Connections:

Team building and introduction: All present shared mid-winter break plans.

New Guests from WMS staff: Jessie Adala: WMS TAF Extended Learning Coordinator, and Evin Shinn: WMS Literacy Coach.

Principal's Report by Katrina Hunt:

_____ Student numbers next year are now expected at 613 students (604 this year). This includes 6th-grade students coming from Kimball Elementary School, which the School Board recently approved as a new WMS feeder.

Discussion PTSA Mission, Goals and Action steps:

Current WMS PTSA Mission Statement and Goals developed 2018, found on PTSA website.

Values and Goals discussed, partially facilitated by Sharon Khosla:

Wellbeing, physical health, advocate of resources, a voice for the community instead of a leader, community, welcoming for everyone, accessibility to full community, resource for teachers/teachers/families, build robust translation tools for ongoing use, transparency, engender solidarity with in the school in order to build community, inform families what is going on with their students, connections, alignment, partnership, consistency and structure, advocacy, enthusiasm, equity, inclusion, communication, communication and share to all families that which highly involved members are privileged to, relevant resource for families, initiatives to support students success.

WMS mission: To create a safe, trusting, collaborative, learning-focused community where we can all be our BEST selves: Brave, Empathetic, Safe, Tenacious.

From PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support).

How do we measure success, participation, engagement?

Future actions:

Look at other PTSA mission Statements.

National PTA: *To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to*

advocate for all children

WA PTA: *To be: A powerful voice for children, A relevant resource for families, schools and communities, and. A strong advocate for the well-being and education of all children.*

Sharon Khosla offered to facilitate or help us find a facilitator to explore values and prioritizations.

Ti'esh Harper (an anti-racist consultant who currently is working with Washington MS staff via the City of Seattle Levy) will be at future Board meetings to help us fully engage with community equity and inclusion.

Use racial equity analysis to guide mission and goal development:

https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/DREA/racial_equity_analysis_tool.pdf

Advisory Update by Evin Shinn:

Advisory: \$10,000 grant from PTSA for advisory curriculum, committee of 4.

Teachers poll results: (10 replies), most voiced option: twice a week for 20-25 min in existing class. Suggested plan: Academic support, study hall, SEL (social and emotional learning), additional learning., something unifying, possibly a daily theme. Every teacher gets 20 or so students. Intention of advisory: Building relationships.

More information regarding advisory can be found here:

<https://www.amle.org/creating-a-culture-of-connectedness-through-middle-school-advisory-programs/>
www.amle.org/making-connections-with-advisory

Battle of the Books update: A video is being created this week, then there will be a 2 week sign up for the students.

Thank you to PTSA from WMS for sponsoring teachers to attend the Book Club institute inservice.

Outcome: Creating a community of reading together to influence students' future of lifelong reading.

Approval of December 2020 and January 2021 Board Minutes: Motion to approve made by Jen Drain, approved unanimously.

Community Meeting in March:

PTSA is looking for some fun ideas: Such as a concert, BINGO, Jazz band piece, PTSA is open to ideas.

WMS Jazz band has a video they prepared for school assembly that was not used (Sharon Khosla already reached out to see if she can get it).

School Resources: Michael Sundt (Band), Hannah Gorham (Orchestra/choir), Stephanie Jungblom (Art).

Happy or Coffee Hours or Sip and Chat hosted by WMS PTSA, upcoming.

Meeting Adjourned 8:22 PM.

Updates to the WMS PTSA Board posted before meeting:

UPDATES TO BOARD:	
PTSA Family Survey	As of Sunday, 96 Responses. 88 English, 4 Spanish, 1 Somali, 2 Chinese, 1 Vietnamese. We're just shy of our 20% response rate goal for email/app/Facebook. Phone calls to families whose first language is Spanish, Somali, Chinese, Vietnamese, Oromo and Amharic started Sunday. We are targeting an 80% response rate for phone calls and are using our translators to administer the phone calls and have meaningful conversations to help PTSA better understand how we can support their community. We're hoping to find WMS parents who want to be a point of contact for sharing information (possibly a stipend PTSA position). So far the survey has a 100% completion rate and the responses for open ended questions are valuable. The survey will close Feb 14 so the survey team has time to analyse the data. Next month's board meeting will focus on what to do with this information.
Advisory Period for Next Year	Advisory is being considered by staff, Principal Hunt proposed PTSA provide \$10K/year (\$2500 each to 4 teachers) in stipends for facilitators (hoping to get 4 teachers to create, manage and facilitate the program so there is more guidance provided to each classroom teacher). PTSA supports this, so Admin will speak to teachers, but they will need to vote to approve it. PTSA proposes adding to or using part of the \$10K allotment to fund PD, curricula, training, etc. *IF* this is approved by the teachers and admin, the Board, Admin, & PTSA should meet to discuss expectations.

<p>Partner with TAF for additional Enrichment Opportunities open to 7th & 8th graders</p>	<p>It seems like there are opportunities for us (building & PTSA) to partner with TAF on some activities that aren't curriculum related. For example, they're hosting a "Healing Power Up" event on Wednesday to get the 6th graders pumped up for 2nd semester. Maribel (TAF) reached out to see if PTSA could help support this and pay the organizers \$250. Jen went ahead and approved this, but asked if this is something that we could offer the 7th and 8th graders on an asynchronous learning day. Maribel forwarded the request to the organizers. Haven't heard back from them yet. Jen also wonders if there are other non-curriculum events that perhaps TAF and PTSA could coordinate together to give the 7th and 8th graders add'l enrichment opportunities. Krishna wants to discuss further later this week. Does anyone want to join Keyonna and Jen in that discussion?</p>
<p>Aaron Walker-Loud and 6th Grade Humanities collaboration for BLM unit - (there is opportunity for PTSA to partner with his org, Big World Breaks, in the future)</p>	<p>This 6th grade is doing something wonderful in humanities right now. From Mr Walker-Loud: Specific to our collaboration with 6th Graders right now, last school year we were funded by The Creative Advantage to partner with several teachers during the day, the strongest of which partnerships was with Ms. Gallop (6th Grade Humanities team lead). This school year Ms. Gallop and I subsequently designed an expanded grant proposal approved by Principal Hunt to work in partnership with the entire 6th Humanities Department (9 separate classes x 3 teachers in total), funded once again by TCA. Once meeting with the 6th Grade Humanities team, they decided that it would be best for us to focus our daytime residency on classes between 2/1/21 - 3/16/21, in alignment with their Black Lives Matter unit (as opposed to a more general approach covering multiple units). Based on this, we designed and launched: "Remix Our Lives x Beat Our Future", which we are now in the second week of; eagerly anticipating the culminating multi-media projects created with students that will be ready to share in an online event in Spring of this year (date TBD).</p>
<p>Purple Press Newsletter</p>	<p>Thy is able to do community building-type articles, so we're still in need of an editor. Cliff is editing now and will be sending the next issue Monday.</p>
<p>Events</p>	<p>We're hosting a competition to design a new "sidewalk library" sign. Look for flyer to be sent out this week.</p>
<p>Battle of the Books</p>	<p>We're helping our librarian, Mr. Johnson, and our literacy coach, Mr. Shinn organize the "Battle of the Books." It's tentatively set to start March and end in June. Still working on the details.</p>

Athletics	Athletics Director, Danny connected with Cliff. Asked PTSA to help find grants, find coaches and get the word out for sign ups, but says no start date yet. Admin and Danny need to connect first before we can get rolling with this.
Volunteer Needs	Does anyone have time to help Jen get the word out for volunteer needs? We need a Purple Press editor, Events Coordinator, and Fundraising Database Manager among other things. These are items handled by Jen and Cliff, so we need to relieve them of these duties.
March PTSA General Mtg	Chiefs Dr. Concie Pedroza and Wyeth Jessee cancelled their appearance because they're focusing on in person learning. That leaves us with Principal Hunt's budget presentation and the PTSA's survey results. Is that enough content? Need ideas for additional content.