



Minutes for PTA General Meeting of 11/16/2020

Attendees:

Angela Dahrea, Echo Peacock, Marie Blakley Arthur, LeAnn Tuupo, Lori Garth Green, Meghan Landon, Melissa Valdez O'Connor, Michelle Larson, Jenny Latham, Galit Scandrett, Alex Wu, Claudia Huzar, Asa Watts

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Echo Peacock
2. Motion to approve the last month's meeting minutes made by Asa Watts, seconded by Melissa Valdez O'Connor, and were approved by the 13 voting members present at the time of the vote.
3. Principal's Report: LeAnn Tuupo, Principal
 - a. Professional development day on November 16th for 4th and 5th grade teachers
 - i. Focus on small group learning, very powerful for information, used 4th graders from Sockeye for practice, will be focused on 2nd/3rd grades on 11/17 and K/1st next week, will do it again in January/February
 - b. Picture day still scheduled for Thursday, November 19th. Worked very hard on the map so everyone knows where to drive and keep kids safe. Will be four photographers.
 - c. ISD will be sending out fall survey for everyone in the community and the 3rd – 5th grade community to use for school improvement plan
 - d. Final touches on Covid mitigation plan being completed – school is ready! School will plan on having three days of lessons for students on how it will look to return to in-person school, will use videos with demonstrations and make sure all students understand expectations and plan.
 - i. Plan starts with arrival and covers all the way through day to dismissal
 - e. Morning Chat with Principal is scheduled for Wednesday the 25th. Families will be able to submit questions to LeAnn prior to Zoom, an email reminder will be sent out to families.
 - f. Some general questions for LeAnn:
 - i. Will students that are not going back to in person learning need to watch the training videos – concerned they will feel left out.
 1. Response: No, those students would not need to watch, would be done asynchronously for students that are coming back.
 - ii. Some concerns about picture day and parents not reading info about how to do drop off for photos and asked if there should be emails from the teachers on this.

1. Response: Traffic map/flow has been sent multiple times to parents, reminder to people to come as close to picture time as possible so as not to create groups of waiting kids or cars lining up. Feel confident it will run smoothly based on how well package pick ups have gone. School has had good luck with that combined with the food pick up time as well.
 - iii. Why don't teachers get substitutes if they are out of class?
 1. Response: Teachers will only get a sub if out for more than 3 days, not enough subs trained for the technology (only 30 for whole district), staff and admin will cover for teachers if they are out, also teachers will be providing lessons asynchronously to their classes.
4. Teacher's Report: Marie Arthur Blakley
- a. Teachers are always invited to attend the PTA meeting, no new teachers attended but always welcome!
 - b. Question about the Holiday Trees/Holiday Gift Barn, reminder that it is only gift cards this year but direct donations to the Food Bank can be made on their website or people can send gift cards if they would like.
 - c. Teachers noting that kids don't always have their supply bags or normal school supplies handy, have been sending out reminders to families to have school items near by or available in order to get their school projects done, should have all of their normal school items (pens, scissors, etc).
 - d. Big thanks to Jenny for all her work on the Teacher Grants, lots of interest in applying for grants and good response from teachers and Jenny has been great to work with on this!
5. Treasurer's Report: Meghan Landon
- a. Majority of funds have been going to Grade Level Grants this year
 - b. Insurance due for renewal next month, our coverage includes general liability, fire, theft, etc. We will continue with our normal policy – only thing we do not have is Terrorism coverage, don't think we need that. Will go for status quo.
 - i. Regular policy for us is just under \$500 per year
 - c. Question regarding Grade Level Grants, are they based on number of teachers or just by Grade? Second grade has 6 teachers, still have budget for \$2000 per year, large grades perhaps not having as much \$ per student.
 - i. Look at possibly changing allocation of Grade Level grants in next year budget, look at student numbers for each grade.
 - ii. Example being Toy Maker, short on funding for 2nd Grade, \$1900 for Toy Maker, also used funds for Scholastic subscriptions, short by about \$600. Will work with 2nd Grade to make sure they have enough for the Toy Maker this year, do not want to ask any parents for extra money this year.
 - iii. Tabled Grade Level grant discussion for now, Meghan informed us that if grades do not use all their grant money, they can leave it for the next year classes.

6. PTA General Updates:

- a. Legislative Council: Claudia Huzar: All Washington State PTA's have representation in the Legislature through the Legislative Council. Council proposes changes and sets priority policies for Reps to discuss with legislature. Just had Legislative Assembly meeting on October 24th to discuss priorities for the year.
 - i. Priorities for the 2020/2021 year are:
 - 1. Increase Access to Nursing, Mental Health, and Social Emotional Learning Staff
 - 2. Support Students and Preserve Education Funding
 - 3. Increasing Educational Equity by Closing the Digital Divide
 - 4. Supports and Funding for Students with Disabilities and Their Families
 - 5. Prevent and Reduce Gun Violence and Suicide
 - ii. Operational budget for WA State is in a deficit, PTA advocating for no cuts to education spending, like to see funds used in different ways to promote education such as transportation, LAP, etc.
 - iii. Concern for years to come as less taxes through business/property/etc collections will mean less money for the State, use our voices with our Legislature.
 - iv. Very interesting to be part of the Assembly and always interested in having more PTA members join – all are welcome.
- b. PTSA District Council: Angela Dahrea: Next meeting will be on 11/18, all PTA Presidents attend. At October meeting:
 - i. Discussion on new schools, MS #6 and ES #16 both on track for completion next year, HS #4 and ES #16 are ready for construction
 - ii. Boundary Committees for new schools are looking at redistricting, Sunset has a parent rep assigned
 - iii. Reminder to all schools and families that there is food for every child in the Issaquah School District, please get the word out and let people know it is for everyone.
 - 1. Some concerns that not enough for everyone, jobs for lunch staff, spread the word that it is available – no shame at all, if people are conflicted or worry about taking the food, can make donations to the school or district, food is funded through the entire year.
- c. ISF Grants: Jenny Latham: Big kudos to Marie and Suzanne Connolly for submitting grants for 2nd Grade (Toy Maker, Book Collection), Lynsey Burge (Books), Ms. Adams (kindergarten rugs), Ms. Thomas (skeleton puzzles), Marissa Sampsel (Typing program for whole school).
 - i. Mrs. Bean has requested new audio system, hers is very outdated and she has been bringing her own equipment for some time, will work with Capital Projects/ISD to partially fund the new system, will request any remaining amount through a grant from ISF for total amount of \$5000 for the new system

- ii. Looks like total grants requested so far is about \$8,000
 - iii. ISF also has headphones/desks from the Foundation, will confirm on how to coordinate those requests
- d. Site Council: Asa Watts: Had first meeting of the Site Council on November 6th.
 - i. ISD has been sanctioned from the State on overidentifying children of color for special assistance services. We will be one of three elementary schools to receive additional help on this from the State
 - ii. Sunset is ready with Covid mitigation plan, school will be ready to open for students whenever they are able to come back
- e. Yearbook Update: Amy Korb volunteered to do the yearbook this year, already working on cover contest for 5th Graders, parents can drop photos off at school or email photos to PTA to use in collages and yearbook.
 - i. Will be able to use Dorian for yearbook pictures or could use Yuen Lui photos
- f. FACE/Sunset Cares: Melissa Valdez-O'Connor: New family partnership program, been in ISD for some time, worked with LeAnn last year to host about 20 families to discuss the school, questions about Sunset, any concerns. Open to any new Sunset or ISD, great turnout and very positive event, had wanted to do on in March 2020.
 - i. On call with Alicia Spinner with other FACE reps to discuss how to get new families engaged and community active.
 - ii. Some schools have been using WhatsApp chats, translation services, one school working on Project Linus to create blankets, painting rocks, sending postcards to people, a recipe cookbook – this could be a great idea to do with our cultural fair.
 - iii. Still looking for new FACE rep if anyone is interested!
 - iv. New Sunset Cares group on Facebook. Did a coat drive and were able to get 27 coats out to families!
 - 1. Lynsey Burge would like to try a January clothing drive, will have more info on that.
 - 2. Look to promote Sunset Cares on Instagram and adding to PTA Facebook page
 - 3. Sunset will be pilot for Power Pack distribution!
- g. Auction Update: Alex Wu: Theme will be Exploring a World of Sunsets
 - i. March/April will be online auction only, in person auction will be November 5th at the Bellevue Hyatt
 - ii. General meeting on Thursday the 18th, looking for a few more chair positions to be filled
 - iii. Getting procurement committee going, will do gift card drive after holidays, also looking for sponsors, donations, brainstorming ideas
 - iv. Like to work on Grade projects for Auction, wondering if there is room available at school to display art
 - v. Michelle Larson brought up outside space for decorative tiles, something that people could purchase to add to courtyard, will investigate that and

see if could do that for this year's auction. Another idea was a rock river outside with painted rocks.

- h. Other Events/Items:
 - i. Thankful Pictures: Reminder to send in any pictures for Thankful Collage, any photos welcome.
 - ii. ParentWiser: Watch for new speakers/events to be scheduled, quality speakers and very interesting topics
 - iii. Food/Snack Cart: PTA has been sponsoring snacks for teachers/staff/admin once a month. Have done root beer floats, hot chocolate bar. Next one will be in December, looking for next theme, watch for SignUp Genius for Thursday, December 10th. Maybe bagel, cookie cart, open to ideas.
 - iv. Student/Staff Incentives: Food carts, candy for kids, have gift for November – all staff are getting socks with motivational messages as a thank you!
 - v. Big thanks from Marie for the Tap Root Theater play, big hit with all of the kids and teachers, really well received, high quality and very engaging!
 - vi. Community Events: January is usually a big slump time with school, looking for ideas on how to create some fun community events for all the families to do together in Jan/Feb.
 - 1. Ideas might be online Bingo, grade level zoom time, Kahoot could be used for kids, recipe book with cooking demos, maybe an online escape room, cooking class, Among Us on Zoom, all ideas are welcome!
 - 2. Will have Grade Level Lunches in December so kids can see each other
 - 3. Cultural Fair ideas in the works as well
7. Next meeting will be December 14th and feel free to send in any topics for discussion

Meeting adjourned by Echo at 8:40 pm.