

## January 14, 2025 PTSA meeting minutes

Matt Hunt, Marika VanderSmith, Kerry Billingham, Tiffany Courtnage, Katie Salisbury, Anna Bonnett, Alison Bettles, Emily West-Foyle, David McKnight, Maggie Dreifuerst, Leah Rutman, Kelly King-French

- **Meeting Minutes.** Adoption of the minutes of the December PTSA meeting (available on the PTSA website) were unanimously approved.
- **Impact Incoming Trump Administration.** Matt Hunt led the group in a discussion about the potential impacts of the Trump presidency on public education. Potential funding challenges, a push to promote charter schools which could create enrollment declines, and immigration enforcement were discussed.
- **Presidents Update.** Marika VanderSmith updated the group on upcoming events. There is a service event on MLK Day, as well as HIP packing parties coming up. There is also an upcoming school dance and movie night.
- **Principal's Update.**
  - **Family BBQ.** The Presidents provided an update on Dr. Marshall behalf. Dr. Marshall is planning on hosting a BBQ at lunch for students families. The date needs to be confirmed but may be May 22. The group discussed needing more information about whether the PTSA must coordinate volunteers for the event and whether any funds are needed for the event. The group also discussed that in future years it would prefer to hold this event in the fall so families could get to know one another and when the calendar was less full.
  - **Funding for substitutes.** Next, the group discussed Dr. Marshall's request for \$3,000 from the PTSA budget to cover substitutes for testing. Dr. Marshall said this is an ongoing budget need but David McKnight clarified that this amount was not included in the budget for this year because items were prioritized by Dr. Marshall. Mr. McKnight also shared that this amount would be part of the staffing budget for which the PTSA has a cap per School Board policy. However, there is room to spend this amount and still be under the cap. The group discussed whether there were funds in the budget to support the ask and agreed more detailed review was needed. The group also discussed that the PTSA was going to proposed closing some dormant restricted accounts and moving those funds to the general budget, which could also free up funding for this request. The group also discussed the possibility of paying for this request out of the PTSA's reserves. The groups agreed more research on the budget was needed, as well as clarity on the need for the money. The group agreed to delay a vote until February. The group also agreed that the restricted account issue should be put on the agenda for the next general membership meeting.
  - **IXL Funding.** The group discussed the confusion around the lack of funding for IXL this year. This is a District issue and is not due to the PTSA removing funding for the software. The group agreed that we should recommend to Dr. Marshall that she send extra information to the parent community on this.

- **March General Membership Meeting.** The group discussed the potential agenda for the March general membership meeting. Dr. Marshall will present data on UDL and SEL learning programs. Teachers will also talk about specific experiences with the learning models.
- **Enrollment.** Enrollment is on track for next year. If we hit 500 students, we will get FT social worker but we are currently a bit below that. The group agreed we need to focus on the Open House to encourage enrollment. The group agreed we need to send info to the preschools and also advertise to the community. The group also discussed creating a flyer that covers enrichment and after care at the school.
- **Teachers update.** Ms. Salisbury shared that there is an MLK Day assembly is on Friday. She also shared that the staff has been sharing strategies at staff meetings regarding common SEL and academic issues and implementing UDL in the classroom.
- **Auction update.** The Presidents shared that Mo Bhak is still wanting to do an in person component to the auction. However, she spent time asking her network and she got feedback that wanted a community event but not at a large ticket price. So, she is pivoting to a community event that is not an auction. The online auction is still moving forward and she has the volunteers she needs.
- **Yearbook update.** We have submissions for the cover art that the board can vote on after the meeting. The group discussed the need for photographers for events coming up. Also still need photos from the first couple months of school. The group also discussed the need to find volunteers to lead the year book next year.
- **Families in Need.** The FIN program is requesting \$300 extra for this year. We have more families in the program than we were expecting. Budgeted for 10 students but have 14 families. Group discusses pulling this money for our unallocated funds. Motion to approve the \$300 expenditure passes unanimously.
- **Treasurer's report.** See below for detail. Treasurers reported that they have \$187K in the Annual Campaign Account. There is also \$16.5K in matching funds pending right now but some will be annual campaign and some will be library. The unallocated funds line item will have a balance of \$645 left given approved or proposed expenditures. We also received the first bill for \$50K for the first tranche of our District staffing grant.
- **Advocacy update.** Leah Rutman reported on the legislative event that was recently held. It was not well attended but very informative. However, the group discussed that it was not labor intensive so could do more in future if there is interest. The group discussed that there is an opportunity to go to Olympia to advocate for school funding. The group discussed whether to support the WA PTSA legislative priorities and agreed that we should. Leah will also be sending out more info about how to sign pro/con on bills since the legislators said this is very impactful. The info will be sent out to room parents to publicize. Group discusses what to do about the levies and discusses that will remind the community to vote for the levies when ballots drop.
- **Volunteer update.** Anna Bonnet shared that they are starting recruiting co chairs for the blast committees and thing they are in good shape. Group discussed that may be doing another volunteer info session for incoming K parents. Volunteer committee will start recruiting for budget and financial review committee. Group also discussed the need to

start recruiting for the budget committee, financial review committee and nominating committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming agenda items:

- February: Vote on \$3,000 substitute budget request
- March: Restricted Account closure; read out from financial review committee; nominating committee elections